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JULY/AUGUST 1986

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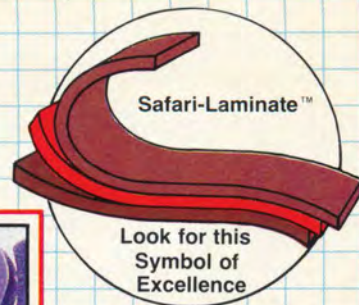
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*The more You know about  
Safari-Laminate the more  
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JULY/AUGUST 1986

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Cover: A stunning photograph of Smith's new 645 auto. Photo by Ichiro Nagata.



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# NO COMPROMISES

## '85 IPSC NATIONALS

Here's what a few of the competitors have to say about their PACT Timers;

**1st Place: R. Leatham** "I never go to the range without it and neither should you."

**2nd Place: B. Enos** "...measurably improved my basic shooting skills."

**3rd Place: D. Evancic** "I've trained with my PACT Timer for 2½ years, its the best timer on the market."



### NEW PACT MKII

The NEW PACT MKII Championship Timer and Chronograph represents our commitment to design and production of the finest possible training equipment. To create it we combined the original Timer and Chrono-mod into a single unit. Then we dramatically cut the size and weight of the new package. Did we lose any features in the process? Not a one, in fact we added a few new ones - like a longer time limit for you PPC shooters, and automatic power factoring for all you IPSC shooters. The result is the smallest, lightest, most dependable, most cost effective and we believe, finest shooting timer and chronograph in the world.

### WHY DO I NEED A SHOOTING TIMER?

Whether you are practicing for competition or to save your life; if you are going to improve, you must keep track of the two elements of marksmanship that you are striving to master: accuracy and speed.

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

"The PACT Championship Timer is the most versatile timer on the market. Not only is it an excellent training tool, it's also extremely useful for running matches. I think it's an excellent value for the money." ...Mike Plaxco

### WHAT DOES THE CHAMPIONSHIP TIMER DO?

In addition to providing you with an instant or delayed start signal [the length of delay is adjustable], the MKII Championship Timer records the time of each shot fired, "par times" and up to two "stop" plates. When you fire, the sound of your pistol triggers the unit which will simultaneously display the number of the last shot fired, the time since your previous shot or "par time", if you are using one, and your total time.

### EASY TO USE

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

### GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE:

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

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

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

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

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

### \$49.00 CHRONOGRAPH

"The finest chronograph I have ever used"  
...Ross Seyfried

Whether you shoot reloads or factory ammunition, you need to know how fast the ammunition you use is going when it leaves your gun.

```
#005 856.2 FPS
PWR FCTR 171.2
```

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

### WHY USE SKY SCREENS?

The MKII uses remote mounted PACT or Oehler sky screens because we think it's stupid to launch bullets at things that cost lots of money! Should you ever miss and hit a sky screen (you never miss?) your replacement cost may be as low as \$2.50 for a new sky screen body and will not be higher than \$15. for a brand new sky screen.

### NEW PACT CHRONOGRAPH IN MAY

In May we will introduce the PACT Precision Chronograph. This is a full feature chronograph which will sell for only \$199, including sky screens! Please call us for more information.

### 30 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

Try the PACT MKII for 30 days. If you are not 100% satisfied with every aspect of its performance, send it back undamaged (no fair driving over it) and we will refund your money. That's our promise and you can depend on it.

### DO IT TODAY

Ordering a PACT MKII is easy!

**BY PHONE: 1-800-722-8462**  
[In Texas] 1-214-641-0049

**BY MAIL:** We'll need to know your name, address, and daytime phone number. Please enclose a personal check, bank check, money order or card number and expiration date from your Visa or MasterCard. C.O.D. orders welcome.

**PACT MKII CHAMPIONSHIP TIMER - \$329**  
**PACT CHRONO-MOD [optional] - \$49**

**PACT SKY SCREENS \$15. EACH \$25./PAIR**  
(compatible with Oehler chronographs)

Shipping & Insurance - \$5 UPS Ground, \$10 UPS Air. 4% charge for Visa or MasterCard. Texas residents add 5% sales tax.

**NOTE:** This \$329 price includes the Timer with belt clip, battery charger and manual. The CHRONO-MOD can be purchased with your Timer or it can be installed at a later date.

**BROCHURE AVAILABLE** covering the PACT product line. \$1.00 refundable with first purchase.

One year limited warranty.



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# PISTOLSMITHING

JOHN G. LAWSON

## COLT OFFICER'S ACP BENEFITS FROM PISTOLSMITHING, SPECIAL HANDLOADS

The idea of a short, light compact pistol of major caliber has always appealed to detectives, undercover officers and businessmen who carry a weapon day and night under a broad spectrum of dress codes and weather circumstances. By the mid-1960s, nearly every gunsmith who numbered these categories of concealed carriers among his customers, had tried his hand at sawing and chopping the Government model or the Commander into a more concealable package.

The problems that developed with the genre of "chopped and channeled" pistols, mostly related to reliability of function, gradually made this kind of alteration a lost cause. The shortened recoil spring plugs, spring guides and springs themselves were the cause for most concern. In these alterations, the radically shortened recoil spring almost always packed in full recoil, taking the full rearward blow of the slide. The result was short spring life overall, after a predictable cycle of permanent compression, or spring shortening, due to the incessant pounding.

The reduced spring tension resulted in failures to feed reliably, first with semi-wad-cutter shapes, then even bobbling hardball rounds. I can remember my thoughts of those days vividly, as I cut a half dozen extra springs for my cutoff GM: If Wolff would only make a proper recoil spring for the shortened slide model, failure to function, the only thing standing in the way of reliability for this useful and increasingly popular conversion. Wishful thinking. Letters of

inquiry were either ignored or responded to with form letters.

When the Colt factory first marketed the Officer's ACP, I saw a passing bandwagon that I had to climb aboard. All of the old desires for a short, stubby pistol of major caliber were at last being catered to with a properly engineered factory weapon. At last, a very concealable pistol in .45 ACP. I admired the sleek, functional lines and marveled at the original engineering thoughts that had produced a reduced size Commander that was reliable, hard hitting and . . . uh, oh! Back up there. What about the hard hitting aspect?

A simple penetration test in soft pine brought back the old doubts and fears. The Officer's ACP produced roughly one-fourth the penetration with some popular loads and one-third with others. Since everything else about the pistol that I felt needed some improvement was standard procedure with the larger Colts, I set to work on some improved loads.

I had already exchanged the factory wood grips for a set of Kim Ahrends' custom cocobolo checkered Officer's ACP grips with a different radius through the width, resulting in (for me) a more secure and better fitting grip using the short factory issue trigger, and cut away to allow more rapid access to the magazine catch button. The factory dual recoil spring had disappeared into a bottom drawer, replaced by a Wolff single coil designed especially for the snubby slabside weapon. A trigger job, with a takeup and overtravel screw added to the factory trigger and the usual list of plugging and tinkering common to all Colt pistol reliability jobs—ramp polishing, barrel throating, extractor polishing, magazine catch polishing and some general detail work resulted in what is, for me at least, the ideal packing pistol for all seasons.

With one glaring exception, that is: The hardly-better-than-.380 ballistics syndrome.

Some work at the drawing board and a long letter to NEI, the bullet mold manufacturer in Oregon, resulted in a 180 grain .454" SWC mold, a 150 grain .451" and a 138 grain .451" SWC mold that is the basis of my current handloading experiments.

The stubby 150 grain SWC seems the best choice for a fast load with excellent ballistics. Loading data is non-existent for these light pills, but any careful and methodical hand-loader can work up a really hot street load that remains within the normal pressure range, due to the bullet design that allows

increased capacity in the loaded case.

Like anything in the realm of science and mechanics, there is a law of diminishing returns that applies to short, handy, very concealable handguns. The light, short bullets necessary to bring them up to full ballistic potential have to give up something in the category of accuracy to reach peak performance. Short range accuracy is acceptable with all of the above bullets; it is long range target accuracy that suffers. We aren't dealing with a target weapon, however. We are looking for a load that will get us out of a potential write-off in a lethal encounter. The little 150 grain bullet moving out of the stubby ACP's barrel at magnum velocity will serve nicely.

There are some definite stirrings of nostalgia as I look at my little Officer's ACP. I remember the after-midnight sessions with Narcs and Detectives and long hours at the bench and milling machine. It was some of these early experiments that prompted the Hartford factory to finally produce the little .45. Witness their advertisement showing a hacksawed slide and frame. So, the sun finally sets on an era of pistolsmithing in which I played my bit part, then exited stage left. But, every time I pick up the Officer's ACP and admire the tiny, powerful package, for me, it's yesterday once more.



Kim Ahrends Custom Grips (Officer's grips)  
915 First Ave. S.E.  
Clarion, IA 50525  
(515) 532-3449

Northeast Industrial, Inc. (bullet molds)  
Bullet Mold Division  
P.O. Box 249  
Canyon City, OR 97820  
(503) 575-2513

Brownells, Inc. (Wolff springs)  
Route 2, Box 1  
Montezuma, IA 50171

## TEDDY: GUNS FOR ME, NONE FOR YOU!

A man entering a Senate office building was arrested for carrying two submachine guns, a pistol, and 146 rounds of ammunition. He explained he was acting as a bodyguard for Mr. Gun Control himself, Senator Edward Kennedy. He was released when Kennedy confirmed his story. In a public statement, Kennedy added that he is still personally opposed to guns.\*

\*Quoted verbatim from the *National Review*, February 14, 1986.

In this election year, the *American Handgunner* urges you to register to vote, and then VOTE! Together we can oust the gun grabbers from Washington through the democratic process. A "report card" on how your Congressmen and Senators voted on gun control issues is available on request from the NRA's Institute for Legislative Action, Governmental Affairs Division, 1600 Rhode Island Ave. NW, Washington DC, 20036.



# PROUD TRIBUTE TO THE "OLD WARHORSE."

Buckle Honors Retirement of the .45—Authorized by NRA-Established Defense Fund.



Shown Actual Size;  
Fits Standard 1" to 1 1/4" Belts

Solid Sterling Silver; 24-Karat  
Gold Plated Pistol and Border—  
Limited Edition of 950



24-Karat Gold Plated Bronze—  
Limited Edition of 2,000



Jewelers' Bronze—  
Limited Edition of 5,000



Own an original work of gun engraver's art by the man whose rifle set a new world's record, Lynton McKenzie, engraver of the \$201,000 Safari Club International Rifle.

Since 1911, Americans have defended our freedoms with the M1911A1 .45 Automatic Pistol. It has served longer and fought more battles than any other firearm in American military history.

Now, to honor the retirement of the .45 from military service, The American Historical Foundation, in conjunction with the NRA-established Firearms Civil Rights Legal Defense Fund, is proud to announce the .45 Automatic Commemorative Buckle.

### Important And Useful Collectible

This is an important collectible that can be worn daily, as it makes a proud statement about the owner. It captures the spirit and tradition of the "Old Warhorse"—and the patriotism and military valor associated with it.

The historical importance of this milestone dictates that this buckle be the finest of its type. So, we went to a firearms engraver—not a buckle maker. And the man we commissioned is, in our opinion, the best gun engraver in America. Some call him the best in the world. He has engraved guns of all types for presidents and kings, not to mention the Safari Club International Rifle which sold for \$201,000, a new world's record.

### A Lynton McKenzie Original

We wanted this buckle to be a genuine, original "McKenzie." It is. Your buckle is actually struck directly from the steel master hub, hand engraved by Lynton McKenzie. The work is so precise that even under magnification each buckle actually looks hand engraved. The engraving style is classic English. All details of the M1911A1 are clearly visible. The whole design is contained within a border of bound oak leaves, signifying order, security and honor.

This buckle is "gentleman" size and fits

standard 1" to 1 1/4" belts, so you can wear it with a suit or sport clothes.

Individual buckles are crafted in three different limited editions, as shown above.

### Authorized By NRA-Established Defense Fund

It is appropriate that this important buckle is authorized by the Firearms Civil Rights Legal Defense Fund, established by the National Rifle Association. They fight the legal maneuverings of those who would take away our constitutional right to keep and bear arms.

This NRA-established Fund has wholeheartedly officially endorsed this buckle—the first time it has ever lent its support to a commemorative.

The Fund receives a portion of each reservation fee, and its name and other commemorative inscriptions appear on the back of each buckle. This will add to your pride when you wear it and enhance the buckle's value as a collectible.

### Engraved Serial Number

Each buckle is engraved on the reverse with its own limited edition serial number. The buckles are available individually or in matched sets of three—each with identical numbers (a good idea for collectors). These original buckles could become important collectibles in the future.

The Foundation issues a Certificate of Authenticity with each buckle, attesting to the edition limit, the assay of the precious metal, the origin of the master engraving by Lynton McKenzie, and the official endorsement of the NRA-established Defense Fund.



### Belt By Tex Shoemaker

A top-quality belt by famous holster maker Tex Shoemaker is also available. Each is made of thick, saddle leather, fully leather lined, stitched

and embossed with a basketweave pattern. Width is 1 1/4"; available in tan or black. Please specify length and color.

### How To Reserve

This is available exclusively from The American Historical Foundation. To place your reservation call (24-hour toll-free, 1-800-368-8080), use the reservation form below or personally visit. With your buckle you will also receive Membership in the Foundation. Satisfaction is guaranteed, or return within one month for a full refund.

This is a rare opportunity to acquire a Lynton McKenzie original, show a piece of history, tell the world about your interests, contribute to a good cause, add to your collection, and own a buckle you can wear with pride—all at the same time.

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Satisfaction guaranteed or Return in 30 days for Full Refund.

To: The American Historical Foundation  
1142 West Grace Street, Dept. B55  
Richmond, Virginia 23220  
Telephone: (804) 353-1812

24-hour toll-free reservations: (800) 368-8080.

Please send the following .45 Commemorative Buckle(s) engraved with the Limited Edition Serial Number on the reverse.

- Jewelers' Bronze, at \$19.
- 24-Karat, Gold Plated Bronze, at \$45.
- Solid Sterling Silver, 24-Karat Gold Plated Pistol and Border, at \$195.

— Collectors' Matched Set of Three (one of each version), at \$249 per set, a savings of \$10.

I also wish to reserve the following saddle-leather belts at \$22:

Size: .... (Tan)      Size: ..... (Black)

Check or money order enclosed.  Charge my credit card.

Name .....

Address .....

For Visa, MasterCard or Amex, please send account number, expiration date and signature. Va. residents add tax.

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**The Finest In The Firearms  
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MAGAZINE



# COP TALK

MASSAD AYOOB

## AYOOB AND HIS CHIEFS—HE JUDGES THEM BY THEIR DUTY GUN POLICIES

One of the most maddening tasks for the police instructor is to make his superiors understand why he wants more potent and sophisticated weaponry, and related equipment, for the officers on the street. Too often, the chief is someone who started as a patrolman back when round-nose lead .38 ammo and dump-pouches and regular safety-strap holsters were state-of-the-art, and has been away from the patrol beat climbing his career ladder while the men doing the job were waking up to hollowpoints and Magnums, speedloaders, and security/speed holsters.

Some chiefs are sensitive to the needs of their men on the front lines, and some aren't. You can sometimes tell how they feel about it by the guns they carry themselves, and the way they carry them.

In less than ten years on the street, in two municipal police departments, I've worked in capacities from patrolman to firearms

instructor to training sergeant under no less than five chiefs. One wore a 4" blue model 10 S&W heavy barrel with his street uniform, a 2" S&W model 12 snubnose (Military & Police Airweight) with his dress uniform, and a blue 2" Chief Special off duty. His rules on guns were, "Carry whatever you want, so long as it's at least a .38 Special," and he was the first man in the department's history to issue hollowpoint hotloads, back in '72. He backed his men to the hilt. We loved him.

One was a man with whom I initially shared a mutual dislike yet a mutual respect, and by the time he left, we had both changed enough on the job to like each other. He wasn't a gun person, but he was a fighter. His first duty gun as a patrolman, privately owned, was a Spanish .32 revolver, and an embarrassed chief had to issue him a model 10. He still carried that gun in uniform to the day he left the Chief's job, but for his men, he purchased the then-new S&W model 66

stainless .357 Magnum four-inch. Both of his staff firearms people had advised against the choice and recommended the Ruger, but he wanted the same gun State Police were issuing. It mollified us somewhat when he said that the instructors could carry what we wanted; we patted the Colt .45 autos in our holsters and quit complaining. A decorated combat vet, that chief introduced full-auto weaponry to the department, and had planned to put a CAR-15 assault rifle in every patrol car had his tenure lasted.

I got along famously with my next chief, a street-hard veteran who was comfortable with a .380 Walther PPK/s in plainclothes and a 2½" 66 in uniform. He always qualified sharpshooter to expert, but still had me sight in his guns for him even after I told him that other men's eyes don't translate through gunsights. He was generous with the firearms budget. Under him, detectives as well as top-shooting uniformed officers could carry .45 automatics or .357 Magnums. And while the department still allowed .38 Specials, he discouraged them among uniformed personnel. He considered the 12-gauge the ultimate police weapon, carrying his personal Hi-Standard 8113 in his unmarked car, and he was the sort of man who went into manhunt scenes in front of us instead of behind us.

Any of us would have followed that Chief into Hell, and he would have made sure we had enough ammo to shoot our way back out. I remember the day he and I were discussing

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a budget proposal at Headquarters when a burglar alarm came in, and we were first on the scene because we were closest. He seemed to have as much confidence in his .380 as I did in my .45 when we froze the suspects. A Man.

The fourth came to our department from a major metropolitan agency that believed God only endorsed .38 Specials with fixed sights and round-nose lead ammo. Upon learning that he was taking over a department where .357 Magnum was virtually standard, he was said to have exclaimed, "Whaddya shoot up there, trees?!? I was told that he had come close to an apoplectic seizure after seeing me walk through the squadroom in uniform with a cocked and locked Colt National Match .45 auto in my Bucheimer Police Auto Breakfront holster.

Of all the chiefs I had worked for, he was the most "anti-gun." Yet, ironically, he gave me as a department weapons instructor more power than ever before to set up a tough course, and qualify every officer with full-power ammo on pain of being dismissed if they failed. We went with a variation of the Illinois State Police course—part PPC, but more IPSC—adapted to the revolver. He wanted to de-escalate to .38s, but after the chief training lieutenant and I reasoned with him, he sat back and said, "OK, Ayoob, you wanna standardize on the 125-grain .357 Magnum hollowpoint. You also wanna qualify 'em on this super course of yours. Tell you what: if they *all* qualify with *all* Magnum

loads, you got it. But if *one* of 'em fails, you *all* carry 158-grain round nose lead .38 Specials!"

With the help of the Patrolman's Association, we got a quantity of Magnum practice ammo and ran two unpaid "get-ready" shoots that virtually all sworn officers attended. Every officer, on qualification day, blasted his full-powered Magnum to a qualifying score on a course that one official from the Police Standards and Training Council admitted had to be the most advanced in the state, a course that required responses like two rounds on two silhouettes, in two seconds, at five yards.

But there were two paybacks from that. One was that *all* of us had to carry the model 66 .357 revolver with the issue 125-gr Remington JHP load, something I did for eighteen months, never feeling especially uncomfortable about it. The other was that the chief and I had now developed an adversarial relationship, one that was augmented by a few other clashes. In 1980, I resigned from the department.

I figured to take a year's sabbatical from the street and just do research. With a book contract from Bantam, and the growing demands of my Lethal Force Institute, that extended to two years.

I had grown comfortable as an "ex-cop police instructor," and found reason to turn down multiple offers to get back behind the badge. Then, in mid-1982, the former coordinator of the State's Police Academy called me from the office where he had just

been installed as Chief of Police.

It was a short conversation. He spoke of creating a police department with a Magnum level of training, in terms of professionalism and crisis intervention and courtroom testimony, as well as guns and clubs and fists. He spoke of creating a model police agency. He had been chief in a department or two before, and I had worked on the street with him once as a patrolman, and I knew he could do it.

Before I accepted the offer and the sergeant's stripes, I looked at his gun. He packed a Ruger stainless .357 in a classic Berns-Martin breakfront, backed by HKS speed-loaders, and on his belt was a custom knife he had forged himself.

You can tell a man by his equipment almost as surely as by his reputation. I knew him by both to be solid. I accepted.

I had always thought that if I went back on the job, it would only be wearing a .45 auto in a Bianchi Auto-Draw. I reported for duty instead with a 4" Combat Magnum, sporting an Andy Cannon combat action and Magna-Trigger Safety Conversion, in a Bianchi 27K breakfront. As training sergeant, I could carry what I wanted, but I knew that I had to carry something the patrolmen could identify with until such time as they had been advance-trained to a lofty level.

As I stepped into the patrol car that first day, my uniformed arm fell to the Combat Magnum. It felt comfortable. It seemed as if I had come home.



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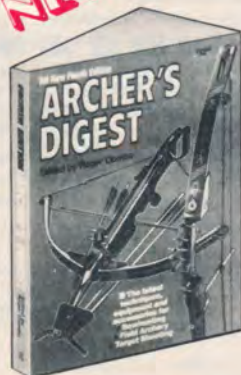
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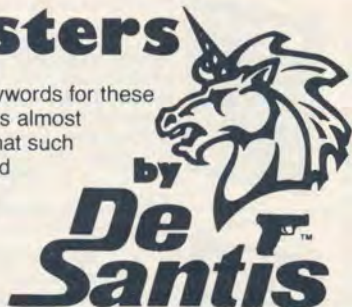
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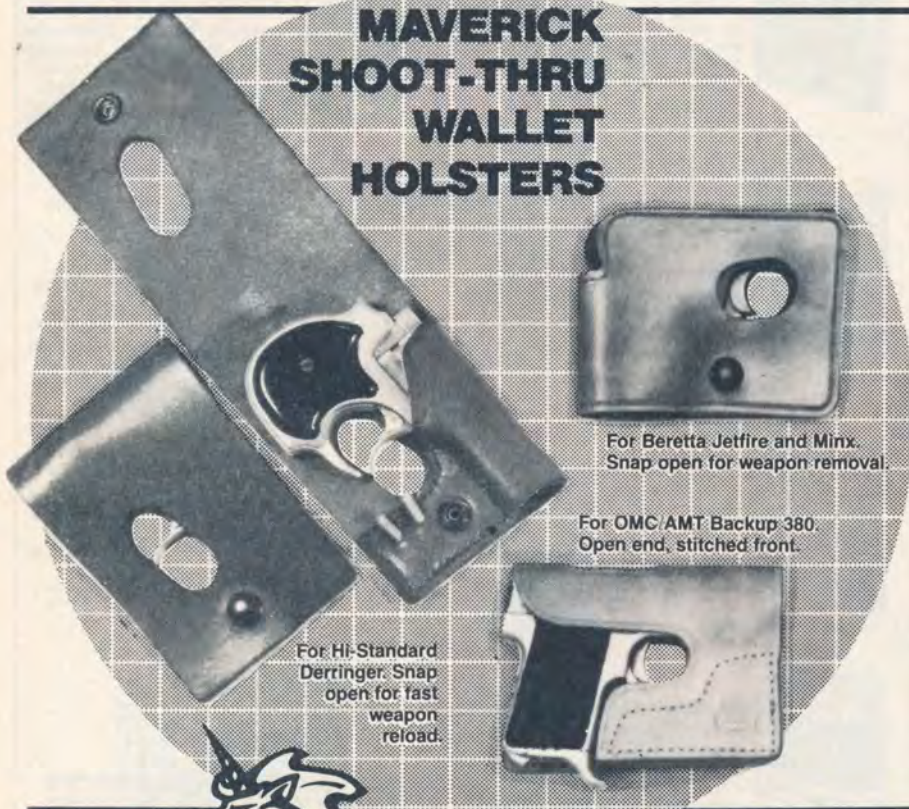
The new M12 holster, very recently adopted by the Department of Defense, is a

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Bianchi International stroke of genius. It was designed by Bianchi technicians and presented to the DOD without solicitation when it became obvious that our military was going to capitulate to NATO "agreements" and opt for a new service pistol of standardized 9 x 19mm. Basically, John Bianchi took the initiative, pressed forward, and won a contract before the military ever got around to putting it out for T&E submissions.

Two things helped, of course, and these were the facts that Bianchi is one of the largest manufacturers of holsters in the world, with the facilities to mass produce any holster, and the undeniable practicality of the M12 for military application.

Just as a "for instance," the new M12 in its basic configuration can be worn cross or side draw, left or right handed, and on the wide web or on the relatively narrow dress belt. With optional accessories it can be worn as a shoulder, chest, or thigh rig. It makes one basic holster design practical for the infantry's typical sand, mud, and mire; the tanker's close confines; or the aircrewman's door gun position.

The M12 Universal Military Holster is constructed of an outer layer of 1050 denier ballistic nylon with a central layer of four-pound density polyethylene foam and an inner layer of 400 denier nylon fabric.

All metal hardware, including the unique Quick-Lock belt fastener, the tie-down loop,

retention grommet, and snaps are 302 stainless steel, most of which is black finished. Plastic hardware composition is referred to as "engineering plastic" with functional reliability within a temperature range of minus 60 to plus 200 degrees Fahrenheit.

One of the most important feature requirements of a general issue military holster is the ability to protect the issue handgun from damage. The new M12 flap holster accomplishes this as well as possible, short of total envelopment, yet weighs only eight ounces. It has a height of 9.5 inches, width of 4.25 inches, and thickness of 2.25 inches. Even the flap is removable should assignment dictate this as a better mode of carry.

Maintenance of the M12 is much simpler than its M1916 leather predecessor. Being nylon, one simply scrubs a dirty M12 with mild soap and warm water using a soft bristle brush. After rinsing, the holster is left to dry naturally at room temperature.

Actually I should correct that last statement about the M1916 being the predecessor of the nylon M12. In fact, at unit or in some cases individual option, the Bianchi M-66 Ambidextrous holster was an interim model, although never "officially" adopted by the U.S. military. As I remember, the M-66 was being used by quite a few Military Police units and may have been one of the first concessions to the "one in seven" of us who are left handed. Although I shoot a handgun right handed, it is because in the old days I was forced to do so at the threat of being burned at the stake as an obvious heretic. It is pleasing to note that the military has come out of the dark-ages with regards to left handers but I cannot resist mentioning that some police departments still force their lefty officers to don right handed holsters and are, thereby, setting themselves up for mammoth civil suits.

It was, therefore, Bianchi and his M-66 Ambidextrous military holster design that led to his involvement with the military market. The end result being the new M12.

This writer has been into professional involvement with holsters for the past 40 years transcending both military and police applications, civilian wear, and many hunts both mounted and afoot. I have been writing about police holsters for six years, and evaluating all manner of holsters for *American Handgunner's* "Handgun Leather" column for about the last four. With that as a background for making judgments, I find myself, surprisingly, in total agreement with DOD in the selection of a piece of military equipment.

The M12 Universal Military Holster System, as designed and manufactured by Bianchi International, is the best general purpose military holster I have ever seen or imagined. I would not be in the least bit surprised if progressive thinking NATO armies all switched to the M12. As a matter of fact it would not surprise me if the Warsaw Pact copied it—



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# INSIGHTS INTO IPSC

CAMERON HOPKINS

## IPSC SHOOTERS ARE THE BEST, AND WE'LL PROVE IT AT 'THE MASTERS'

It's hard to be humble when you're perfect in every way. Bet you didn't know that Mac Davis is singing about IPSC shooters. Yes, IPSC shooters have to struggle with humility because we're the best. Like we say in Texas, "It ain't braggin' if it's a fact!"

It's easy to preach to the faithful, but this revelation about IPSC shooters, in an IPSC shooting column, is not the observation of an IPSC shooter. Roy Jinks, the Smith and Wesson historian, says IPSC shooters are the best all-around handgunners.

Roy and I were chatting about *The Masters*, a demanding competition combining the three main disciplines of handgunning sports—silhouette, bullseye and "action" (IPSC). *The Masters* is a three-handgun match (August 6-9, Barry, Ill.) featuring three equal parts of long range shooting (steel plates out to 200 meters), precision shooting (.22s, one-handed, Olympic Biathlon steel targets) and "action" shooting (Steel Challenge "hoser" courses). The match should

attract the best shooters from silhouette, bullseye and IPSC ranks.

During our discussion, I asked Roy for his prediction of who would win. Roy didn't want to name names, but he said he's positive an IPSC shooter will win *The Masters*. Why, I asked.

Because IPSC shooters are the best all-around handgunners, Roy explained. "An IPSC shooter can slow down, but I don't think a silhouette or bullseye shooter can speed up," Roy said. IPSC shooters are accustomed to facing diverse and unexpected shooting problems. It is not uncommon for an IPSC shooter to tackle precise 50 yard shots and then point-shoot 5 yard shots in the same course of fire.

An added advantage for IPSC shooters is the reflexive ability to draw a handgun from a holster—very quickly! Roy predicts this will be a major factor in leaving the bullseye and silhouette shooters behind in a trail of dust during the speed shooting third of the match.

But wait, surely a good silhouette shooter can trounce an IPSC shooter on the silhouette third, and then cruise on his lead into the speed portion? Perhaps. But I don't think so. The silhouette third of the match is not the usual course of fire for silhouette. Time limits are drastically chopped, and the targets are not all set at the same range allowing for adjustment of the elevation setting on the sights. No, the silhouette shooter will be facing an entirely new challenge, as will the IPSC shooter. And when it comes to new frontiers, the IPSC shooter is the best.

How about a bullseye shooter dominating in his event and then counting on his lead to carry him through the speed event? Again, the bullseye match is not a standard bullseye course of fire. The targets are taken from the Olympic Biathlon event (where the competitor combines alpine skills with shooting skills) and these targets are steel plates. No "X" ring, no bullseye. Hit the tiny plates at 50 meters (1.7" is tiny!). Again, the new challenge will intimidate bullseye shooters while IPSC shooters will rise to the occasion.

Indeed, IPSC shooters are the finest all-around handgunners in the world. While some doubting-Thomas might accuse us of merely being "spray and pray" maniacs, I submit that our basic marksmanship skills are far greater than perhaps meets the eye. Sight picture and trigger control, we have them both. Granted, we sometimes use a "flash sight picture" and sometimes employ a "controlled slap" of the trigger, but we have the ability to shift back to first gear and drill the center out of a target at 50 meters.

Want proof? Consider the Bianchi Cup. This match was originally designed along the same lines as *The Masters*—to unite different shooting disciplines—but year after year an IPSC shooter wins. PPC shooters do well, but never win. Bullseye shooters never even do well, let alone win.

In fact, the Bianchi Cup has been dominated by IPSC shooters. First came Mickey Fowler (1979 IPSC National Champion), then Brian Enos (member 1983 IPSC Gold Team) and now Rob Leatham (current IPSC World Champion).

So bring on your best, silhouette and bullseye, we're ready for you. Come to *The Masters*, if you dare. But, please, bring a towel with you—the agony of defeat cuts deep.

### THE MASTERS

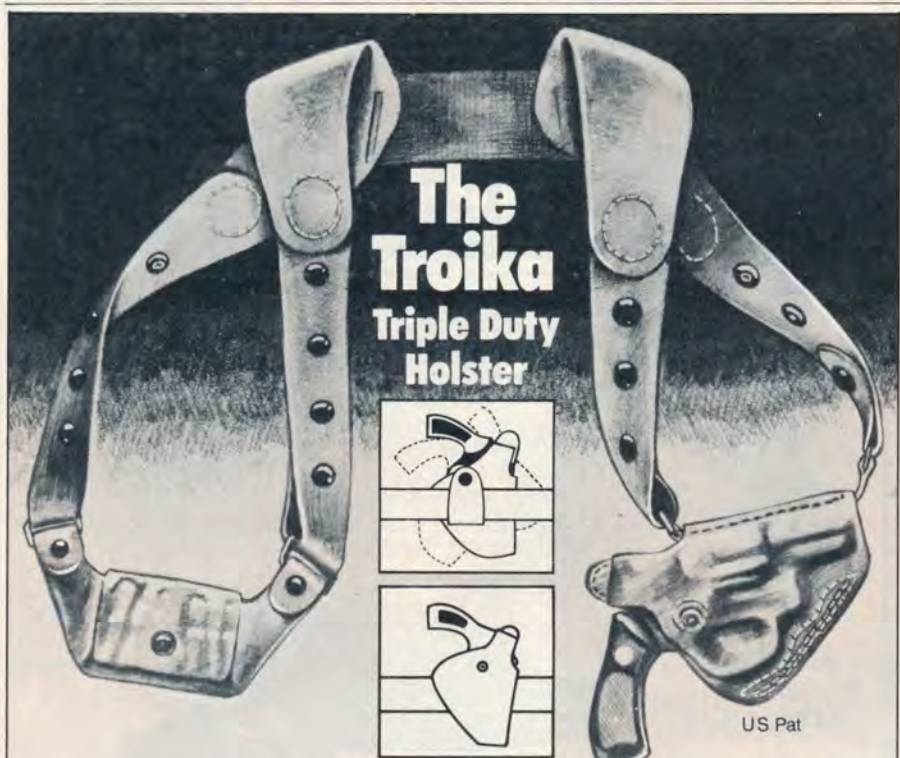
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Roy Jinks, Match Director, Smith and Wesson, P.O. Box 2208, Springfield, MA, 01102-2208.

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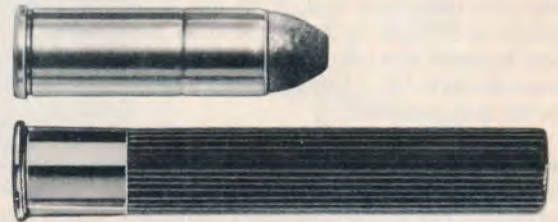
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# SILUETAS

BERT STRINGFELLOW

## HOW TO PROPERLY HANDLOAD BOTTLE NECK CASES FOR BETTER ACCURACY

Handgun silhouette competition offers the handgun enthusiast the opportunity to fire more shots and enjoy his pistols more than any other handgun sport in existence today. A review of the NRA and IHMSA competition schedules indicate that over 5,000 individual matches are held each year. More than two million rounds are fired each year in pistol silhouette competition, plus untold millions of rounds which are fired in load development and practice.

The cartridges fired in bigbore handgun silhouette competition are handloaded cartridges. The competitors handload not only for economy, which is a definite advantage, but, primarily for the accuracy possible with the handloaded cartridges. Handguns are available today that will shoot one-inch groups at 50 yards as they come from the box. However, that accuracy is only possible when the cartridges fired are custom loaded for the individual pistol.

Only two classifications of cartridges are used in silhouette competition. The straight walled revolver cartridge, which head spaces on the case rim and the bottle-neck cartridge which headspaces on the shoulder of the case. Anyone who is willing to take his time and follow instructions can produce cartridges of either variety which will achieve the best possible groups in his pistol.

Excellent loading instruction manuals and data are produced and distributed by all the

bullet manufacturers. Also, many equipment firms market "starter" loading kits which are complete and will produce very satisfactory cartridges.

The beginning handloader should read one or more of the available loading manuals prior to loading his first round. The time spent with the manual could eliminate a lot of later regrets. (A list of recommended reading may be found at the end of this column.)

I don't plan to reproduce a loading manual, but I will endeavor to detail those items and procedures which require particular attention if the ultimate in accuracy and performance is to be achieved.

A properly formed cartridge case is probably the most important component of a hand loaded competition cartridge. It is the foundation for the pistol's performance. Bullets, powder and primers for the most part are repeatable as purchased, but brass must be shaped and formed to fit the chamber of a competition pistol if consistency is to be expected. Best results will be achieved if new brass from the same manufacturer and lot are used as the bases of the cartridge cases for competition.

First inspect the new cases for primer flash hole concentricity. Any case whose flash hole is not centered in the primer pocket should be discarded. Next check the flash holes for diameter. Use number drills for gauges to determine the largest flash hole in the lot of

brass, then using the drill that fits the largest flash hole, drill the remaining flash holes to the same diameter. Use care and drill the holes perpendicular to the case head. This operation will assure that the lot of brass will have uniform consistent ignition.

Now let's consider the proven methods of shaping and forming a bottle neck cartridge case. All bottle neck cases, whether rimmed or rimless, should be formed to head-space on the shoulder of the case. Factory brass is formed to SAAMI specification. These specifications are for the firearm with that imaginary "standard chamber." Since no two pistols have exactly the same chamber dimensions, the cases should be run through a full length sizing die which has been adjusted to place the case shoulder in full contact when chambered in the pistol and the pistol action locked in the firing condition. Be sure that the cases were well lubricated before running them through the full length die.

I personally prefer Wild Cat Case Lube, produced by B. F. Products of Grand Island, Nebraska. It has excellent lubricity and cleans off easily, leaving no discernible residue.

Wild cat cases must be formed in the same manner. However, some wildcat cartridges, such as the .30 Herrett, must have an intermediate trimming before they can be fitted to the pistol's chamber.

After the cartridge case is formed, use one of the commercial case trimmers and trim the cases to length and square the case mouth.

The next two operations I have found to be critical to consistent cartridge performance. One, use a case neck turning tool (I like the tool manufactured by Forester) and turn the case necks to a uniform thickness of .011 inch. Secondly, deburr the case mouth and use the deburring tool to cut a slight bevel on the inside of the case mouth. If these operations are not performed, one or all of three things can happen. 1) Copper will be sheared off of the bullet. 2) The case neck may be rolled inside with the bullet or 3) The case shoulder will collapse due to the force required to seat the bullet. In any case, the usefulness of the cartridge is destroyed.

After the case is completed, wipe all of the case lube off of it and seat the primer. Use only primers that are recommended in the manual. If a magnum primer is substituted for a standard primer the burning rate of the powder will be accelerated and chamber pressures could go up to the danger point. Should standard primers be substituted for magnum primers, powder ignition will be erratic, which will adversely affect the cartridge's accuracy.

Charge the completed case with a moderate charge of one of the powders listed in the loading manual, seat a bullet and fire the cartridge in the competitive pistol. The pressure caused by firing will form the cartridge case to the chamber of that individual pistol. This operation is called fire forming.

The case is now ready to be neck sized and reloaded for use in competition. The brass in a cartridge case flows forward into the neck

*Continued on page 53*

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# BOOK REVIEWS

**StressFire**, By *Massad F. Ayoob*, 149 pages, over 130 illustrations, \$9.95, Massad F. and Dorothy Ayoob, Publishers, available from Police Bookshelf, PO Box 122, Concord, NH 03301. **Review by Frank W. James**

Massad Ayoob has spent more than ten years studying what he describes as "a police weapons instructor's dream." He has traveled the country and been able to investigate more police shootings than any of his modern day contemporaries, and perhaps more than any author in the history of the gun writing press. He has studied what works and what is a smokescreen to cover up poor training, improper tactics, miserable weapons, bad ammo, and terrible holsters.

It is the culmination of this study that has resulted in **STRESSFIRE**, the first of a trilogy dealing with police combat shooting. **STRESSFIRE** is meant for the police weapons instructor, but it is equally applicable for the security and home firearms instructor or the civilian shooter. It may raise the hackles of the experienced combat shooter, because of what he has to say about the Weaver Stance and he labels the Weaver Stance "The New Pistolcraft." Based upon his research, and it is very thorough, he believes the stress of actual combat shooting makes the New Pistolcraft unworkable for all but the most experienced and well trained combat shooter, and the NYPD and the LAPD have the statistics to prove it.

While seemingly a minor part of the book, Ayoob has a very profound statement to make about firearms practice, and it really ties in with the whole point of the manuscript. He believes if a shooter is really serious about learning to shoot a handgun they should **NEVER PRACTICE** with a pistol in the normally defined sense of practice. He states "Mere 'practice' with a gun is just ballistic masturbation: you're going through the movements, but you're not accomplishing anything or learning anything useful to remember and apply later when it counts." He believes pressure should be the norm and he describes how he has done it and how you can. In addition he teaches how to reduce tension using martial arts techniques that work.

**STRESSFIRE** is a book based upon years of uncommon research and deep common sense. He deals with problems and difficulties that have killed officers in the line of duty and illustrates methods to correct these mistakes. It is not a book of ballistic or mental masturbation and if you carry a weapon on duty, on the street, or for personal protection you should definitely read this book.



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# HANDLOADING

DAN COTTERMAN

## HOT HANDLOADS FOR THE .32 MAGNUM, MORE ON WW452AA POWDER IN .45 ACP

Rock Chuck Bullet Swage, better known to the present generation of handloaders as RCBS of Omark Industries, Sporting Equipment Division, has set up a toll-free telephone number: 1-800-533-5000. It's a customer-service line, and its establishment is to be hailed as a gesture in good conscience by the famed Good Ol' Boys.

The Oroville crew also have come out with die sets that include taper-crimp seaters in .32 S&W Long/.32 H&R Magnum, .38 Special/.357 Magnum, 9mm Luger, and .45 Auto. Significantly, all of the foregoing calibers are available with carbide-insert resizing dies. A three-die carbide set, with taper-crimp die and appropriate seating stems, lists for \$59, except for the 9mm set, which is priced at \$71. Taper-crimp dies can be purchased separately for \$18 each.

"The taper-crimp seater die produces a smooth tapered crimp that allows perfect functioning of reloaded ammunition in semi-automatic pistols," writes Jay Postman, customer service technician for RCBS. His recommendation ties in quite neatly with Omark-Speer's endorsement of taper-crimping for autoloaders, per the several Speer reloading manuals. But, as noted in our March/April issue, Jim Weller, a regular contributor in these pages, said he had used a slight roll crimp in reloading for the .45 auto and that "using a Ransom rest at 30 yards, group sizes tightened by 50 percent." Then he said he went back to taper crimping and continued to enjoy accurate shooting.

Here's why, "for the sake of expediency," Weller went back to taper-crimping: "I did it," he explains, "because of the varying length in .45 rounds. To set the roll crimp on one case meant that anything longer would be crimped way too tight, while a shorter case wouldn't be crimped at all. For those wanting to try a roll crimp, I recommend crimping only enough so that the case mouth shows a *very thin* bright ring around it."

Now, let's linger for a moment in Weller's reloading room and see what happens. As he suggests, we may "raise some eyebrows, especially among the 'five-shot, one-hole' crowd." He describes his method: "When I return from a shooting session, all my brass is in a bank money bag where I throw it as I pick it up. From there it gets dumped into a Lyman Turbo 1200 cleaner. When I get 200 to 300 rounds in the cleaner, I turn it on and let it run until the cases are clean. They go out of there into a coffee can until it's time to reload. I don't bother sorting cases. It's a waste of time. Military brass goes right in with Federal or Winchester or Hornady, all

together. I have my seating die set to seat the bullet (H&G 68) with just a small portion of the cutting shoulder forward of the case mouth. Now, with the variation in case length, some get seated farther forward, but never deeper. I watch to see that doesn't happen. Some of the case mouths aren't square, but I really don't give a hoot. Powder is thrown from a Pacific measure and I do my loading on a Pacific Pro-7.

"Using this 'rag-tag' ammo, my Heinie Series B comp gun would, from a Lee rest, shoot 3/4-inch groups at 25 yards all day long. It would do so, reliably, with no malfunctions whatsoever. They feed and eject just beautifully.

"Number of shots from the case? Hell, I don't even bother to count those. Some of my brass is fired until I can hardly read the headstamp. I check each case before I put it into the press, and anything with a small crack, no matter how small, is discarded. As for crimping, I screw the taper crimp die all the way down and run the case the whole way into it—not just the mouth.

"To make a long story short, I don't think a lot of this sorting cases according to make, etc. is what it's cracked up to be. I think the majority of it is in the way your gun is set up. If it's done properly, it will shoot, regardless."

Weller does, however, go on to say he sublimates his "slipshod" approach to feeding his .45 by making sure each powder charge is weighed.

Which brings us to an interesting point. Powder measures, no matter how accurately they're contrived, dispense charges by volume. But charge weight, not volume, is what we're trying to control. Volume density (therefore, weight) can vary according to several factors including the size, shape, and density of powder granules, the settling of powder within the hopper, the way the handle on the measure is operated, and so on. The solution, if you're concerned about consistency, is to throw slightly underweight charges into the powder pan of a scale, then twirl in the last few granules with a trickler. Arcadia Machine & Tool, Inc. has combined all these functions in the Auto-scale. (See Test Report beginning on page 48.)

Reader D.M. Teasley, of the Harris County, Texas, Constable's Department, says he experimented with 452AA in his .45 auto long ago. "I did not like the then-230 Winchester powder, Bullseye, or 700-X for different reasons. I got excellent machine-rest groups with 452AA at 50 yards.

"The loads I used for target shooting," he continues, "ranged from 4.1 to 4.6 grains

(with the H&G 68), and all gave good results; however, this powder had one drawback in that load range, because it left a fair amount of unburned powder in the action. I tried magnum primers and that cleared up the unburned powder problem, but opened up the groups to over three inches at 50 yards. I continued to use this powder for these loads and accepted the unburned powder nuisance, until WW231 was introduced, and then tried it. It does require a hair more powder to cycle the gun, but does not leave unburned powder, as did 452AA. Also, it seems to group about the same as 452AA. For example, I fired several two to two-and-a-half inch groups from a machine rest using 231 and H&G 68 cast bullets in a Browning BDA .45. It is possible in heavy loads that the unburned powder problem will not be present, in which case 452AA should give excellent results."

Back in the July/August 1982 printing of this column, when we began talking about 452AA in the .45 auto, the charge weight was 5.6 grains. This was used with H&G 68s cast from linotype metal for an average weight of 189 grains. Velocity averaged 992 fps, felt-recoil seemed comparatively light, and there were no complaints about unburned powder residue. As Mr. Teasley suggests, heavier (then 4.6-grain) charges of 452AA in the .45 shoot quite well.

Going strictly for hi-vel punch in .32 Magnum loads for the four-inch Charter Arms Police Bulldog, I've been loading 5.5 grains of 452AA behind 50-grain J&J Custom Bullet (P.O. Box 2029A, El Cajon, CA 92021) jacketed open points. The load gives an average velocity of 1315 fps. The little soldered-core JOP bullets also have been loaded ahead of 7.0 grains of Hodgdon's HP-38. This is a *maximum* charge that results in an average 1610 fps from the CA, and about 1660 from the longer-barreled H&R and Ruger .32 Magnum revolvers. Kinetic energy hovers around 300 foot pounds, which is impressive for a small-bore, light-recoil revolver.

Heard it all about the Law Enforcement Standard Laboratory's gelatin-block evaluations of handgun bullets? Nay, laddie, nay! Not till you've listened to reader Jim Glacken's criticism. He says he'd like to see clothing, especially heavy winter clothing, brought into consideration. "In places like New York, Chicago, and Philadelphia," he writes, "it's not uncommon to hear of .22, .32, and .38 standard-velocity bullets that have been stopped completely by heavy winter clothing . . . Cloth is non-homogeneous, so its resistance varies with weave; and some commercial fabrics will surprise you. (Next time your wife throws out stockings or pantyhose, try ripping 'em!) It's also point and caliber-sensitive."

We realize, of course, that the L.E.S.L. experiments are founded on consistency of the test medium, ordnance gelatin. But have the experimenters wasted their time pumping slugs into a naked Computer Man?

Your comments on this or any subject involving handloading or shooting are welcome. The address is Rt. 1, Box 7, Llano, CA 93544. SASE  
for reply.



# THE GUILD SPEAKS

GEORGE WESSINGER

## FOUR GUILD MEMBERS COLLABORATE TO CREATE SPECIAL CUSTOM PISTOL

The 1986 annual meeting of the American Pistolsmiths Guild, held in Houston during the SHOT Show, drew members from across the country as the Guild inducted 12 new members, the largest group in the Guild's history.

The Guild elected new officers for the year. Lou Ciamillo remains in office for a second term as President. Vice President Al Marvel and Secretary George Wessinger were also elected to new terms.

One new associate member, Tom Stewart of St. Louis, was elected. Tom's photographs have graced the pages of *American Handgunner* in the past.

The Guild continues to find ways to recognize outstanding pistolsmithing and major contributions to the shooting industry in general, the pistolsmithing profession in specific, and the American Pistolsmiths Guild. This recognition will be made this year to the Outstanding Pistolsmith in the country and will be presented at the annual Outstanding American Handgunner's award banquet. This banquet will be held in conjunction with the NRA National Convention in New Orleans, LA in April 1986.

The American Pistolsmiths Guild has commissioned four of its most outstanding members to build a custom handgun. This superb custom handgun will be designed primarily as a hunting gun and will feature a

Ruger Redhawk .44 magnum furnished by J. D. Jones of SSK Industries. A custom machined shroud with a barrel insert will be fitted by Lou Ciamillo of Maryland Gun Works. Lou will also furnish a set of custom sling swivels. Bill Wilson of Wilson's Gun Shop will do a super smooth action job on the Custom Redhawk and will install his custom scope mount. Bill will also plate the big revolver with Metaloy hard chrome finish. Ron Power of Power Custom will provide a fine Mark V Action Sight.

Upon completion, the Custom Ruger will feature the hand engraved signature of each of the four pistolsmiths. Additional features will include a set of handmade exotic wood stocks by Guy Hogue and a one-time-only leather sling handmade by Bob Arganbright. This will truly be a fine example of a custom revolver designed primarily for big game hunting and will be an excellent addition to any gun collection.

This custom Ruger Redhawk will be raffled off by the American Pistolsmiths Guild. The proceeds will be used to benefit the Outstanding American Pistolsmith and the Outstanding American Handgunner awards. Tickets will be on sale by members of the Guild at most major IPSC, PPC, and Action Shooting matches. The winner will be announced at the IPSC National Matches in Dallas on July 19, 1986. The winner need not

be present to win.

The American Pistolsmith Guild stands for quality and honesty of workmanship in the pistolsmithing trade, and the members are dedicated to this end. With this goal in mind the Guild continues to move toward the future. The Guild is pleased to have the new members elected this year and is proud to include their names among the best pistolsmiths in the country.

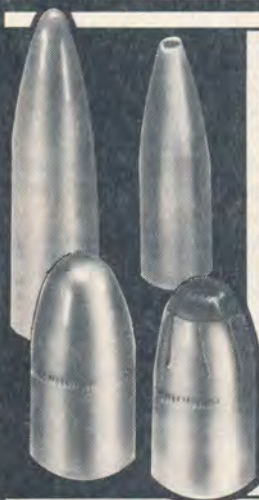


### NEW GUILD MEMBERS

\*One of the many stringent requirements for membership in the American Pistolsmiths Guild is a promise to offer customers an *unconditional* guarantee on custom work. Selecting a member of the Guild for a custom project is your assurance of quality. A list of all Guild members and their specialties is available for a SASE from: APG, Rt. 1, Box 40, Wessinger Road, Chapin, SC 29036.

APG Member	Address
Nolan Jackson	444 Ellis Wichita, KS 67211
Ken Kelly	41302 Executive Dr. Mt. Clemons, MI 48045
Michael L. Rose	34 E. Breezy Hill Rd. Stafford, VA 22554
Tom Kilhoffer	416 E. Sagnamon Rantoul, IL 61866
Charles Wilson	Marine Corps Marksmanship Unit Weapons Training Battalion Quantico, VA 22134
Frank J. Paris	13947 Minock Dr. Redford, MI 48239
Randy Brimrose	47 Paul San Rafael, CA 94903
Fred Wardell	Box 4132 New River Stage 1 New River, AZ 85029
Steve Nastoff	1057 Laverne Ave. Youngstown, OH 44511
Randy M. Fisher	10 Wakefield Ave. Fredericksburg, VA 22405
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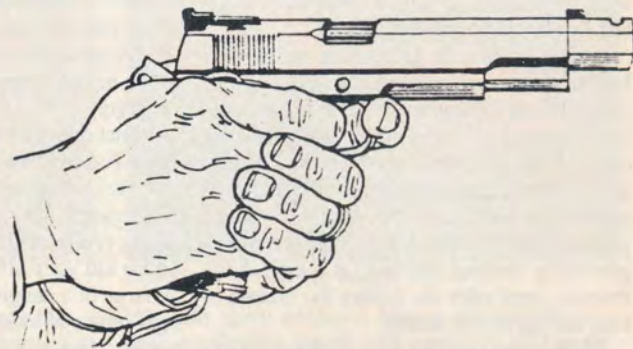
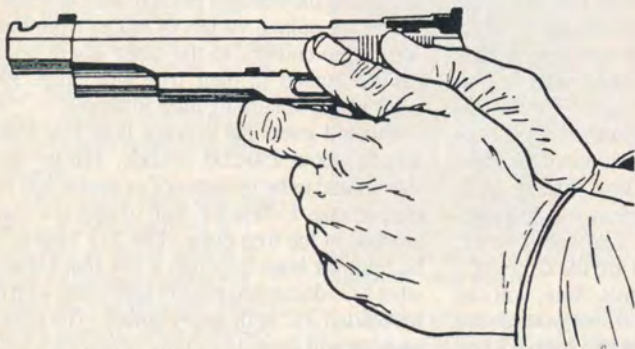


# MASTER TIPS

Collected by Jon Winokur

## The Finger-Forward Grip

I find that wrapping my left index finger around the front of the trigger guard helps control recoil better than the "low" grip (in which the index finger is placed underneath the trigger guard).



Place the left index finger as high as possible under the trigger guard, with the point of contact at about the center of the first joint. Make sure the finger pulls straight back, not to one side or the other.

Have someone watch you to make sure your index finger isn't bouncing off the trigger guard when you fire. If it is, you're not getting the benefit of this technique.



Use of the finger-forward grip doesn't make or break you — there's fine shooting done both ways. In fact, I think the low grip is more consistent and easier to acquire when firing a quick shot from the holster. But for me, the finger-forward grip feels more comfortable and provides more control over the pistol.

MICKEY FOWLER, Combat Master; 1979 IPSC U.S. Champion; 1980, '81 and '82 Bianchi Cup Champion; 1983 World Speed Shooting Champion; co-founder of International Shootists, Inc.; co-author of *Life Without Fear*.

# HANDGUN HUNTING

J. D. JONES

## HUNTING WILD HOGS ON PRESERVES IS GOOD SPORT, BUT HARDLY DANGEROUS

No doubt about it, preserve hunting has a lousy reputation with a lot of people who have been burned by unscrupulous operators. But, there are a lot of honest preserve owners who give a good hunt for the money. A large problem is separating the good guys from the bad. I can't do it for you, but I may be able to give you a couple tips on what to look out for and a few places to go that I've hunted personally.

Preserve hunting is hunting on private land for both native and non-native (exotic) game. Herds are confined within fenced pastures, some big, some small, and preserve owners manage their herds to produce trophy quality heads through careful breeding programs and control of the habitat. Because private preserves are exempt from game laws governing hunting seasons (at least for the exotics), they offer the hunter the chance to hunt during the off-season.

Most preserves offer boar hunting, so let's talk about that. First, what are you looking for? A life or death confrontation with a wild Russian boar just waiting to attack you? If so, don't ever go boar hunting.

Most of the boar hunting stories I've heard are pure BS. I would estimate I've either killed or been in on the taking of several hundred boar. I've teased them by darting at them and backing up quickly trying to get them to charge. I've seen dog-hog fights go through a lot of commotion and several dogs slashed, but none really seriously hurt. I've

seen hunters knocked down by hogs trying to escape a pack of dogs. I've walked up on them asleep and scared them awake by hollering, kicking them and firing shots while standing beside them. I've stumbled over them in deep leaves when they were asleep.

When hunting with Joe Meeks at Tellico Junction, the order of the day when the dogs corner a non-trophy hog is to first catch the hog, then the dogs, turn the hog loose while the dogs are leashed, and start over again. I've never, repeat, NEVER seen a hog charge.

That doesn't mean it doesn't or can't happen. It simply means your chance of being on the receiving end of a hog that is truly charging is fairly small, unless you do something really stupid. Even if he does charge, don't kid yourself that you are the target of a charge of a dangerous animal. Sure, you can get bitten or slashed, but I'd bet you have a better chance of being hurt in a farmer's hog pen than on a hunt.

I do know of a lot of hunters who are unable to tell a charge from a blind, panicking run. A charge is a short run at the victim and then the animal uses its tusks to work on the victim. A blind rush that goes past the hunter is not a charge. A blind rush away from dogs or other humans that knocks a hunter down and the animal keeps going is still a dash to escape. The rush that knocks the hunter down, and the animal stays to attack the victim is a charge.

I've never seen one and never saw a hunter who could show me a scar as a result of a hog charge. Even if they were charged—and thousands of "charges" are reported annually—and no one gets hurt, the charges could hardly be considered dangerous.

Obviously some guides and preserve owners get cut up and can show scars. Most are inflicted while transporting or catching hogs. Hell, squirrels and rabbits bite if you try to catch them too.

The guy that hypes Russian boar, purebred Russians, is a con artist. I've hunted them in Europe and have yet to hear anyone over there call them anything but European wild boar. Most boar hunted on preserves in the US are wild hogs that are trapped in Florida, Oklahoma or Texas and transported to the preserve under strict laws governing the transportation of such animals. There are quite a variety of places from one end of the country to the other where hogs can be hunted in their true wild state. Be wary of guys claiming pure Russians.

I would guess the average boar I've seen weighs about 150-200 pounds. Hardly the size animal to be bulletproof or evoke fear in man or dog. Unless the man or dog is a real chicken in the first place. The 357 Mag is a bit light for hogs although a guy that knows what he is doing will readily take a hog with a hot loaded 357 with heavy bullets. The lightweights will sometimes only penetrate a few inches. If you get real lucky you might run into a real monster at around 400 pounds. I shot one this size and would guess he probably spent a lot more time in the feedlot than the wild to achieve that size although some in the wild have an easy time making a living, and get big. The larger calibers heavily loaded are more than a match for any hog.

I really enjoy hog hunting particularly with dogs although I'm just about over the hill for very much of it. It's usually physically demanding and at this point Tellico Junction Hunting Preserve (Joe Meeks, Hog Hollow Road, Dept. AH, Englewood, TN, 37329, 615-887-7819) is a preserve I've been recommending for 15 years and haven't had a complaint yet.

The Y-O Ranch near Mountain Home, Texas is the premier place to hunt exotics of many kinds as well as having some of the best whitetail hunting in the country. Many of the buildings on the Y-O are documented by the Texas Historical Society. The owner had them torn down and reassembled on the Y-O. These are the buildings you stay in. For true exotic hunting the Y-O is the place to go. (Y-O Ranch, Dept. AH, Mountain Home, Texas, 78058, 512-640-3222)

Obviously, I'm not trying to talk you out of preserve hunting. I'm simply warning you that a lot of operations leave a lot to be desired. Frankly, preserve hunting is a great place to learn to hunt and shoot if you go to a good preserve. You can also work in a preserve hunt on a short time schedule and, as far as exotics are concerned, obtain animals from India, Africa and other countries for a fraction of the cost of hunting them in their native land. And that ain't all bad.



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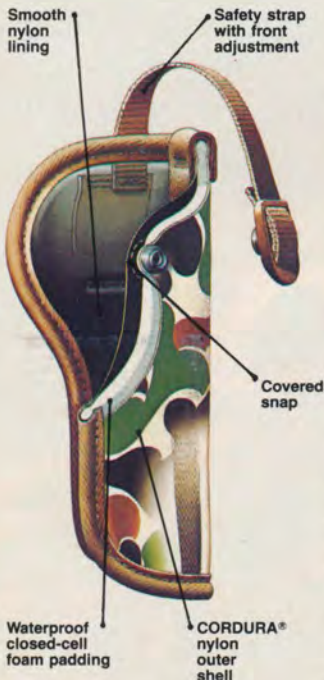
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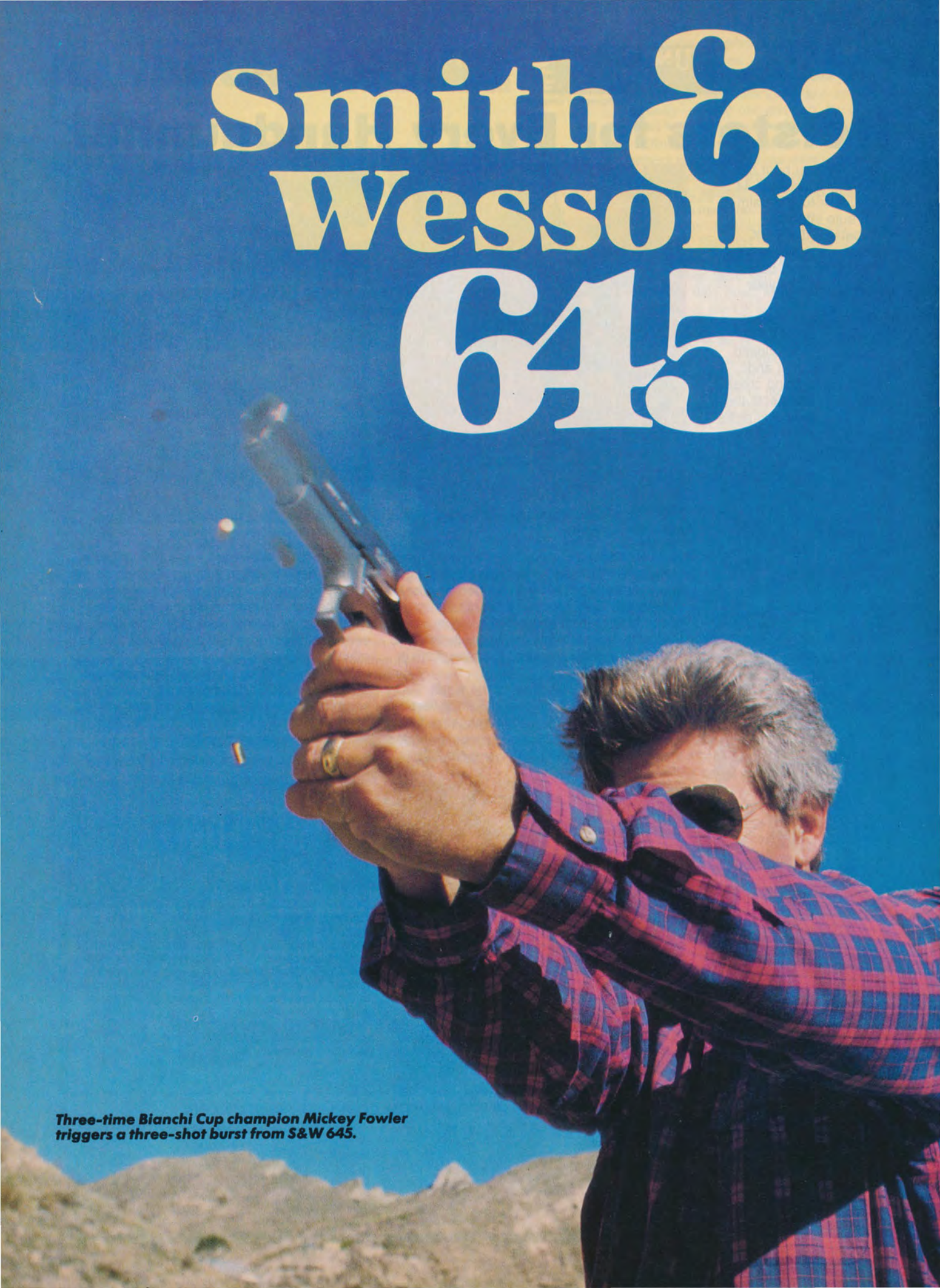


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# Smith & Wesson's 645

A man with grey hair, wearing a red and blue plaid shirt and sunglasses, is shown from the chest up, holding a silver Smith & Wesson 645 handgun with both hands. He is firing the handgun, and three spent shell casings are visible in the air around the muzzle. The background is a clear blue sky with a hazy, mountainous landscape at the bottom.

*Three-time Bianchi Cup champion Mickey Fowler  
triggers a three-shot burst from S&W 645.*

*At last!*

*The long awaited Model 645 is here, a double-action .45 ACP semi-auto pistol.*



*By Jeff Cooper*

*Photos by Ichiro Nagata*

It was nearly 25 years ago that the first, top-secret prototype of a big-caliber Smith & Wesson auto pistol was knocking about the factory in Springfield. Those of us who were privileged to handle it were sworn to secrecy. But now that it has been released on the market our fearful oaths would seem no longer to apply.

Essentially, the 645 is a grown-up M-39. Anyone who is familiar with the latter pistol will need no instructions in the management of the larger weapon. The fact that it takes a full-size, fight-stopping cartridge renders it immediately superior to any auto that the Smith & Wesson factory has produced up to now. That it inherits both the good and bad features of its lesser parent will please some, but not others.

The first impression of the 645 is one of bulk. It is a *big* gun. This is disappointing in view of the current, and very sensible, trend toward reduction in the size of the heavy-duty auto pistols. The 645 is very slightly *larger* than the 1911 Colt, in all dimensions except reach (the term used to describe the fore-and-aft distance between the center of the trigger

and the fore-center of the backstrap). The reach of the 645 matches that of the 1911 exactly, if the 1911 uses a long trigger and the Smith is cocked. The reach to the trigger in its forward position is, of course, much longer, and will doubtless pose difficulties for small hands. Men with average or large hands will find no trouble with any of these weapons, but most women, and men with small hands, will find the 645 awkward.

The second impression of the new pistol is one of "scratchiness"—a profusion of sharp corners and abrasion points. It is indeed strange that gunmakers, in general, do not seem to realize that a pistol is a hand-tool, and should be as round and smooth on the operating end as, for example, a hand saw. Not only do sharp edges abrade the hands, but they form a distinct hazard to clothing when the pistol is worn under a coat. On the 645 both front- and backstraps are checkered quite sharply, as is the forward surface of the trigger guard, which is hooked in accordance with the "trend of the times." The designers have seen fit to round the outside corners of the rear sight, which is a good feature; but



**While Col. Cooper scoffs at the "grown-up Model 39," he approves of the bore size in manstopping .45 caliber. A real fight stopper!**

there are more things on the piece to tear hands and clothing than the rear sight. The front edge of the magazine floorplate, for example, is bound to draw blood after about six quick reloads.

The top of the curve of the backstrap is very curiously designed, being on the one hand too broad, and on the other too short. It extends out a useless quarter-inch on either side of the hammer, but does not come back quite far enough to prevent hammer bite. Neither does it protect the hammer against forcing if the weapon is dropped. Customizers will start out at once by shortening the hammer about an eighth of an inch, and reworking the spade beneath.

The recoil-spring guide-rod projects forward of the barrel, as with the Beretta 92, thus rendering it impossible to press-check the piece correctly. (I have never known what that guide-rod is supposed to do, as John Browning did not think it necessary, and his designs work just fine.)



**Model 645 features a full length recoil spring guide rod, hooked and checkered trigger guard, red insert front sight. It's made of stainless steel.**



The magazine disconnecter of the M-39 has been retained. This device prevents hammer-fall unless a magazine is in place. Its intention is to obviate accidental discharge, but it renders the pistol inoperative during reloading, and also if a magazine is lost in action. I have never known of a man to be killed because of this feature, but then I have never known of a cop to be killed by a "cop-killer" bullet either. It is one of those things which probably will not happen, but might, and it should be de-activated by the user at once.

Trigger action on the test gun was poor. Release of the cocked hammer occurred after a somewhat gritty five-pounds' pressure. The uncocked trigger action called for between sixteen and eighteen pounds—and was uneven in application. In this passion for double-action auto-pistols, designers never seem to understand that a *pistol is designed to be shot*. The only good trigger-cocking stroke that I know of is found on the Czech 75 and in its descendant, the Bren X. At that, the double-action pull on the 645 is notably superior to that of the Beretta 92S—if it matters. As we have remarked upon occasion, double-action in a self-loader is a solution in search of a problem.

The 645, along with its ancestor the M-39,

**Col. Cooper tested the 645 at his famed Gunsite Ranch. Note he still carries a Colt cocked and locked in a Yaqui slide holster.**

along with its ancestor the P-38, and its ancestor the Walter PP of 1935, features *non-selective* double-action. This means that the pistol has no proper Condition One, which is the preferred mode for carrying a self-loading pistol. One either carries a non-selector of this type in Condition Zero (cocked and unlocked), which makes most people nervous, or in Condition Two (hammer all the way down on a loaded chamber). From Condition Two the pistol may be fired by the trigger-cocking mode, which is particularly clumsy in this action, or alternatively, it may be thumb-cocked with the left hand as the sights are aligned.

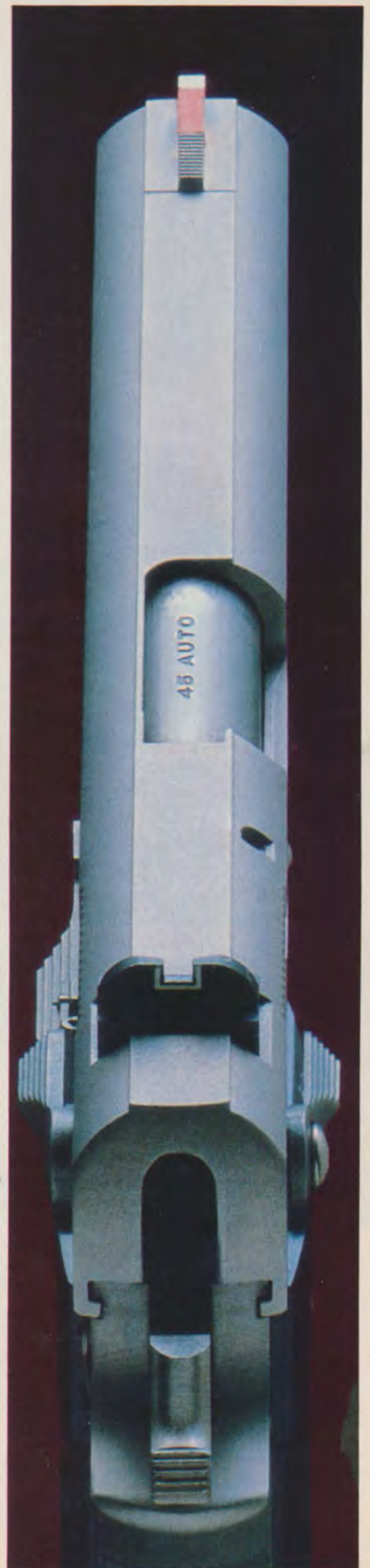
As many users of the M-39 series have found, the hammer-dropping feature of the cross-bolt in the slide may be disconnected, permitting the weapon to be carried fully-cocked but with the firing mechanism interrupted until the hammer-dropper is thrust forward on the draw. This modification is

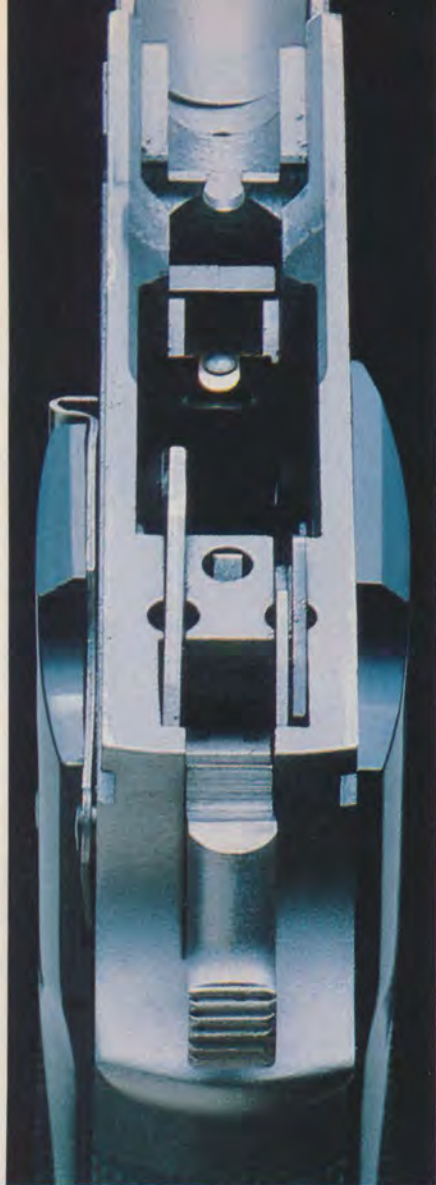
easily accomplished, but it may draw criticism from departmental chiefs who do not understand the proper use of a sidearm. Several departments which are now using the M-39 and M-59 have gone to this arrangement, and while it is not as handy as a properly designed thumb-safety, it still can be learned.

This hammer-dropping device high up on the slide, which seems to have become a fad in recent decades, was not a good piece of engineering when it was introduced 50 years ago, and it has not improved with age. Now on both the 645 and the Beretta 92S it is placed on *both* sides of the slide, making it particularly easy to operate inadvertently when the slide is racked. It appears that some designers have become so preoccupied with what they deem to be "safety" in the mechanism that they have succeeded in making the weapon increasingly unsafe for the user, should he happen to find himself in a situation



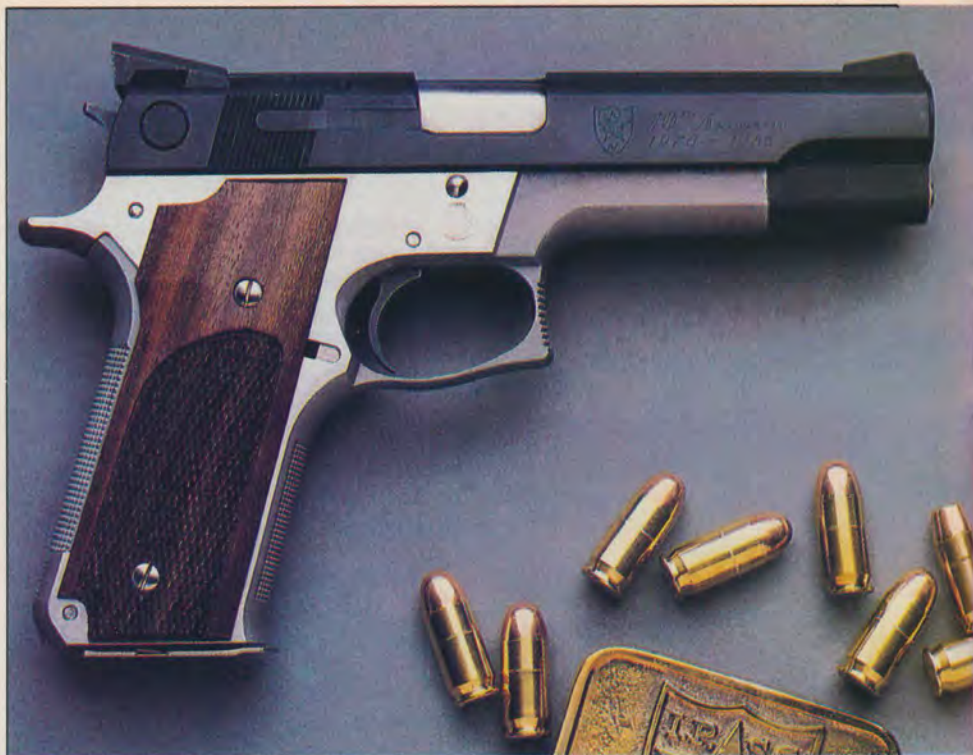
**Stripped into its component parts, the 645 comes apart in the same fashion as its parent, the Model 39/59.**





where he needs a firearm to save his life. I think we may all agree that safety with firearms lies between the ears, rather than between the hands, and that no deadly weapon can be made safe by means of gadgetry.

On the good side, the 645 comes equipped with very good sights, including a red ramp front, which I personally rather like but is not to everyone's taste. The weapon is of stainless steel, which will be a big advantage in hot, salty, humid climates. And in the testing we conducted it proved its reliability. We had no malfunctions. Above all, the 645 is a *major-caliber* sidearm, which renders it essentially and decisively superior to any small-caliber substitute. The purpose of a sidearm is to stop fights, and the 45 ACP cartridge is much more likely to do that than the 9mm parabolium. Thus while the 645 may have a number of significant faults, it is still much to be preferred over the M-39, the M-59, the P-9, the P-7, or, most particularly, the Beretta 92S. The sad thing is that Smith & Wesson did not see fit to re-design the pistol completely, rather than simply to enlarge its bore size.



# Model 745

By AH Staff

Sired by Tommy Campbell's prototype .45, *Supergun*, the Model 745 is virtually identical to that legendary pistol. The 745 has a ball-end barrel and fixed barrel bushing for tight out-of-the-box accuracy plus superb balance and weight for minimal recoil. A ribbed, non-glare black slide. An oversize magazine release button. Extended and enlarged manual safety allowing quick access and Condition One carry. Yes, these features make the 745 a worthy competition pistol. But there's more.

A black ramp front sight and square notch, high visibility rear sight (drift adjustable for windage) gives you a sight picture of excellent definition. The sight radius is 7½ inches. The ejection port is lowered for positive ejection of spent cases. The trigger is serrated and blued with an adjustable trigger stop. The hammer notch is precisely ground and polished for a smooth, crisp pull.

The checkered walnut stocks combined with cross-hatch checkering of the front strap, back strap and trigger guard lend purchase to the weapon. A throated barrel ramp aids in reliable feeding from

the eight-round magazine. The magazine well is flared and bevelled for quick insertion of fresh magazines. A wide back strap tang and rounded hammer spur serve to prevent hammer bite.

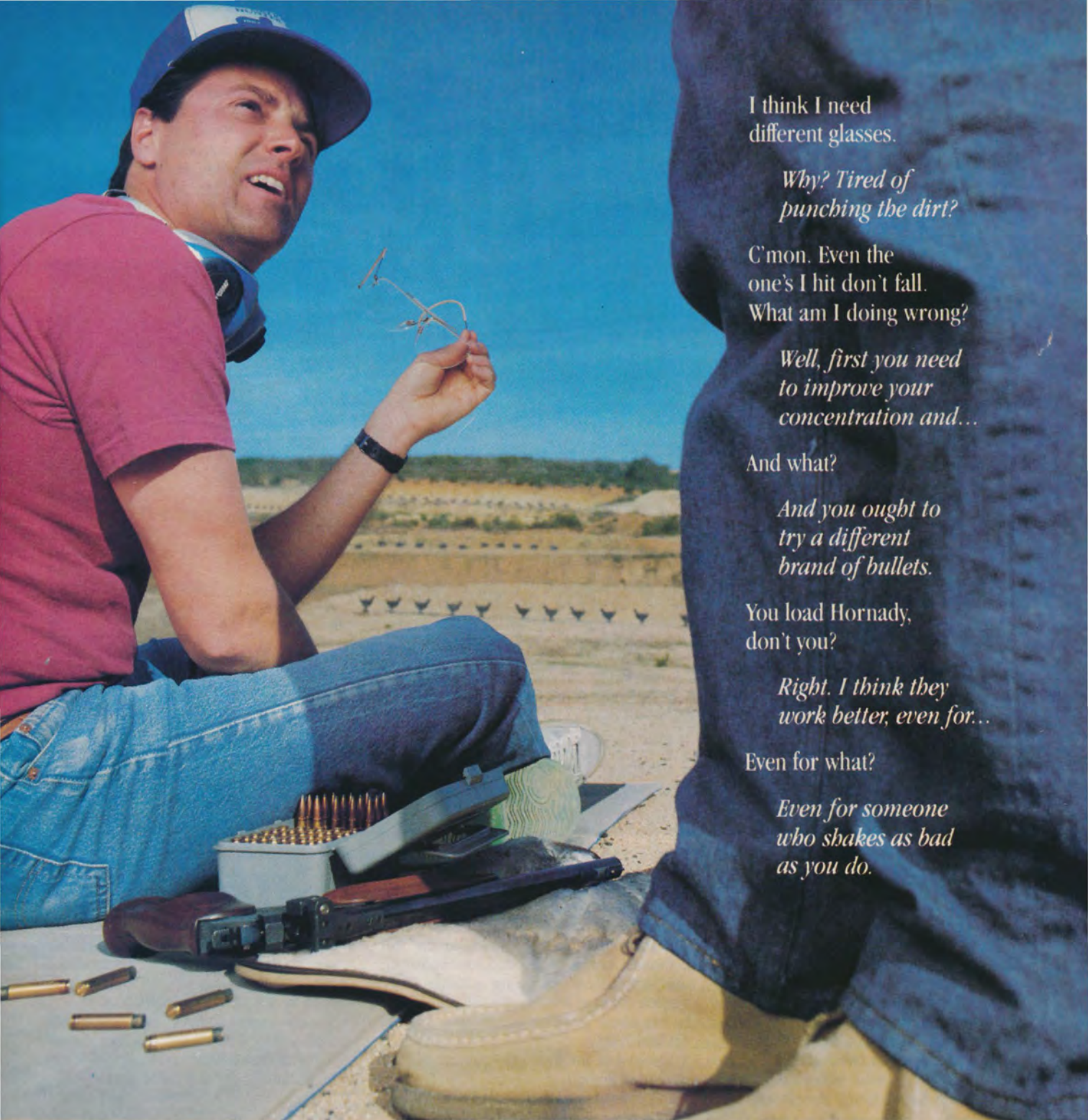
All these "custom" alterations are standard on a Model 745!

Smith and Wesson fondly remarks that their pistol comes complete with *two* magazines each holding one more round (total of eight) than the *other* .45. Gee, what could *that* be?

Now there's the good news; here's the bad news. This Model 745 is a limited edition pistol in commemoration of IPSC's Tenth Anniversary this year. The slide bears the official IPSC logo with the inscription "10th Anniversary 1976-1986." The numbers of the limited edition have yet to be announced, but reliable sources indicate there will be only 5,000 made. If you want a chance to own a competition pistol "out of the box" that is also a collector's item, contact your nearest authorized Smith and Wesson dealer.

Then you too can own a Supergun!





I think I need  
different glasses.

*Why? Tired of  
punching the dirt?*

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

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

And what?

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

You load Hornady,  
don't you?

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

Even for what?

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

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

*We're what  
reloading is  
all about.*



**Hornady**

Hornady Manufacturing Co., Dept. AG2076  
Box 1848, Grand Island, NE 68802-1848

# Pachmayr®

# DOMINATOR

# DELIVERS!



Photos by Ichiro Nagata

By J.D. Jones

The Pachmayr *Dominator* is simply a bolt-action conversion of Browning's 1911 Government Model.

The *Dominator* conversion will fit almost all, if not all, of these frames with no modification to the frame. The Series 80 Colts require a trigger mechanism, due to the firing pin block, to operate properly with the *Dominator*. Aluminum frames are a question mark. Pachmayr has checked most of the steel frames by various manufacturers and found them satisfactory for *Dominator* conversion.

In short, the unit is very well thought out and executed. It has what it needs, with the exception of the automatic safety—that's all. No extra useless parts. The basic unit consists of a receiver, bolt assembly, barrel, attachment assembly and is available without sighting provision, with iron sights or with scope mount.

The entire unit is quickly and easily affixed to a 1911 frame, although Pachmayr recommends installation by a gunsmith. If you are familiar with working on guns, I wouldn't hesitate to recommend that you give it a try yourself. If you have any doubt about your ability—get a gunsmith to install the unit. Some fitting is required.

With scope and .308 chambering, *Dominator* is a great hunting pistol.

The *Dominator's* bolt face is unique. Instead of an extractor set into the three lug bolt, the bolt face is made like a shellholder. The cartridge must be placed in the slot before the bolt is closed and removed from the slot instead of being automatically ejected. Short of a steel rod and hammer, this is the most positive extraction system devised.

Quality of the unit leaves nothing to be desired in strength or workmanship. This is a high quality unit with the strength of a bolt action rifle.

Operation of the *Dominator* is simple but a bit cumbersome. 1) Cock the hammer. 2) Open the bolt. 3) Insert cartridge into the bolt face. 4) Close the bolt. 5) Move the automatic safety lever to the OFF position. 6) Shoot. 7) Do it again, only this time remove the fired case from the bolt by picking it off, shaking it, or rotating it and hoping gravity will do it.

The operation of the unit is definitely easier with the iron sighted unit. I haven't seen the iron sights but have used the scoped test unit without the scope mounted. The scoped gun is more awkward to use. I found myself with a lot of T/C and XP experience behind me and on several occasions attempted to simply drop a round in the

chamber and close the bolt. Obviously it won't work, but many years of habit are hard to break. It's also necessary to take your eye off of the target to load unless you have a lot better coordination than I have. The bolt face slot is just hard to find without looking. It is difficult to operate with gloves on.

The *Dominator* at this writing is available in 223, 7/08, 308 and 44 Magnum. Other calibers are being furnished by IHMSA and SSK. Pachmayr will add calibers later.

The test unit is a 308 and was installed on a Randall (now out of business) frame by Pachmayr. Trigger pull was about four foot pounds which is about as light as one should be if the frame is to be used as an auto pistol again. Four pound pistol triggers leave a lot to be desired in the kind of precision pistol shooting the *Dominator* is capable of.

Scoped with a 2X Leupold the *Dominator* weighs in at slightly greater than 4.5 pounds. This is adequate weight for a 308, and in an XP with a well fitting stock is pleasant to shoot will full charge loads.

The 1911 grip is just plain poor at handling much recoil. The Auto-Mags and other single shot pistols with the "45" grip have proven this every time it's been tried. The *Dominator*—no exception. The test gun arrived a couple



days before I was leaving for Africa but I just had to shoot it and dumped a 150 grain Federal load into the bullet trap before putting the scope on the gun. It just plain hurt in three places. The bottom of my wrist, the heel of the hand where the end of the grip dug in, and the web area of my hand. The additional weight of the scope tames it considerably, but I believe many individuals will find the gun uncomfortable in any caliber, particularly iron sighted models.

At this time I have a fair amount of experience with the *Dominator*. I've had it on a few frames and had some input from various HHI members who have the unit. With one exception all have reported good accuracy. My personal best in the accuracy department was seven straight 22 turkey targets at 200 meters. All targets were hit on the right side with a composite group of not over 2.25 inches. Ammo was 180 grain Federal factory. Next best was with Remington's Accelerator sabot ammunition. Although the point of impact was too far removed from ordinary ammunition to use without re-sighting in, the *Dominator* turned in several 100 yard groups of under one inch. No velocity recorded due to low temperatures (I test fired in winter). It appears this combination will be a very useful varmint combination.



**Gunsmiths need not apply. Dominator conversion is easy to install.**

*This bolt-action unit snaps on a 1911 frame to give you rifle power in a handgun.*



Recoil with the Accelerator ammo was strange—just a powder puff push accompanied by a somewhat strange sounding report. Or maybe it just sounds strange because it feels strange.

None of the various ammunitions by Federal, Remington or Winchester shot poorly, in fact most rifle shooters would be damn happy to get the same results out of their rifles. No handloads were tried although the only reason for that was my time schedule. Too busy to load.

Frankly, the *Dominator* was impressive enough that I bought the test unit. I simply haven't seen any mechanical problems with it. I have my doubts about any four screw mount using standard 6-48 gunscrews staying on any 308 over the long haul.

At this point only one problem of a mechanical nature has occurred. Many "custom" or old 1911s have weak hammer falls. I've encountered a couple that misfire occasionally with commercial ammunition and a lot with some military. Replacing the spring takes care of that problem.

A lot of erroneous information regarding rifle bullets at pistol velocities has been published. In the 308 the most frangible bullets I know of are the 150 and 165 grain Nosler Ballistic tips. In fact I would consider them too frangible for a lot of jobs. The 150 and 165 Nosler Partition bullets have a very fragile front end and will give expansion on game at 300 yards from the *Dominator*. They also get to long range with a lot more punch than 110s or 125s.

*Continued on page 55*

**CUSTOM  
HANDGUNS  
HUNT  
AFRICA**

*By Cameron Hopkins*





**Author's custom hunting rig from Davis Leather features sheaths for two custom knives, flap holster to protect Colt Gold Cup, spare .45 ACP magazine pouches and interchangeable loops for various rifle cartridges. Zeiss 7x42 binocular is author's favorite hunting glass.**

Sweat trickled aimlessly down Mickey Fowler's powerful arms, mixing with tiny rivulets of blood seeping from small, irritating scratches. Africa's sun scorched his skin as thorns tore his flesh. The Wait-A-Bit thorn bushes with their wicked cat-claws earned their name—you have to wait a bit to free yourself when snagged by the vicious barbs.

The three-time Bianchi Cup champion continued his relentless stalk. Walking quietly, but carrying a big stick in the form of a .44 Magnum Ruger Redhawk, Mickey hunted the awesome Cape buffalo, a wild bovine noted for its ferocious temper, foul disposition and uncanny ability to soak up boatloads of high velocity lead. Buff are also rather intelligent rascals.

Mickey hunted with a highly sophisticated Ruger Redhawk .44 Magnum built by Bruce Gray featuring an 11-inch Douglas barrel with a "Double D" compensator milled into the last inch. Atop perched a 2x Leupold scope backed up by melted Bo-Mar iron sights. Hogue grips gave purchase to the weapon. His load combined Winchester 296 powder with a 305 grain lead bullet from J. D. Jones at



**Buff Buster! Mickey Fowler designed this Ruger Redhawk custom conversion specifically for hunting African game. Note the compensator to reduce recoil with the hot loads used for hunting.**



**Mickey's custom holster from Ted Blocker swivels on belt for ease of movement in the thick bush.**

*I speak of Africa and golden joys; the joy of wandering through lonely lands; the joy of hunting the mighty and terrible lords of the wilderness, the cunning, the wary, and the grim.*

*Teddy Roosevelt  
Khartoum  
March 15, 1910*

1,550 fps—this load is over max, and cannot be listed.

Cape buffalo! This sinister black demon of the bush weighs about a ton, 1800 to 2000 pounds, and carries a helmet of thick horn across his massive head. Most professional hunters in Africa, and sportsmen as well, consider the Cape buffalo to be the most dangerous game of the Dark Continent. From the Big Five of Africa—those five non-sense animals having the ability and inclination to either stomp, gore, rip, claw or bite you into little pieces—the Cape buffalo stands supreme. (The Big Five are Cape buffalo, elephant, leopard, lion and rhino.) More hunters, as opposed to natives or tourists, are killed by buff every year than by any other cause. (Incidentally, crocodiles are the biggest killers of natives, followed closely by hippo; more tourists meet their maker under elephant foot or tusk—“Stand a little closer, honey, so I can get a better picture.”)

And that was precisely why Mickey, Bill Wilson of Accu-Comp fame, and I were hunting Cape buffalo. In the words of Jeff Cooper, “Danger—not variety—is the spice of life.”

Bill hunted with a .44 Magnum Smith and Wesson Model 29, six-inch, with a Leupold 2x scope and Pachmayr Gripper stocks. His load was a 300 grain Terminator FMJ solid at 1,300 fps. His 29 boasted a smooth action job from Wilson's Gun Shop.

I hunted with a rifle, firmly convinced that only an *expert* handgunner should venture into the ring for 15 rounds with a heavyweight like *Nyati* (the Shangaan native word for Cape buffalo). I toted afield a Sako .375 Holland and Holland Magnum with Hornady 300 grain solids and 285 grain Cor Bon softs. I never got a shot at a decent buff; Mickey and Bill, both armed with handguns, did. (Is there a message there?)

But I also carried a sidearm, a wise practice when hunting with a rifle. A handgun comes in handy (no pun intended) for a variety of reasons, so I packed a Colt Gold Cup .45 ACP loaded with 185 grain Winchester Silvertips.

Although the safari-veteran Sako saw most of the action, my Thompson Center Contender also got in a few licks. SSK Industries customized a Contender into a Handcannon chambered in .375 JDJ. I used the same bullet as in the .375 H&H, a steel jacketed Hornady 300 grain solid at 1,880 fps. I also used Cor Bon's superlative 285 grain soft, a special bullet designed for handgun velocities with a thinner jacket than the rifle version. The Handcannon sported a Leupold 4x EER scope in T<sup>SOB</sup> (Tough Son O'Bitch) mounts. The 14-inch barrel featured SSK's Arrestor muzzle brake which tames the recoil of this awesome caliber to a moderate level. Pachmayr Gripper stocks also helped soak up recoil.



**This huge Cape buffalo bull dropped to a single 305 gr. 44 Magnum bullet. But then things got interesting—note the slash in the buff's neck where the .44 Magnum bullet bounced off the skin when Mickey approached to pay the "insurance" shot. Tough buff!**

Meanwhile, Mickey continued his stalk for Cape buffalo as he wiped the sweat from his brow. The trickles of blood from thorn scratches continued drooling down his arms. The hunt began at dawn when Mickey and professional hunter Danie Erasmus stumbled on where a herd of buff had bedded down the previous night. The grass was too tall to follow the usual *spoor* (hoof prints), so they stalked by following trails of ever freshening buffalo dung.

Four and a half hours later—thankfully the wind was right, in their faces—Mickey glimpsed the rear guard of the herd in the dense bush ahead. It took another excruciating hour and a half to slither on his belly amid the thorns the last 100 yards necessary to get into decent shooting position. In Africa, you may spot your quarry—a tail wagging, an ear flicking—from further than 100 yards, but you won't get a shot in the heavy bush. Get closer.

Mickey finally, agonizingly, got within range at 55 paces. Still prone from crawling, Mickey tuned his ears to pick up the faintest whispering of his PH (professional hunter) advising which bull to take. The chosen bull milled around with some cows, as bulls are prone to do, for what seemed like forever. Finally the bull separated from the herd.

Carefully Mickey began to ease the hammer back, double-action, while keeping the crosshairs just behind the shoulder of the

broadside buff. Lung shot—you don't try to bust through a buff's massive shoulder bone with any handgun.

At the shot the buff collapsed to its knees, regained its feet and lunged forward five yards before dropping. Dead. Well, the bull looked dead. But Mickey knew that all buff are alive and dangerous even if they're dead, just as all guns are always loaded even if they're unloaded. He approached to five yards to administer a *coup de grace* in the neck.

Get this—the 305 grain slug bounced off the buff's skin! I say again, at the sharp downward angle of the shot, fired at the prostrate buff, the bullet ricocheted off the skin merely cutting a welt six inches long in the thick hide (see accompanying photo). Buff tough?

Mickey Fowler, one; Cape buffalo, zero. Now, let's see what Bill's up to.

Bill was busy with lion. After four tiresome and frustrating attempts at lion, almost 50 hours of stoic hunting, Bill finally got lucky. The endless hours of waiting in the blind paid off. Sort of.

A positively huge lioness dropped by for a bite of dinner: roast wildebeest today, dear. Bill had already thumbed back the hammer of his 29 so as not to alert the lion with the metallic noise of sear engaging hammer notch. He levelled the sights behind the shoulder of the feeding lioness, aiming for the lungs, and squeezed off. At the shot the lion-

ess took off like someone had applied a cattle prod to her tender parts. Miss? No way, not from Combat Master Bill Wilson.

Investigation revealed a hard lung hit. She's not going far. (Lung blood is easily distinguished from other blood due to its bright red color—freshly oxygenated—and frothy bubbles.)

Bill, naturally anxious to find his lion, wanted to follow-up the lion immediately. But his PH, Andries du Plessis, insisted that they should wait 15 or 20 minutes to allow the fatal wound to take its toll. One should never be in a hurry to sort out a wounded lion.

Finally the professional said it was time. Hearts thumped and adrenaline gushed at the thrilling prospect of trailing a wounded lion into the thick bush. Inside a matted tangle of thorns, brush, shrubs and long grass, visibility was three to five yards. Maybe a whole ten yards in clear spots. The entangling mass of thorn bush was a dull grayish-tannish-tawny color. It was, well, lion-colored.

Sorting out a wounded lion in thick bush—now *that* is stimulating. "Bloody good dangerous sport," as the old British ivory hunters might have said. And they would be right in their use of the term "sport." Hunting is *hunting* when you pick on someone your own size who can hit back. Have no doubt, lions can hit back!

And this lion behaved in characteristic fashion—dart into the thickest, nastiest,



**Here's a lighter version of Ruger Buff Buster with slimmer barrel. Mickey's loads use 305 gr. lead bullet at a whopping 1,600 fps.**

heaviest cover and wait. Wait in ambush for savage revenge on that reeking, hairless ape who just poked a hole in you.

The wonderful thing about following-up a wounded lion is that the beast is predictable—the lion *will* charge. A charging lion is astonishingly quick. He can easily cover 30 feet in a single bound. The lion comes at you low to the ground, sometimes snarling but usually not. The charge is normally preceded by a savage roar which is enough to cause you to call for a change of trousers. If successful, the lion is merciful. You'll die almost instantly as the massive jaws close around your chest sinking long, dagger-teeth to the hilt. The last sound you'll hear is your rib cage splintering.

Knowing what danger awaited him, Bill ventured into the thick stuff. He stalked carefully and slowly, eyes probing the dark recesses of the tangled, knotted thorns.

Perhaps the wait was too long. Perhaps Bill was overly cautious—if that's possible in following-up a wounded lion. Bill was shocked to discover the lion no more than 125 yards away hidden in a thick clump of thorns. The lion died waiting to launch its last attack. Maybe it wasn't such a bad idea to wait so long.

Or perhaps it was. Sadly, the delay allowed time for scavaging hyenas and jackals to devour most of the lion. A pack of hyenas eats like a vast garbage disposal. The skin

ruined for any trophy purposes, Bill was consoled when Andries gave him a skin of similar size from his skinning room.

But non-dangerous game fell cleanly to Bill's Model 29. Bill and Mickey both tagged excellent zebra stallions with their .44 Magnums. Mickey's ran a bit, about a mile, with a solid lung shot. The bullet clipped the bottom of the heart as well, but the stallion didn't slow down. He piled up eventually. One cannot underestimate the tenacity of African plains game. After all, zebra, antelope and other prey animals are on a predator's menu every moment of life. You'd get tough too if something was constantly trying to *eat* you.

Both took wildebeest—a notoriously strong antelope weighing some 500 pounds—and impala and warthog, the ugliest critter in Africa.

We took pains to conduct complete field autopsies to see how the bullets performed. Mickey's 305 grain lead .44 slugs recovered from various animals showed a remarkably consistent pattern. The bullets showed no deformation unless they impacted bone, in which case the bullets lost their nose profile as they distorted on impact. Penetration was seemingly unaffected with the bullets continuing to plow through bone and muscle. Curiously, the bullet recovered from the buffalo bull could be reloaded—it was that perfect. (This bullet penetrated the chest cavity

behind the shoulder, taking both lungs and lodging just under the two-inch thick skin on the off-side—a four-foot journey.)

Bill's jacketed 300 grain Terminators also fared well. Recovered bullets displayed little deformation in soft tissue, but, again, slight warping after hitting bone.

However, I noticed in the wounds a lack of hydrostatic shock from these handgun bullets. This fits with the conventional wisdom that shock comes only with impact velocities in excess of 2,000 fps. Wound channels were small, about bore size, with little surrounding tissue damage. None of the bullets showed any expansion whatsoever, but this was expected as the bullets were "solids," not intended to expand.

Penetration was excellent, so good that many bullets exited thereby taking with them the chance to study their performance. Several times we found bullets just under the skin on the far side, indicating full penetration without exiting. Some argue that this is the ideal situation because a bullet's energy is transferred completely. No exit, no lost energy. I disagree. An exit hole tends to bleed more than an entrance hole, making tracking easier. Also, two holes bleed quicker than one hole, leading to a faster death.

While Mickey and Bill were hunting plains game, the diverse antelope family. I

*Continued on page 50*



**Bill Wilson and fine zebra stallion taken with one of Bill's Magnum Hunter custom Model 29s.**



**Author took this warthog with Contender from SSK in .375 JDJ. Scope is 4X Leupold EER in T'SOB mount.**

## **South Africa, A Handgun Hunter's Paradise**

The Republic of South Africa offers the handgun hunter unequalled opportunities to hunt a wide variety of game while at the same time allowing for sight-seeing excursions in a gorgeous part of Africa. The breathtaking beauty of the Cape must be seen to be appreciated.

South Africa boasts a thoroughly modern infrastructure of highways and air flights expediting travel to the untamed bush country. English is spoken universally in South Africa, a convenience not readily found in other parts of Africa.

Do not be misled by the current hysteria in the media about the "unrest" and "turmoil" allegedly taking place. As gun owners and proud supporters of the Second Amendment, we realize that the media is liberal, and the current *cause célèbre* for liberals is "Hate South Africa."

There is no need for concern about the political situation. I know; I've been there; I've lived there; I've seen for myself.

Having dispelled the ugly rumor of unrest, let's look at the hunting. Before you hunt, you have to get there, and South African Airways offers an affordable round-trip airfare from New York to Johannesburg. The Super Springbok Saver fare is available to hunters. I know of no other airline offering special discounts to hunters (in fact, most airlines come unglued when you announce you're carrying guns — not SAA).

Most hunting areas in South Africa permit hunting dangerous game (the Big Five) with handguns. Not so in many other African nations. The *Safari Club International's* world record leopard and rhino were both taken in South Africa, testimony to the quality of hunting there.

Intelligent game management is the secret. The authorities maintain rigorous codes for licensing professional hunters, your insurance of well-qualified guides. The game is managed to produce trophy heads while maintaining an excellent gene pool in the herds. South African game management is the model many other countries try to copy.

Mickey, Bill and I hunted with two different outfitters, and we recommend them both heartily. If you won't settle for second-best on your African safari, write these first-class guides for further information:

Dr. Rocco Gioia  
Casketts Safaris  
P.O. Box 693  
Hoedspruit 1380  
Republic of South Africa

Mr. Deon Goosen  
Zwikkwarni Safaris  
284 Watkins Ave.  
Queenswood, Pretoria 0186  
Republic of South Africa

**Bowen Classic Arms  
renders a Ruger into a  
sophisticated showpiece  
complete with custom  
barrel in .44 Magnum**

**B**owen Classic Arms is pleased to present to the readers of *American Handgunner* a chance to win this gorgeous Ruger Super Blackhawk revolver and custom holster.

Ruger revolvers have a well deserved reputation for design and durability, but lack the flavor and finish of the venerable Colt Single Action Army. This custom Ruger combines the best of both worlds by imparting an elegant demeanor to the rugged Ruger.

Hours of tedious handwork went into the creation of the custom Ruger from Bowen Classic Arms. Meticulous attention to detail is the trademark of Hamilton Bowen, the master gunmaker of Bowen Classic Arms. Such dedication to excellence explains why Hamilton Bowen is one of a handful of members in the prestigious American Pistolsmith Guild.

The following features are tastefully incorporated into this stunning Ruger conversion:

- custom Douglas barrel, 7½ inches, with a tapered octagon configuration and 11° forcing cone.
- stainless steel ejector rod housing fitted to barrel and receiver and blued to match.
- Color-case hardened receiver.
- Presentation-grade black micarta grips in the standard pattern fitted with Redhawk medallions.
- Trigger and action hand-honed, adjustable trigger over-travel stop.
- Custom high-ride, cross draw holster from Thad Rybka Custom Leather Equipment. Features wet molding for secure fit and comfort.

Hamilton Bowen and Bowen Classic Arms are committed to providing first-quality design and execution to each and every individual commission. Each job from the facility is tested and carefully hand inspected for exacting tolerances before delivery to the client. An informative and well-illustrated brochure is available for \$3. Inquiries are welcome and should be directed to:

Hamilton S. Bowen (member APG)  
Bowen Classic Arms Corp.,  
Handgun Dept.  
P.O. Box 67  
Louisville, TN 37777  
(615) 984-3583

Thad Rybka  
Thad Rybka Custom Leather  
Rt. 1, Box 466  
Odenville, AL 35120



Win This  
**Bowen**





# Custom

# Ruger Super Blackhawk



Other single-action services available from Bowen Classic Arms include caliber conversions in .22 Hornet, .25-20 WCF, .30-20 BCA and others. Hand-finished firearms are available cased as presentation-grade singles or matched pairs.

Bowen Classic Arms also has an extensive roster of other services for both double-action revolvers and Ruger .22 autos. The Ruger Redhawk is a specialty of Bowen Classic Arms and conversions are offered with action work, round-butt configuration, .45 Long Colt chambering, Dan Wesson style interchangeable barrels and a powerful custom chambering in .50 caliber.

**TO ENTER CONTEST:** Use a postcard, follow sample; include name, address, HOM-J/A, local dealer name and address. Mail before July 1, 1986. Send to AMERICAN HANDGUNNER, Box 16025, San Diego, CA 92116.

Which do you prefer: (Circle One)  
REVOLVER/AUTOMATIC.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City & State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**HOM JULY/AUGUST 1986** Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

Dealer \_\_\_\_\_

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# The AYOOB Files

By Massad Ayoob

## DO BETTER GUNS WIN? FIVE CASES IN POINT

**Situation:** You have a superior weapon. Does that mean you win a gunfight?

**Lesson:** Tactics, awareness and preparedness determine gunfight victors.

At Lethal Force Institute, I warn all my students about what I call "Magic Sword Excalibur Complex," the erroneous belief that your survival in a gunfight is guaranteed if you carry a certain type of weapon. Most often seen among .45 auto fans, the affliction is also known to occur frequently among aficionados of .357 Magnums, large bore revolvers, and 9mm autoloading with large magazine capacities.

The casefiles are replete with men whose greater skill won out over their opponents' greater firepower. Only recently, a Metro-Dade police officer used his .38 service revolver to instantly kill an attacker armed with a .45 caliber submachine gun; no one else was injured. In the Jan/Feb '86 issue, we saw Ken Kaas, whose 9mm S&W auto beat the autoloading, slug-fed shotgun of his would-be murderer. And then there is Sgt. Les Davis, who pitted *his* model 39 against a slug-loaded 12-bore pump gun with equal success.

Still, *all other things being equal*, the better gun gives you an edge. When you look at the following incidents, culled from cases I've been involved in recently as either expert witness or the man who trained the shooter, bear in mind the list of priorities all Lethal Force Institute students get on the first morning.

Mental Awareness and Preparedness is number one, a close second is Tactics, and third comes Skill With the Safety Equipment (which includes, but is not limited to, your firearm). Only after all of those have been achieved do we consider the fourth priority of surviving a violent encounter, Proper Selection of Equipment. Now, on to the files.

**CASE A.** A police sergeant is forced to shoot a suspect who is attempting to murder the patrolman. The officer fires all 8 shots in his Colt Gold Cup .45 service auto, inflicting eight gunshot wounds. The suspect falls and dies before he can fire his Llama .32 auto pistol. This was *not* a .45 beating a .32. It was a trained man striking swiftly and decisively as a last resort. The gunman was so intent on slaying the patrolman we're not sure he ever thought he wouldn't prevail until the first of the sergeant's Remington 185-grain hollowpoints slammed into him.

**CASE B.** A junkie, with a long criminal history of particularly vicious assaults, attacks a businessman armed with a gun he's licensed to carry and makes the statement repeatedly, "Motherf---er, I'll kill you!" As he raises his 24" Monadnock police-style baton

and moves forward, he is struck in the forehead with a 158-grain Winchester .38 Special semi-wadcutter from the businessman's Colt Detective Special. The junkie falls instantly to the ground, and will never regain consciousness. The citizen survived because his remote control weapon delivered its strike a moment before his assailant could deliver a lethal blow with his contact weapon.

**CASE C.** Four armed robbery suspects are pulled over in their car at night. Between them are a Browning Hi-Power, two Smith & Wesson .38 Special revolvers, and a Walther PPK/s .380, all four loaded with conventional round-nose bullets. They apparently believe they have the one or two officers in the police car outgunned, and come boiling out of the car, fully armed.

Only now do they realize that they have been pulled over, not by the local traffic cop, but by a special armed robbery squad that has been following them. My student, armed with a mini-Uzi 9mm submachine gun, is already near their car, and his three brother officers have already taken felony-stop flanking positions armed with another mini-Uzi, a Remington 870 12-gauge pump, and a SPAS-12 combat auto shotgun, the latter two loaded with 00 buckshot and rifled slugs. The shootout lasts for ten seconds, during which time my student empties his mini-Uzi from a "speed crouch" position, reloads, and empties it again, shooting all four as support fire pours into the fugitives' vehicle from three angles. All four suspects are killed on the scene; one officer sustains a minor flesh wound in the firefight.

Awareness was the key factor here. The robbery gang thought they were going to jump a couple of unsuspecting puppies, and did not realize that four attack-trained Dobermans were already moving in on them with guns levelled, ready to shoot at the first sign of armed resistance. Tactics in terms of movement, cover, and deployment favored the officers. Caught in a hailstorm of police return fire, the pistoleros in the car were unable to effectively shoot, while the officers were cool, trained, and prepared—and fired with deadly accuracy. The massive firepower the officers employed was not the deciding factor, but rather, was a reflection of their awareness and preparedness, their professional approach to the situation in terms of tactical dominance, and their skill at arms. Without those things, they would have been taken by surprise with their heavy weapons racked and their issue Browning P-35 9mm's

*Continued on page 62*

*Ruger's rimfire pistol is already a classic, but with custom touches the Mark II adds grace and beauty to its pedigree.*

*by Dave Arnold*

Accurate, reliable and, above all, reasonably priced, the Ruger .22 auto pistol is a pretty good pistol as it comes out of the box. When worked over by a good pistolsmith, its potential as a target gun is appreciably increased and, for this reason, it is often the subject of customizing.

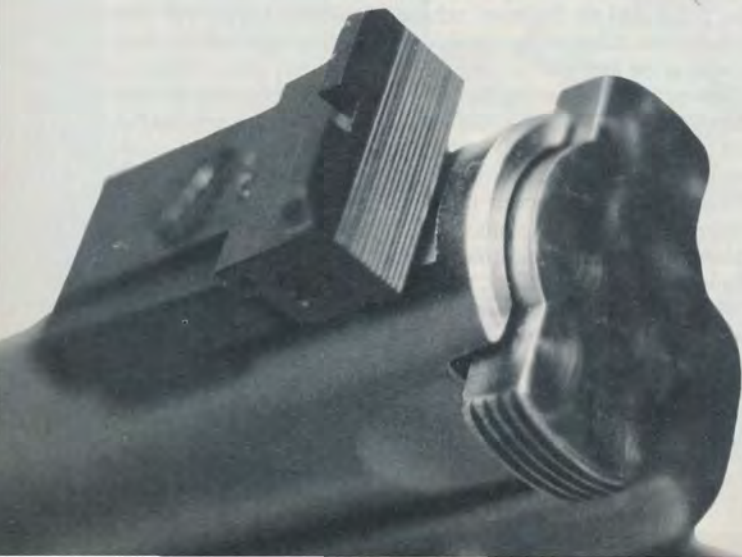
Hot rodding the Ruger .22 auto is a specialty of Tom Volquartsen of Tom's Gun Bluing Shop who has been in the gun business for the past 15 years. In his well-equipped shop he produces no less than five different custom Rugers. He also creates heavy barrel PPC revolvers and offers other gunsmith services such as bluing, parkerizing as well as nickel and gold plating.

All of his "Hot Rodded" Rugers have Douglas or Obermeyer match barrels, Bo-Mar or Millett fully adjustable rear sights, tuned actions and checkered wooden grips incorporating thumb rests. Pachmayr rubber stocks can be had as an option and all models have jeweled bolts and can be had in a choice of blue, nickel or stainless finishes.

*American Handgunner* received two models for evaluation—a Match Ten-X and a Custom V-6. The former has a 6½ inch Douglas, 1-14 twist airgauge match barrel turned down so that its external diameter is the same as that of the receiver. To add more weight and reduce muzzle jump, a full length underlug, similar to that of the Colt Python, fits on the underside of the barrel. The gun



# Refined Rugers



can also be had with a similar style 5½ barrel.

The Match Ten-X is finished in satin nickel except for the sights which are blue. All blue versions are also available. The front sight is a square topped blade, undercut at the rear to reduce light reflection. The rear sight is a Bo-Mar, fully adjustable for both windage and elevation and set low on top of the receiver.

A set of nicely carved and checkered wooden stocks are fitted to the frame, the left one incorporating a thumb rest. A gold plated trigger and a jeweled bolt blend in with the satin silver finish making the Match Ten-X a handsome pistol.

The Custom V-6, which is built around the Ruger stainless auto, is even more elaborate. Its receiver is the same as the Ten-X, but its barrel and stocks are quite different. The former has also been made from a Douglas air-gauge 1-14 twist barrel, but has a tapered, ventilated rib on the top and an underlug like the Ten-X. The front sight is also similar while the rear is a fully adjustable Bo-Mar. To cater for the attachment of optical sights, the top of the receiver is grooved.

The grips are of the type that is now commonplace on many target pistols, being carved to fit the contours of the hand and incorporating a thumb rest on the left side and a platform on the bottom to give support to the heel of the hand. The trigger and action of both guns are worked over to give a crisp

pull of around two pounds. The triggers themselves have two Allen screws fitted; one sets into the front of the trigger guard to take up play in the trigger, while the other is in the trigger itself for adjustment to reduce overtravel.

Apparently a lot of work goes into honing the various parts of the action to obtain a smooth, crisp and light trigger pull. While this is usually all that is needed, sometimes a particular gun needs some of the components and springs (other than the mainspring) replaced or slightly modified. Apart from this, the basic action is unaltered and take down for normal cleaning and maintenance is the same as for a stock Ruger.

On the range, both guns gave impressive performances. The ammunition used in the test consisted of Eley Pistol Match, Winchester Target standard velocity and Super-X high velocity, Remington Target and Viper Hyper velocity and PMC Zapper high velocity. Accuracy evaluation was done from a bench rest at 25 yards and both pistols shot tight patterns that grouped within the ten-ring of a NRA Pistol Target.

Best accuracy in both pistols was achieved with Eley Pistol Match with the best groups measuring between 1/2 and 3/4 inches. The excellent sights and trigger actions all helped in shooting these groups. The sights are well defined and the fully adjustable Bo-Mar rear sights helped in getting the groups centered

on the target. The triggers, which both broke crisply at just over 2 lbs, also help.

When doing some one-handed target shooting, recoil and muzzle lift was noticeably absent, thanks to the heavy barrels with their underlugs. Ruger has always had good grips and the built in thumb rest of the 10-X enhanced them even more. Even greater support was provided by the glove-fitting stocks of the Custom V-6 and helped off-set the muzzle heaviness caused by the heavy barrel. Actually, the combination of the grips and the heavy barrels made it seem as though the pistols just hung in the air with rock steady sights. This, of course, is just what target shooters want, and I was able to shoot some pretty good scores with both pistols.

Both pistols weigh over three pounds which precludes them from being used in the International Standard Pistol match. However, they are suitable for NRA target shooting as well as silhouette work. In addition to their impressive performance, the workmanship and finish of both guns is excellent. Even more impressive was the price, for the Match Ten-X is priced at just under \$400 while the Custom V-6 retails at \$599.50. *Both prices include the cost of the basic gun.* Further information on both pistols and other products can be obtained from Tom's Gun Bluing Shop, Dept. AH, Rt #1, Box 271 Carroll, Iowa, 51401, (712) 792-4238.



# CROSSFIRE

A Debate Forum Featuring Experts

## PRO

By Cameron Hopkins

*From the stunning muzzle blast to the satisfying thump of recoil, you appreciate every ounce of force.*



Woven into the fabric of the American consciousness is the notion of "Bigger is Better." Americans roar down vast six-lane highways in huge Cadillacs while our European counterparts putter down narrow roads in shoe-boxes. Americans proudly point to such manifestations of "Bigger is Better" as the B-1 bomber, William "The Refrigerator" Perry and the Empire State Building.

And we see American handgunners displaying a similar affinity for "Bigger is Better" in their love for magnums. While we can question the relative merits of a Cadillac and a VW, we cannot but accept that bigger is better in magnum handgun calibers. Anything a .44 Special can do, a .44 Magnum can do better.

Before proving how and why magnums are better, let's consider this captivating word—magnum. The term derives from the Latin "magnus" meaning great. "Magnum" was first applied to rifle cartridges during the transition from black powder to nitro powders. In this early context, magnum referred to any cartridge producing in excess of 2,500 fps such as the .375 Holland and Holland Magnum. Pistol cartridges first saw the designation "magnum" in 1935 with the introduction of the .357 Magnum, a more powerful version of the .38 Special. This heralded a new definition of magnum.

Magnum became "lengthened." The .357 Magnum differs from a .38 Special by a longer case (0.1 inches). Along came a lengthened .44 Special case in 1955 dubbed the .44 Magnum. Fans of the .44 Magnum realized the Latin suffix implied sheer, unmitigated power. Completing the evolution of "magnum" was the introduction of the .41 Magnum in 1964. The .41 Magnum had no stubby parent cartridge—the designation of magnum merely indicated power and energy. And with the .41 Magnum, assisted by the .44 Magnum, came today's connotation of the term "magnum"—Bigger is Better.

Magnums are bigger, and magnums are better. Ballistically better. The ballistics of any magnum pistol cartridge are superior in every way to any Special ancestor. Greater velocity, more energy, flatter trajectory. We need not debate the ballistic merits of Magnums over Specials—there can be no argument concerning undisputed facts. Magnums are ballistically better.

Better for what? You name it. Hunting—magnums can propel heavier bullets at higher velocities which translates into clean kills and venison on the table. Silhouette—magnums dominate in the revolver and production classes of IHMSA. (Not satisfied with mere "magnums," the silhouette fraternity now favors the .357 Maximum over the .357 Magnum.) Self-defense—see hunting. For self-defense uses, again, magnums offer greater stopping power by

*Continued on page 65*

## CON

By Charles E. Petty

*Magnums have made jerking, flinching, blithering idiots out of some potentially good shooters.*



There's a disease epidemic in the country that I call *Magnum Mania*. Every club has at least one victim whose presence at the range is announced by an awesome roar and blinding flash. All that's missing is a mushroom shaped cloud.

Gun and ammunition manufacturers are quick to recognize the potential of this market and take steps to satisfy the demand. In the last few years we've seen several new entries: the .357 Maximum, .32 H&R Magnum, 9mm and .45 Winchester Magnums.

When I hear of a new cartridge coming on the market I am always curious. I want to know the whys and wherefores. What does it do, what is the useful purpose? I am especially skeptical when the cartridge comes with "magnum" designation.

For an awful lot of people "magnum" means a big bottle of champagne for New Year's Eve, or a TV private eye. But for many shooters it means more boom for their buck. For some of those it means jerked triggers, flinches, missed targets, disappointment and, perhaps, pain.

The magnum pistol cartridge was born in this country when 1/8" was added to the .38 Special cartridge and the .357 Magnum was created. It was instantly taken to the bosom of a sizeable portion of the shooting public while others were understandably confused over how a .38 could be enlarged and become a smaller number: .357. It was elevated to the level of mythical power by Dick Tracy and fabled far and wide for its alleged ability to disable an automobile with a single shot. With precedent well set, it was only a matter of time before someone did the same thing for the .44 Special.

Where would Dirty Harry be without the .44 Magnum? But there's a little known, or willfully forgotten, bit of trivia here. In *Magnum Force* Inspector Callahan made the statement, "I shoot .44 Specials in it." Could it be that Dirty Harry's message was lost to his fans? I have a weird feeling that admitting that you shot .44 Specials in your magnum blaster would, for some people, be worse than owning up to your wife that you have a social disease.

"Magnum mania" has spawned a clique of reloaders who are forging new frontiers of power, sometimes beyond the limits of prudence or good sense. This frightens me, and has changed my attitude about magnum cartridges in general, and the .44 Magnum in particular—from neutral ambivalence to antipathy. I doubt that a day goes by that the editorial offices of the many gun magazines do not receive a letter from a reader who wishes to know how to get more velocity out of a given cartridge. Usually he's already loading to the maximum charges published in the manuals and wants more. The publishers of loading data include a relatively generous safety

*Continued on page 68*

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## AMT AUTOSCALE

By Dan Cotterman

If now and then things get a little dull around your reloading bench, if you just can't seem to get hyped up over stuffing brass any more, then get a load of what Harry Sanford and the guys at Arcadia Machine & Tool have come up with. It's a powder measure and scale combined, called the Autoscale, and, believe it or not, just touching the

Start button and watching the thing work can turn a routine reloading session into fascinating entertainment.

But the Autoscale's pricetag is a bit weighty for mere entertainment, and this is a test to determine whether you're going to get your money's worth if you decide to buy one. So, I worked with the Autoscale and checked its operation six ways from Sunday. Here's how it went.

Instructions are simple and clearly written. You set the scale beam in place, with the knife edges at rest in agate V-blocks. Then it's necessary to level the scale, so the beam is zeroed. This is done by adjusting two legs at the left end of the body. Next, you insert the plastic powder-hopper tube. (This is a *big* hopper: it's almost a foot long, and it's over 1.7 inches in diameter. It'll hold a lot of powder.) Finally—and, here, you're only minutes removed from having ripped into the box—you plug the minijack end of the nine-volt transformer wire into the back of the body and plug the transformer into the AC outlet on your bench.

You're ready to begin metering powder. Funnel the propellant of your choice into the hopper, set the beam weights, and press the *Start* button. Watch what happens! There are two powder-trickler tubes above the powder pan, which is suspended from the beam at the right extreme of the Autoscale. The rear tube is fast-feed; the front tube, which is threaded

inside, is slow-feed. The Autoscale whirrs, just audibly, as the two tubes rotate. Then, when the charge you've selected comes up to within a grain or so, the fast-feed tube stops turning, but the slow-feed tube continues to turn, for a few seconds, until the beam hits zero.

This staged shutting-off of the feed tubes occurs because, as the beam rises toward zero, a small copper baffle-plate on the beam's pointer end interrupts two separate light beams. As the plate interrupts the lower beam, the fast-feed tube shuts off; then, as the second (upper) beam is broken, the slow-feed tube shuts off. The powder charge is metered, and the process will not begin again until the *Start* button is pushed.

Charges of flake, stick, and ball-type powders were dispensed in order to determine approximate metering times. Generally speaking, the heavier the individual granule the faster the beam rises. For example, a charge of 22 grains of 2400 meters in about 14 seconds, which is the time required to meter 5 grains of Unique. If you're loading, say, 55 grains of a coarser powder such as 4831, it'll take about 26 seconds for each charge to trickle into the pan. And 17 grains of slim-stick 4198, a common charge behind a 45-grain bullet in the .221 Fireball, will keep the Autoscale's tubes whirring for about 17 seconds. With ball-type powder you'll wait

*Continued on page 57*

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## AFRICA

Continued from page 39

was with Dr. Rocco Gioia trying my uninitiated hand at a bit of handgun hunting with a customized Handcannon. I brought the handgun for occasional use, as I did most of my hunting with a rifle.

On my first outing with the Handcannon—the rifle came along for anything serious—I met quick success by taking an impala, a deer-sized antelope, after only three hours of hunting. The impala was in a bachelor herd of 12 animals, and at that range the horns could not be distinguished in the 4x scope. Range was 217 paces, stepped-off later.

I fastened my eyebrows onto the cups of my 7x42 Zeiss binoculars, and the excellent optics enabled me to pick the best head from the crowd in the fading light of dusk. I steadied the Contender in a crotch of a tree where a large branch met the trunk that was concealing me from 24 impala eyes. Taking a deep breath, I let part of the air hiss from my nose, and then held the last bit. Slowly I began to take the creep from the trigger and gently squeeze until the sear released. At the shot the herd spooked except for one straggler, my target, that dropped. I was impressed that this .375 JDJ could take game to that range, over 200 yards.

I later ambushed a warthog boar with long, scimitar-like tusks sweeping from its ugly gums. Those tusks are fearsome weapons able to filet a man's leg from calf to crotch. I surprised the wild porker by sneaking up from behind a six-foot ant hill. (They have big ants in Africa!) I was using the same load as with the impala: a 285 grain custom bullet from Cor Bon. The Cor Bon bullets exited both impala and warthog, so I cannot speak of the mushrooming characteristics. The exit holes, large and jagged, indicated violent expansion.

This handgun hunt was a roaring success for Mickey and Bill, and it was rewarding for me too, what little I did of it. Mickey and Bill together collected several nice trophies including a magnificent kudu bull for Mickey's trophy room. His kudu, a spectacular antelope weighing some 700 pounds with long, spiral horns, dropped to a single .44 bullet.

This handgunner's dream hunt was indeed a grand adventure. South Africa in particular offers great opportunities for handgun hunters because they permit the sport—many African nations prohibit hunting dangerous game with handguns.

Africa still conjures up images of vast untamed jungles and bush, images of Stewart Granger, Clark Gable and Teddy Roosevelt. While "progress" has eroded many of the fine hunting lands, there still exists the greatest hunting in the world. The Dark Continent has not yet been entirely corrupted by "civilization." A grand adventure awaits the handgun hunter in Africa.



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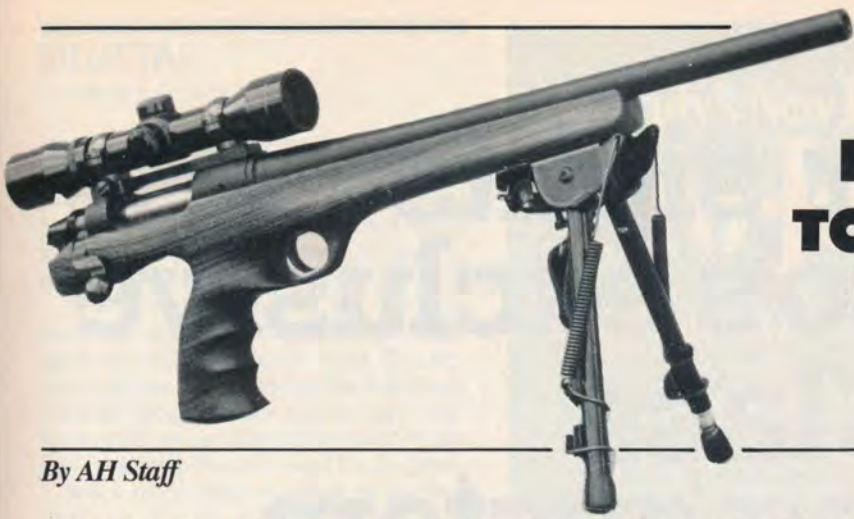
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# REMINGTON INTRODUCES .223 TO XP-100, OFFERS NEW .38 AND .44 SPECIAL LOADS

By AH Staff

Remington Arms Company announced at their 1986 New Products Seminar the introduction of a new chambering in the XP-100 for varmint hunters. Dubbed the XP-100 Varmint Special, the new bolt action handgun chambers the .223 (5.56 NATO) cartridge.

At the same time, Remington discontinued the .221 Fireball chambering from the XP-100. Design of the new Varmint Special is similar to that of the XP-100 Silhouette (7mm Bench Rest chambering) with a medium weight, 14½ inch barrel and Remington's special one piece stock of strong, Du Pont Zytel structured nylon (no, it's not plastic!).

Availability of a standard, small game car-

tridge in a factory-produced pistol with an established reputation for exceptional accuracy should bring exciting new levels of performance to the growing sport of long-range handgunning.

When it was introduced in 1963, the XP-100 broke new ground in handgun design. It offered for the first time a bolt action handgun with the lock-up strength and rigidity previously found only in centerfire rifles. The action is similar to Remington's proven 700 in which the cartridge is completely surrounded by three concentric rings of solid steel.

The XP-100 Varmint Special features a clean barrel without iron sights. But the receiver is drilled and tapped for scope

mounts to accommodate the shooter's choice of either standard rifle scopes or one of the extended eye relief pistol scopes.

The Varmint Special will be available in mid-1986 at your Remington authorized dealer.

Another development for the XP fan is the introduction of the .35 Remington chambering from Remington's Custom Shop. Nicely figured wood stocks are also available from the Custom Shop.

Other new products of interest to handgunners are two new factory loadings in .38 Special and .44 Special. The new .38 load is a +P 158 grain semi-wadcutter at 890 fps. The .44 Special load features a 200 grain semi-wadcutter at 1,035 fps.



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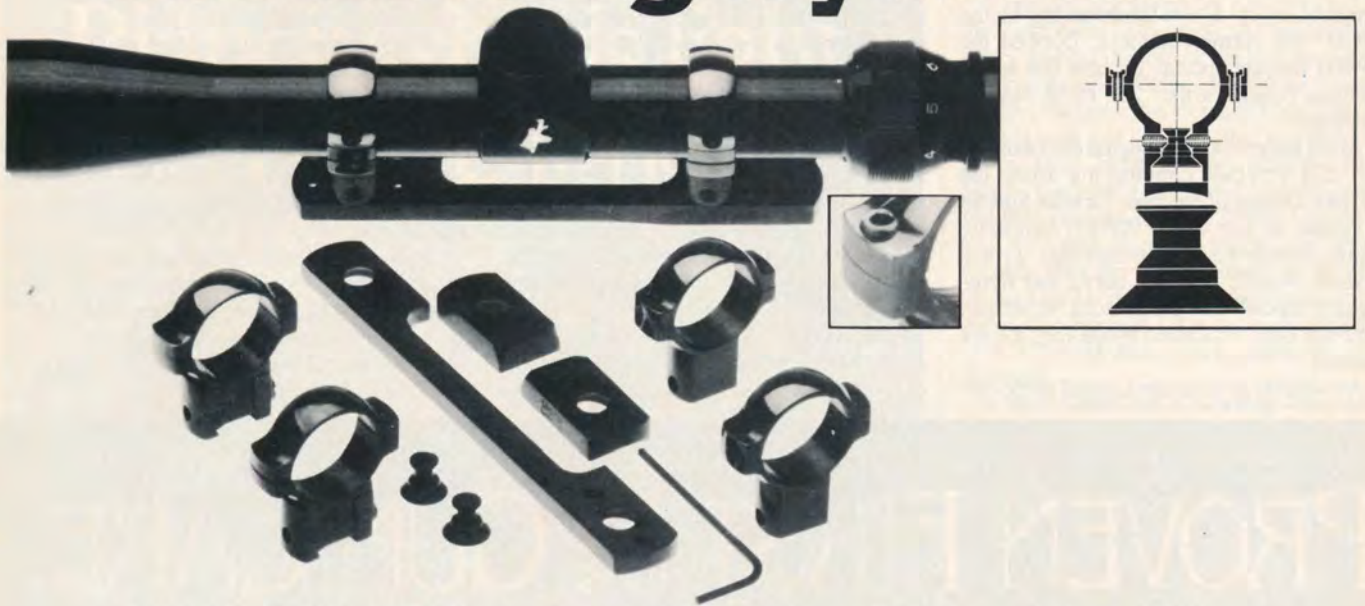
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## SILUETAS

Continued from page 18

area upon firing causing the case to grow in length and thicken at the shoulder to neck juncture. To eliminate the problems caused by brass flow, ream the case neck and trim it to length after every firing, and don't forget to deburr and bevel the case mouth.

After a bottle neck case has been fire formed it should not be full length sized again. Instead, use a neck sizing die only. Adjust the die in the press so that it does not touch the shoulder of the case during sizing. Remember, the shoulder to rim length on the case establishes the head space for the pistol.

Seat a recommended primer in the neck sized case. Seat the primer firmly to the bottom of the primer pocket of the cartridge case. Primers which are not firmly seated will move forward when they are struck by the firing pin resulting in erratic ignition which in turn causes a deterioration of accuracy.

When choosing a powder, follow the powder data in one of the listed loading manuals and select the slowest burning rate powder which will produce a velocity of 1700 to 1900 fps. The slower powders develop a smoother acceleration curve, causing the least bullet upset and make sure a proper charge of the powder selected fills the case to at least 90% full after the bullet is seated. Excessive air space leads to erratic burning of the power, which in turn produces erratic

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cartridge performance.

Hot or high pressure loads should be avoided. I have never found a high pressure load that was as accurate as a moderate load. In every instance something less than a maximum powder charge produced the best performance. Usually one of the listed starting loads will work well for fire forming the cases.

Bullets that perform best are rifle bullets in the 140 to 165 gr. weight range which are designed for use in high velocity cartridges. Remember, the bullet must be tough enough to deliver its energy to the obstinate 50 pound steel ram. Seat the bullets with a short stroke of the press ram to start the bullets, then rotate the cartridge 180 degrees in the shell holder and complete the seating operation. Adjust your dies to seat the bullet deep enough in the case to allow .040 inch of clearance between the lands in the barrel and the bullet when the cartridge is chambered (.040 inch freebore). The clearance will eliminate pressure spikes in the pistol's chamber area.

All the details listed may seem like a lot of work. It isn't really. Precision loading equipment is available at a reasonable cost from a number of manufacturers and their manuals will lead you step by step through the loading operations. You will produce cartridges that

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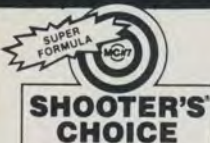
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### Recommended Reading

Hornady Handbook of Cartridge Reloading  
Sierra Bullets Reloading Manual  
Speer Manual for Reloading Ammunition

All of the above may be purchased at your local gun shop. Another excellent reference is: Reloading Guide for Hand-Gun Accuracy available from IHMSA, Box 1609, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401



## DOMINATOR

Continued from page 33

The Nosler Partition has decent penetration from a handgun even if it blows its nose off. The rear portion of the bullet penetrates well. For a soft bullet in any caliber, try the Nosler.

At this point the *Dominator's* caliber list is meager. It will probably get better but not with a lot of calibers shooters demand. At this time, and certainly subject to change, Pachmayr is not intending to chamber any wildcat.

The *Dominator* does well with a standard good 1911 trigger of four pounds or so. It will



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do much better with a 2 pound pull that just isn't suitable in the semi-automatic mode. For the best results it is necessary to set up a frame strictly for *Dominator* use. This puts it in the expensive class.

Ballistically, a 14 inch 308 is about 12% slower than the same load fired in a 22-24 inch rifle. This means the pistol round is somewhat weaker with a correspondingly more curved trajectory and delivers slightly less energy. In the field, killing game, this difference is generally hard to notice. Identical hits from the 308 rifle or pistol with the same ammunition are going to give essentially the same result. Poor hits will give poor results and good hits will give good results.

Handloading for the 308 pistol is the same as handloading for the rifle. With few exceptions, if any, the same loads that give the best performance in a rifle will give the best performance in the pistol. Never attempt to load "pistol" powders in bottle neck rifle cases. In my opinion, if you do, you will regret it sooner or later. Pachmayr has a small booklet furnishing handloads for the *Dominator* which gives a reasonable number of loads ranging from target loads to full charge handloads. I believe it is \$5.00 from Pachmayr, 1220 S. Grand Ave., Dept. AH, Los Angeles, CA, 90015 (A/C 213 748-7271).

Although it's not at all unusual to find a couple hundred feet per second difference from one barrel to another, or from one lot of powder to another in the same barrel, you should be able to expect up to 2900 fps/110 grain, 2800 fps/130 grain, 2500 fps/150



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grain, 2400 fps/165 grain, 2350 fps/180 grain and around 2300 with a 200 grain.

In the 308, 150-165 grain bullets give the best overall performance for varmints and medium game including whitetail and mule deer. Check the tables in the Sierra manual for a good comparison of downrange ballistics with various weight bullets remembering with proper bullet selection, the medium weight bullets give the best game performance. As soon as I can get to a little more testing and photography, I'll tell you about a simple system you can use yourself to run simple, accurate bullet tests at any range.

Aside from being a little awkward to use I can't find anything wrong with the Dominator. I have no hesitancy in recommending the Dominator.



## AUTOSCALE

Continued from page 48

about 18 seconds while the machine trickles out a 20-grain charge. Metering times, granule-types, and charge-weight combinations are infinite.

Dispensing charges with the Autoscale is not what you'd call fast, at least not compared to flipping the arm on an ordinary powder measure. It is, however, remarkably fast if you figure how long it takes you to drop a charge and weigh it on a separate scale.

The accuracy of the Autoscale was verified with a set of standard weights, ranging

Continued on page 60

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# ROSS SEYFRIED, AFRICAN PROFESSIONAL HUNTER



*Tempered in the fire of competition, the 1981 IPSC World Champion now leads safaris into the heat of darkest Africa.*

*Interview by John Toppenberg*

**AH:** Ross, very early in your life a professional hunter had a profound influence on you. What was that?

**RS:** An African hunter named Bill Hays pretty well warped my mind. A pair of (elephant) tusks were over his desk, which in my mind now were at least 140 pounds to the side. His stories of chasing elephants had a lasting influence on me.

**AH:** What was your first experience with firearms?

**RS:** I started with a .410 at age five or six and graduated up to a Magnum 10 gauge when I was 12.

**AH:** What age were you when you took up the rifle?

**RS:** About 12 when I started to hunt deer and antelope, and 14 when I first hunted elk.

**AH:** What about the handgun?

**RS:** I started with a 6½-inch barrel, Smith, .357 Magnum. I shot it for about a month and I thought I needed a bigger gun so I got a .44 Magnum, which was terribly destructive to my shooting. It's a wonder I ever learned to shoot.

**AH:** We understand that you are now dividing your time between your home in Colorado and hunting in Africa. What sort of division does that involve?

**RS:** Some work and some play. I am working as a professional hunter in Zambia now in a safari operation. By the nature of the climate we hunt June to October. I try to spend most of those months there now. It is something I love more than anything.

**AH:** What sort of guns do you recommend for the handgunner headed for Africa?

**RS:** The .44 Magnum is an absolute minimum. With that, use the heaviest bullets you can safely put in it. They should be cast very hard. Forget all about expanding bullets before you leave home. Penetration with a big diameter hole is what is needed. I have been deeply involved with the technology of developing the .45 bore—which beats the .44 by vast margins. We are now working with

bullets in the 350 grain realm with velocities of 1,500 fps from barrels under seven-inches. Beyond these guns are the single-shots utilizing such things as the 45-70 with 500 grain bullets. These give up the notion of the handgun as far as portability and follow-up shots. Repeat shots with dangerous game are especially important. With this in mind, some hunters may want to avoid the big single-shots—unless they want to compromise between rifle and actual handgun hunting. With the handgun, the essence of it is not what we kill, but how we hunt. The thrill of getting very close with stalking skills becomes the priority.

**AH:** With the specialized needs of the handgun hunter, what time of year do you recommend they go to Zambia?

**RS:** The hunting conditions reach their peak in the July–October period when water is low and game concentrates.

**AH:** Any recommendations for those of us who would like to visit Africa with both handgun and rifle?

**RS:** I think that's the ideal way to do it. You can take the plains game like impala, hartebeest, zebra and warthog with a handgun and reserve the heavier stuff for your rifle.

**AH:** Could tell us if reports of your taking a Cape buffalo with a handgun are accurate?

**RS:** I did have an opportunity this last season to do something that I personally equate with winning the World Championship. (*Editor's note: Ross won the IPSC World Championship in South Africa in 1981.*) That was to take on a bull Cape buffalo in the thicket with a true handgun and without use of a back-up rifle. I used a specially made .45 revolver customized by John Linebaugh. The tail is on the wall here as we do this interview. I consider it one of the great accomplishments of my life.

**AH:** For those interested in a safari with you, where should they write?

**RS:** Ross Seyfried, Box 38, Roggen, Colorado, 80652.



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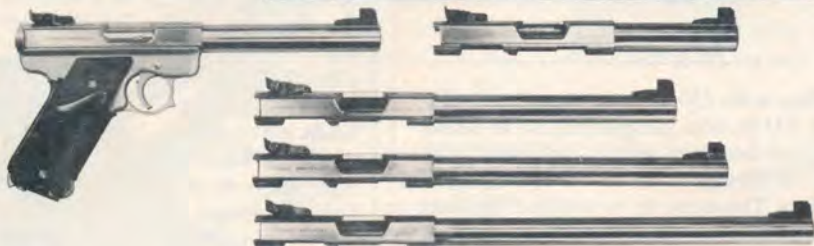
## .22LR AUTO PISTOLS: SLEEK BEAUTY, HIGH PERFORMANCE



The Target Model, shown on top, is the latest addition to this alluring array of stainless steel pistols. Ventilated matte rib with Millett sights presents a superior sighting picture. Elegant wood grips, Clarke fine pull trigger and superb balance make this pistol a delight for the serious target shooter.



Standard Models, tapered and bull barrel, are shown at the left. These pistols have grooves for scope mount and feature Clarke triggers, Millett sights, and either Pachmayr wrap-around rubber grips or Wayland wood grips. Barrel length selection, tapered or bull: 6 1/2", 8 1/2", 10" and 12 1/2"; also 5" bull barrel. All tapered and bull replacement extensions will fit Ruger pistols. (Only bull extensions are shown.)



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### .45 ACP

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AMT offers 3 versions of this fine weapon: The Standard .45 ACP Government Model shown at the top is manufactured with regular fixed sights and rounded slide top.

To the right, the .45 ACP Hardballer, a modification of the Government Model, features adjustable combat sights and matte rib. A Longslide version of the Hardballer, below, adds 2" to the overall length providing less recoil, added muzzle velocity, longer sighting plane and better balance.

Features common to all three .45 ACP models: Long grip safety, wrap-around Neoprene grips, beveled magazine weld and wide adjustable trigger.

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Continued from page 57

from half a grain to 120 grains. The device is without perceptible error, according to the comparisons I have made, not only with standard weights, but also by weighing metered charges on two other scales, each of which has been carefully calibrated.

AMT's original idea in developing the Autoscale was that it would be a boon to precision-loading rifle charges and heavy pistol loads. It is, however, equally well suited to dispensing light loads. I have, for example, used the Autoscale to meter charges of 1.5 grains of Super Balistite (a superfine shotgun flake-type powder from Italy) to concoct plinking loads for the .25 Auto. Also, if you're setting out to load a box or two of low-charge pistol ammo, it is convenient to remove the Autoscale's hopper tube and simply pour powder into the chamber. It'll hold quite a bit and the tube cap will work as a cover.

It's possible to weigh as much as 510 grains on the Autoscale, as might be necessary in checking bullet weights, which makes it useful as a simple scale. Adding to the device's versatility is a Slow-Fast adjustment. With it you can control the length of time the slow-feed tube turns.

Despite the numerous advantages of using the Autoscale, I was not completely at ease with having to turn the thing upside down in order to empty the powder chamber. It would, in my opinion, be handier (and somewhat neater) to empty powder by removing a

Continued on page 62

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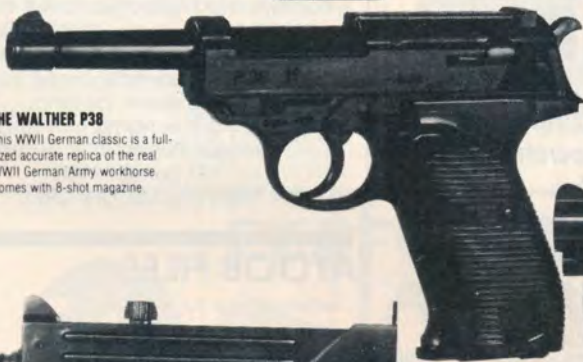
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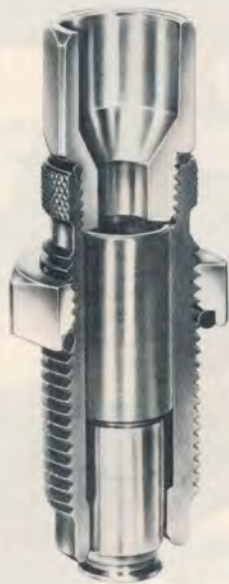
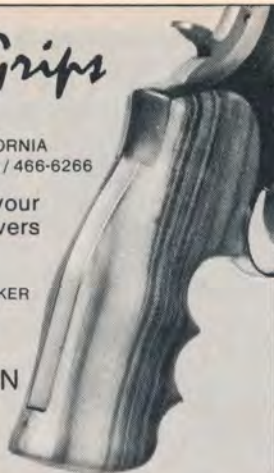
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Continued from page 60

cap or plug at the bottom of the chamber. With such an arrangement, it would be possible to hold the Autoscale right-side up while returning powder to its canister.

Evidently it's all right to upend the Autoscale, provided you remove the balance beam, and provided you're careful. Stray deposits of powder will tend to remain in the feed tubes as well as in the chamber. These residues must be removed in order to avoid having them mix with other types of powder. You'll find a small brush handy for this little clean-up operation, but it's a bit awkward with everything upside down.

Whether or not the Autoscale is ever available with a provision for emptying from its bottomside, it will continue to stand solidly as a practical adjunct to almost any complement of reloading tools. As noted earlier, it combines the functions of measuring, trickling, and weighing powder charges into a single pushbutton operation, and does so with remarkable accuracy.



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### AYOOB FILES

Continued from page 43

in their holsters, and might well have been slaughtered when the robbers moved first and rushed toward them, firing.

**CASE D.** The officer, off-duty, is seated on the subway at night when he is approached by two suspicious men. Though not one of my graduates, he follows my articles and has taken to heart one that urged carrying a snubby in a side pocket. His Colt Detective Special .38 is there now, his duty 4" S&W model 10 in a shoulder holster under his heavy coat. Warily, he slips his right hand into his coat pocket and onto the butt of the two-inch Colt.

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Suddenly, one of the strangers puts a Sterling .25 caliber automatic to his head and snarls, "Give it up, Motherf---er," as his partner draws a knife. The officer, in a single surge of movement, slaps the gun aside and draws the Colt in a smooth stroke that finishes with a shot. The Remington 158-grain semiwadcutter bullet strikes the suspect in the forehead. He collapses, dead before he hits the floor, and the knifeman flees. He will be captured later.

The death of the mugger is not the triumph of a finely made .38 Special over a low-priced, small caliber auto pistol. It is the triumph of a man who was aware enough to see danger coming, who had a plan, who cared enough about his survival to follow the technical journals and take their advice to heart, and who had the courage to act swiftly and decisively in a moment of terrible danger.

**CASE E.** The client is a 63-year-old woman crippled by arthritis, and separated from her spouse, who is 45-years-old, 6 feet 3, and weighs 245 pounds. She is the victim of a spiraling case of wife abuse, which resulted recently in his attempting to strangle her to death with a telephone cord and succeeding only in choking her unconscious. As police dragged him away from that scene, he had yelled to her in the officers' presence, "I'll kill you for this!"

Out on bond, he returns, apparently to make good his promise. As he stands on the steps looking through the screen door, she draws the RG model 14 .22 LR revolver she

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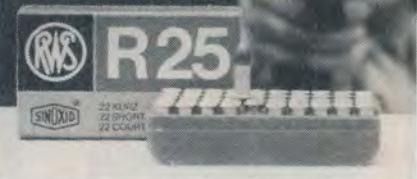
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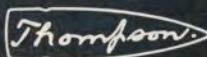
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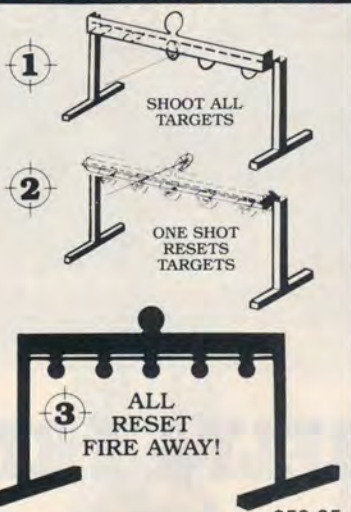
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has bought for protection and explains that she knows what he's going to do, and that if he comes through the door, she'll have no choice but to shoot.

Perhaps he has abused her successfully too many times to believe her. We'll never know. He breaks through the locked screen door and is met by three shots, all of which connect. He turns, runs perhaps 20 feet, and collapses. He dies at the scene, one bullet having pierced his heart.

Her weapon was a cheap .22; his was his size, weight, and known savagery, what the court calls *disparity of force*. Again, it is not so much a case of a small gun beating a large mass of muscle, as it is a case of a man so intoxicated with his many brutal assaults (he claimed to have murdered a man in the Midwest and gotten away with it) that he failed to appreciate the deadly weapon that was poised to strike him if he continued his vicious assault.

The woman was not a gunfighter; this was the second occasion in her life that she had fired a handgun. But she was *aware* of the deadly danger she faced at the hands of her brutal tormentor, was *prepared* to go to the gravest extreme to keep from being his second murder victim, and instinctively knew without training that *tactics* demanded she fire before he got his hands on her throat. While she had no skill with handguns, she was cool enough to hit with all three shots at a range of 8 feet (100% hits, compared with the national average of 25% hits for trained police in gunfights). And she survived.

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### MODEL 226 DA

- .22 LR SEMI-AUTOMATIC
- MAGAZINE CAPACITY 10
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encounters, one might get the impression that the deadlier weapon won each time. .45 Auto Beats .32 Auto! But that is a superficial view.

In every case, awareness and preparation kept these people alive in the face of lethal assault. In some cases, superior skill was clearly a factor in survival.

In each of the survivals, superior weaponry was a factor but, in each of them, that superior weaponry was the *least* of the deciding factors.



## CROSSFIRE PRO

Continued from page 46

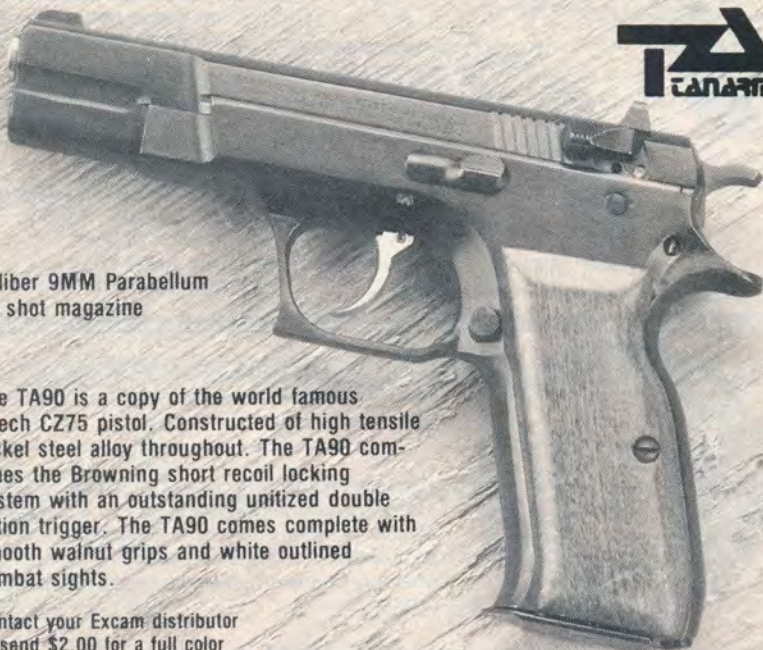
virtue of imparting more foot-pounds of energy into the target.

Detractors of magnums claim the extra power of magnums is unnecessary. Overkill, claim the recoil-shy. Such an assertion is semantic and ballistic nonsense. The word "overkill" is not a word, and therefore without meaning. Webster's International Dictionary (unabridged) does not contain "overkill." Semantic mumbo jumbo borrowed from the anti-nuclear pacifists. In the world of ballistics there is no such thing as "overkill"—shoot a deer with a .44 Magnum (in the right spot) and the deer is dead. Period. Shoot the same deer with a .600 Nitro Express and the deer is dead. Period. There are no degrees of death—you can't be "a little dead" or "very dead."

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*Continued from page 46*

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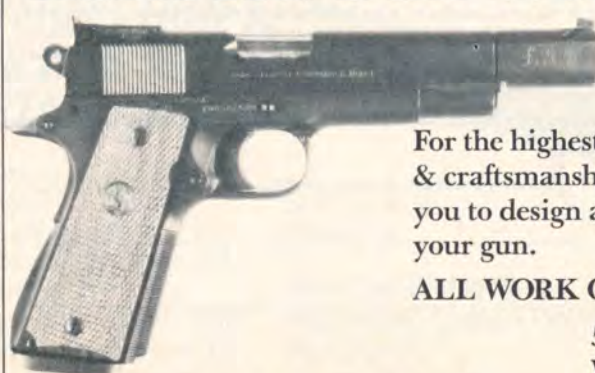
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the highest published maximum, Harry Hardluck with his minimum bore might find himself in the market for a new gun, hand or eye.

The magnum maximizers rationalize their efforts under the guise of increasing "knock-down power." Rarely, however, will they be called upon to stop a charging rhino or runaway truck with their handgun. They might reasonably have to stop a robber and, all at once, in the reality of a gunfight, find themselves heavily overgunned. Blinded by muzzle flash and unable to fire a meaningful second shot while under the influence of the recoil of the first one, he might as well be unarmed.

"Overkill" is a term that came, I suppose, from the nuclear arms race, and refers to the ability of some countries to kill everyone twice or thrice. There's such a thing as overkill in defense guns too and for that reason I don't think the magnum guns have much place in normal folk's self-defense plans. The exception to this might be the well trained individual or police officer armed with a .357, but the real key to defense shooting lies in the ability to, "Do it to them before they do it to you!"

Accurate first shot placement is lifesaving. A .22 in the right place might well be enough, whereas a .44 Magnum which whistles over

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the assailant's head is fifty cents down the drain. Sure, if the .44 happens to connect the fight probably will be over, but it is the exceptional shooter who can deliver 100% hits from a big magnum. He carries, deep in his subconscious mind, the memory of recoil and noise and this may be enough to cause a fatal flinch.

But maybe I'm getting ahead of myself. The quest after velocity for velocity's sake lacks, in my mind, rational justification. Few shooters have the sophisticated equipment found in ballistics laboratories and would be hard pressed to prove that their souped-up handload really is superior. Sure he gets a bigger blast, but that doesn't prove that the bullet got there any faster, or that it would be any more effective once it did. He just believes they are because he has been conditioned to think that magnums have some sort of magical quality.

Magnums also introduce their owners, particularly those who are overly ambitious, to another fact of life. Most of us are accustomed to thinking of a gun as a lifetime investment, but magnums create a whole new set of gunsmithing problems. Very rarely does a shooter keep an accurate count of the total number of rounds fired through a given gun, but I have recently seen several that were ready for the scrap heap, or at least

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a major overhaul, after a few years of maximum (or hotter) loads. Almost without exception, moderate loads are more accurate and guns, no matter how well made, don't last as long when fed steady diets of maximum loads.

I fear that a lot of shooters have been convinced that magnums are every man's best friend and because of the label alone they are automatically superior to all others. Well, I just don't think so. The places where magnums really are best are few. All that power isn't needed to punch a hole in a piece of paper or knock down a bowling pin or, for that matter, incapacitate a human being. Yes, there are places where magnum loads are needed or at least justifiable, such as long range pistol competition or silhouette matches where heavy steel targets have to be knocked down, but the shooters who are good at that sort of thing are going to be good at almost any other form of shooting. They have developed their skill over a period of time and have learned to control the big guns. That's fine, but there is no way that a magnum is going to make a good shooter out of a mediocre one. Yet magnums have made jerking, flinching, blithering idiots out of some potentially good shooters who just couldn't handle them.

When I began to write this article I called it

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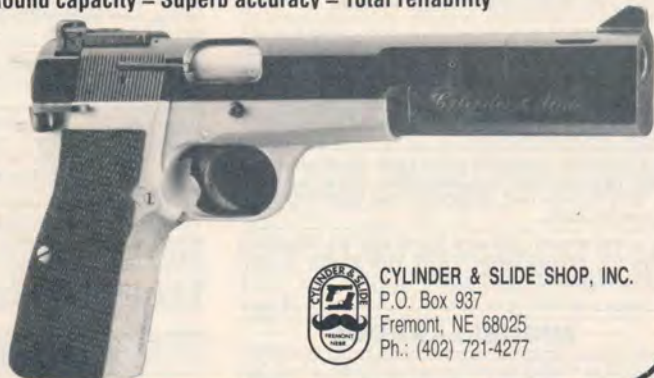
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"I Hate Magnums," but as I wrote, I found my tongue tucked firmly in my cheek. Still, within each of those barbs there is a large kernel of truth. Is there a man alive who has not flinched at one time or another when firing a magnum of some sort? I also doubt that there are many gun clubs in the country that don't have at least one "headstamp eraser" who takes great pride in concocting a load that will remove all traces of a headstamp after only three firings. He knows that his atomic loads are safe because the gun hasn't blow up.

So, do I really hate magnums? No, they have a definite place in handgun shooting. I just don't think that the place is nearly as large as some people believe. I'm inclined to think that their value to the average shooter is either questionable or over-rated. Pistol shooting is a craft and a craftsman should be

*Continued on page 74*

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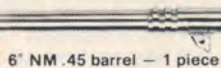
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Continued from page 72

judged by his tools. He uses the proper tool for the job at hand. A magnum is rarely the best tool.



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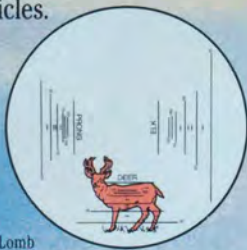
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# INDUSTRY INSIDER

JERRY RAKUSAN

## BREN TEN MUST PAY FINE, SHIP GUNS; 10th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE COMING NEXT

Well, the effluence hit the turbine in Huntington Beach. According to a press release from the Orange County District Attorney's Office, a consumer fraud case against **Dornaus & Dixon** ended in a final judgement against the makers of the **Bren Ten** auto pistol.

The judgement imposes a permanent injunction as well as a civil penalty of \$10,000. The injunction states that Dornaus & Dixon must deliver pistols, *with functioning magazines*, within six weeks of receipt of payment. It also mandates that a fund be established for consumers who have not

received their guns and want a refund, and that a specific servicing period be established.

A spokesman for the district attorney's office announced that the complaint arose from consumers that had ordered guns in 1982 and received them without magazines.

For information, contact District Attorney, Orange County Courthouse, Box 808, Santa Ana, CA 92702 (714) 834-3600.

### More SHOT Show Stuff

I missed a couple of things in my last report on the SHOT Show goodies. A lot of people were impressed with what they saw at the **Caspian Arms** booth. These folks have been making investment cast frames and parts for gunmakers for years, and now they are offering these, and complete .45 autos.

They are at 14 N. Main Street, Hardwick, VT 05843.

I spent hours at the show looking for the booth of **United Sporting Arms**, to no avail. After the show a call to them gave me this info. They did not have anything ready at show time, so they passed this year. According to Dan Brockway, Jr., they have purchased all of the tooling, etc, of the old **United Sporting Arms** of Arizona, and will be producing the Seville single-action revolvers in .375 Magnum and .375 Super Magnum. When? Soon, we hope, these were fine revolvers. The new firm is located in Post Falls, Idaho, so I would suspect that some of the first guns will be sold through the IHMSA to their members.

### Happy Birthday!

Just between us, I'm getting so excited about our September/October **10th Anniversary Issue** that I have to keep my legs crossed.

Our 10th Anniversary Limited Edition gun is on track, but since no contracts have been signed as this is written, I don't want to get into details. If there are no glitches, however, it will be a real deal, a brand new shooting gun, one that you can afford, yet tastefully decorated.

Also in that Sept/Oct issue, we've got a Custom Gun Giveaway that'll knock your socks off. **Paul Sokolovski** has graciously consented to make up one of his custom made .45 target autos especially for the readers of *American Handgunner*, and one of our lucky readers will win it. That's \$3,000 worth of leading edge in auto pistol design, the ultimate in craftsmanship, and a gun that limited few will ever be able to own.

I'd like very much for all of the readers of *American Handgunner* to participate in this anniversary. Let me hear from you—cuss us or praise us; tell me what you like and what you don't; give us some ideas for future issues, or just let off some steam, about hand guns in general, the current state of the shooting sports, or whatever.



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