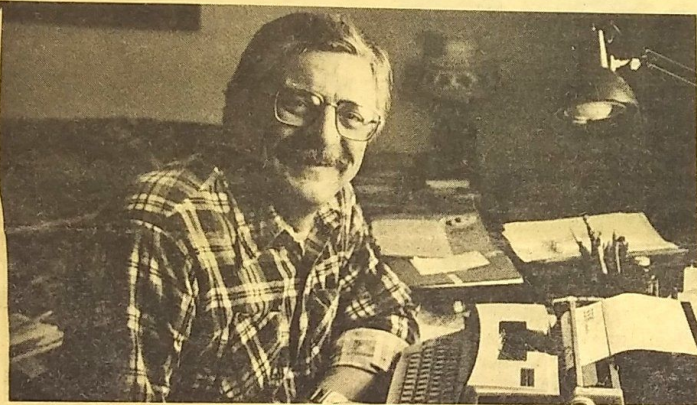




# THE SIXGUNNER



## MY CORNER

By J. D. Jones

Occasionally something of significance occurs in each of our lives. On May 7th, I was named 1983's Outstanding American Handgunner. It certainly is a meaningful thing in my life. I'd like to thank Joe Tartaro for continuing the Awards Foundation and all those individuals and companies who support the Foundation. Info regarding the Awards and those who support it appear elsewhere in this issue.

OK!! I know THE SIXGUNNER's late! I'm lucky it's not later and won't make any promises about when you'll get the next issue because June 19th begins the HHI AFRICA HUNT! I'm staying 'till at least July 19th, and if I'm not out of money and/or things to do by then, I'll stay longer.

Bob Good, Field Editor and President of the American Sportsman's Club departed for Nuanetsi with a group from his organization a few days ago. Before leaving, he sent the following: "I have the .375 H&H brass for Don. You won't need any cartridges for yourself because I'm going to kill everything before you arrive. Expect to find nothing but skeletons, dry waterholes and parched earth by the time you get there. — B.G."

I'm going to give him another break

because he almost died in Costa Rica a week before going to Africa. When he's well enough to defend himself properly, I could probably be tempted to tell what really happened on some of his hunts.

The NRA elections were a slaughter in favor of those directors nominated by the nominating committee. Only four directors not nominated by the nominating committee were elected. Neal Knox was one of them.

Frankly, I'm disturbed by the fact that of 635,346 eligible voters, only 53,447 — 8.4%, voted. I think the most significant conclusion that can be derived from these figures is that the average NRA long term or life member simply doesn't give a damn who is doing what, if anything, in the organization. It's a pity, but I'm afraid a fact.

Not much of anything new in equipment was apparent at the NRA show. President Reagan addressed those present with a very well received speech. Dan Wesson exhibited their long cylindered .357 Maximum and drew a quite good response. Did anyone notice how many Ruger employees checked it out?

Pachmayr had high quality .22LR

(Continued On Page 2)



Harris and his seven pointer taken with the D.W.

## THE MEMORY MAKER

By Harris Hodges, Blakley, GA

The 1982-83 deer season had been one to remember, and that is exactly what I was doing. It was 8:00 a.m., January 9th, 1983, the last day of the season, and I was comfortable in a Baker portable tree stand, 20 feet high in my favorite Georgia Pine. The stand is located on a large tract of wooded, rolling land about a mile east of the Chattahoochee River in Southwestern Georgia. The deer were there, but hard as hell to find in the unbroken pine and oak forest that surrounded me for at least a mile in all directions. It has perfect terrain for the handgun hunter because short shots are all that are possible in the thick brush.

Three weeks earlier, I was shivering in the same tree when just at first shooting light, a whitetail materialized 45 yards to my left. I could remember every detail of that crystal morning, the gleam of the deers' rack, the pause he took to sniff a bare spot on the ground, and the instant it took to center the crosshairs behind his shoulder. I could remember the kick of

the Dan Wesson .44, and I knew that the deer had a 240 grain Speer JSW through the lungs. The deer humped exactly like the book said he was supposed to with a good center shot, and he bounded out of sight into the scrub oaks and briars. The sound of the deer crashing through the brush ended so abruptly that I knew he hadn't gone far. The next 30 minutes were spent trying to make the shakes subside enough for me to hump the Baker stand down the pine without breaking my neck.

The buck had traveled 40 yards after the shot, leaving a decent blood trail from the entrance and exit wounds made by the big .44 slug. The 7-pointer I found at the end of that blood trail was the seventh buck I had taken with various handguns since 1979 when our legislators decided to allow Georgia hunters the privilege of hunting with a short gun. When this law was passed, it changed my hunting habits from a serious preoccupation to a downright

(Continued On Page 2)

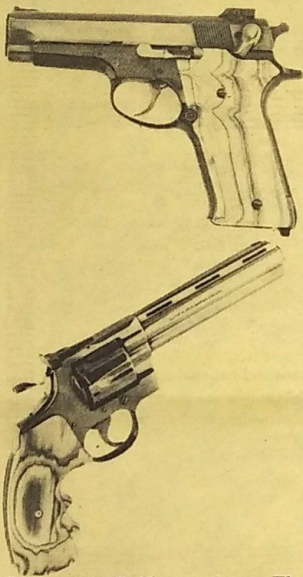


conversion kits for M 39, M 59, 1911, and Hi Powers on display. They were exceptional in appearance and V.P. Jack Farrar indicated match grade accuracy was what they were getting from them. They should be available in 60 to 90 days or so.

**Warning: Do not shoot Blazer .357 Magnum ammunition in rifles!** Use in revolvers in good condition only! Blazer ammunition may not be compatible with all rifles. A case separation could occur which may result in a serious personal injury.

The above label is going to appear on Blazer 357 ammo boxes. While it's loaded to the same SAAMI specifications as all other newly manufactured U.S. ammo, some rear locking lever action rifles may allow cases to stretch beyond the yield point. This condition is aggravated by oversized chambers often found in imported or converted rifles.

No problem with good guns in good condition. Blazer ammunition performed just like its brass case counterparts in my tests.



Russwood (40 Sigman Lane, Elma, NY 14069) makes some very interesting grips from various exotic woods, such as ebony, tulip, pacouck, bubing, coco bolo and numerous others. Their color catalog is \$2.00. Grip prices start at \$46.00. They look quite interesting.

HHI members Larry Kelly, Bob Good, Ted Nugent, Harold Murtland, Don Price and I participated in a well attended seminar on Handgun Hunting at Safari Club International's annual convention in Las Vegas.

Anyone interested in a fantastic deal on a 7mm Mag Ruger 77 barreled action, call Mag-na-port (313-469-6727). I think you'll be astounded at the price.

SSK also has a special on 10" Mag-na-ported, SSK Khromed .357, 41 and 44 magnum barrels. Call for prices (614-264-0176.)

.357 Maximum Blues — this over hyped hot loaded .357 has so far had more B.S. written about it than imaginable. Please note, only the press release has been printed in THE SIX-GUNNER. When reading about it, consider the source. The best article so far is by Rick Jamison in the July '83 'Shooting Times'. The T/C's work fine. The Dan Wesson will be out shortly and will probably be OK. The Rugers are, at this point, trouble. The following is printed for your benefit and to show Ruger is concerned with manufacturing a quality product.

Dear Mr. Jones:

We have temporarily stopped shipping Ruger Blackhawk SRM .357 Remington Maximum Single Action Revolvers because extended testing in the last few months has revealed some problems related to erosion in the breech and forcing cone of the barrel, and on the underside of the top strap of the frame, just over the barrel-cylinder gap.

Revolvers which have been fired thousands of rounds exhibit a narrow cut line in the underside of the frame top strap just over the barrel gap. This "cut" will generally become apparent in a few hundred rounds, and will increase in depth to as much as .015" to .020" after a few thousand rounds. However, continued firing does not increase the depth of this cut beyond .015" to .020". We believe that this cut is caused by mechanical abrasion of the frame by high velocity gases and particles, primarily unburned powder. So far as we have been able to determine, this cut does not affect the safety or serviceability of the revolver, and is probably only detrimental as an appearance factor. Nevertheless, we wish to evaluate the situation more fully, including possible design changes to eliminate or reduce this effect.

Similarly, erosion at the breech ends of the barrel and in the forcing cone becomes apparent after a few hundred rounds, and becomes severe enough after a few thousand rounds to gradually degrade accuracy and cause increased spitting of unburned powder, gases, lead, and gilding metal from the barrel-cylinder gap. This increased spitting from the barrel-cylinder gap may pose an increased hazard to bystanders positioned close beside or slightly in front of the shooter, and to both shooters and bystanders who fail to use eye protection. We are now in the process of evaluating design and material changes to eliminate or reduce this barrel erosion problem and its consequences.

The Ruger Blackhawk SRM breaks new ground in the use of high pressure, high power revolver cartridges. As in any product at the leading edge of its revelant technology, continued research and product experience leads the way towards higher levels of performance and longevity. We at Sturm, Ruger feel strongly that the few weeks delay in shipping the new Blackhawk SRM .357 Remington Maximum revolvers will, in the end, be to the benefit of our distributors, our dealers, and most importantly, to our friends, the shooters, to whom all of our best efforts are, and will continue to be, directed.

Yours truly,  
Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc.  
William B. Ruger, Jr.  
Senior V. P., Manufacturing

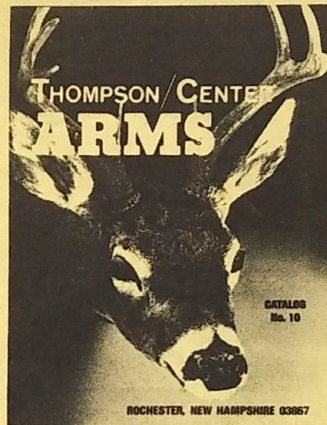
The gun apparently has more problems than revealed here. For example, the sights on the 10" model are about .100" too low. I've heard of other non-safety factor problems also.

I believe Ruger will stand behind them 100%. Note an earlier SIX-GUNNER questioned erosion problem.

### NEW THOMPSON/CENTER PATRIOT PISTOL KIT

A top quality American made muzzle loading pistol kit is now available to the home craftsman. Featuring all of the precision parts used in the

manufacture of the famous Patriot Pistol, this kit is packaged with complete instructions. All items are shrink sealed to a display card insuring that purchasers receive all of the required parts. Inletting is 100% complete. Wood is selected American Walnut. Parts are Thompson/Center quality. Kits are available in .36 and .45 caliber and retail for \$145.00. For complete information write to: Thompson/Center Arms, P. O. Box 2426, Rochester, New Hampshire 03867.



Thompson/Center Arms' 1983 Catalog No. 10 is now available. Sporting a four color cover featuring a "Whitetail Buck", this catalog contains full information on the Thompson/Center line of "American Made" muzzle loading firearms, Contender Pistols and all that's new for the current year. Introducing the NEW TCR '83 SINGLE SHOT RIFLE with 5 interchangeable barrels, a copy of this catalog is a must for everyone. Consisting of 34 pages, this catalog is available free of charge.

### NEW SILHOUETTE HUNTING BULLET

As a result of numerous discussions with pistol silhouette shooters and handgun hunters, followed by extensive testing in the ballistics laboratory, Hornady has announced the introduction of a new bullet to replace the .44 caliber 240 grain FMJ-FP, # 4427.

The new Hornady bullet, a .44 caliber 240 grain JTC/SIL (Jacketed Truncated Cone/Silhouette), # 4425, incorporates four special features:

The jacket is reversed, enclosing the base of the bullet for two reasons:

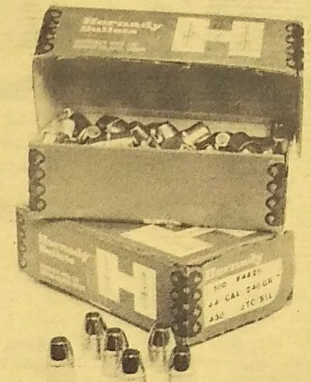
1. To minimize the possibility of skirt separation in revolvers with rough forcing cones.
2. To form a more perfect base seal in the rifling for consistent velocity.

Next, the composition of the core was changed from pure lead to 3% alloy, to allow more time on target before expansion and deeper penetration in dangerous game.

Third, the jacket thickness was increased to reduce deformation before

the bullet enters the forcing cone. This promotes better alignment of the bullet to the rifling increasing accuracy.

Finally, the jacket rolled into the nose reduces the area of exposed lead and insures maximum core retention time following impact.



The new Hornady JTC/SIL design offers the best combination of features giving shooters all the advantages of a full metal jacket construction without jacket separation. The changes in jacket and core construction also offer improved performance to silhouette shooters and handgun hunters.

Hornady is also planning to use the new JTC/SIL construction on all current FMJ revolver bullets. The # 3576, .38 caliber 180 grain FMJ-FP, will be replaced by # 3577, .38 caliber 180 grain JTC/SIL. Shipments of # 3577 are scheduled to begin in four weeks.

Additional bullets affected by the change: the # 3579, .38 caliber 160 grain FMJ-FP will be replaced by # 3572, .38 caliber 160 grain JTC/SIL in approximately three months; the # 4103, .41 caliber 210 grain FMJ-FP will be replaced by # 4105, .41 caliber 210 grain JTC/SIL in approximately six months.

Hornady will continue to ship # 3579 and # 4103 until current inventories are depleted.

(Continued On Page 3)

THE SIXGUNNER  
P. O. Box 357 MAG  
Bloomington, OH 43910

PUBLISHER & EDITOR  
J. D. Jones

FIELD EDITORS  
Phil Briggs  
Larry Kelly  
John Taffin  
Bob Good

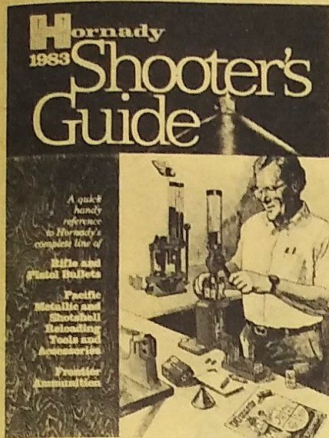
TROPHY RECORDS  
Leonard F. Winslow

Caution: all technical data presented herein reflects only the experience of the author using specific equipment under specific circumstances. Such information is intended only as a guide and should be used with caution. Other material may be totally experimental and treated as such. HHI accepts no responsibility for results obtained using data published herein.

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Hornady offers a selection of more than 120 rifle and pistol bullets for hunting, target and silhouette shooting, as well as a complete line of metallic and shotshell reloading equipment. Write for your FREE Hornady Shooter's Guide to: Hornady Manufacturing Co., P. O. Box 1848, Grand Island, NE 68801.

**Soap-Box Time:** Better dead than red or better red than dead. While I'm not paranoid on the subject, I believe it deserves serious consideration. Personally, I subscribe to the former statement and firmly believe that if it ever comes to a showdown, a hell of a lot of our liberal gun grabber-disarmament better red than dead freaks will be among the millions of casualties also.

In any event, it's way past time to start paying attention to what is going on militarily worldwide.

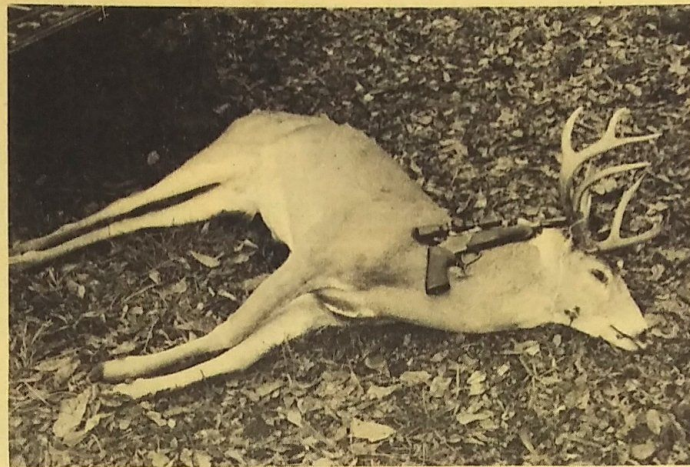
It's frequently stated the "disarmament lobby" is one of the most powerful, influential pressure groups working on government today. They are and have been effectively working to make the U.S. a weak, second rate pushover power. Anti-anything grabs a lot of media coverage and T.V. time. Anti-war sure sounds good, but simply means undermining the military strength of the U.S. Give it a few moments thought — what is the motivation behind working for a disarmed population and weakened military forces? Who supplies the money to fund these organizations?

#### Memory Maker

(Continued From Page 1) obsession. I had always been able to find an excuse to buy or trade for a new handgun, but now I felt it was my duty to find "the best" handgun/load combination for whitetails.

I thought that I was pretty close to finding the right combination with the 8" Dan Wesson revolver topped with a 1.5X T/C Contender scope and the 240 grain Speer bullet over 24.4 grains of H110. This rig and load will shoot into a 2-1/2" circle at 50 yards, and it has never failed to anchor any deer that I could manage to get into the sights.

I had also worked with several Smiths, Rugers, and Contenders, but I had never found a Contender that especially caught my attention. That was true until this past November when I traded a Super Blackhawk to a Deputy Sheriff friend for his 12" Contender that had been shortened and rechambered to 30-40 Krag by SSK Industries. I mounted a 2X Leupold scope and started working up loads. I was certainly interested when I found that almost every bullet/powder combination that I tried would stay within 2" at 100 yards from a sandbag rest. I was finally satisfied enough that



On the downside of life, this ten point provided Harris with a terrific trophy.

a 130 grain Speer Flat Nose bullet and 44.0 grains of 4064 would take a whitetail as cleanly as any of my stand-by .44's.

My big problem with Contenders has always been the slow follow up shot. I had a close call in 1978 with a pack of wild dogs which left three of them dead and me terribly shaken, but unharmed. The score might have been different if I hadn't been using a fast Remington 742 that day.

Something had to be done about the slowness of reloading the Contender. A homemade leather wrist band that carried three extra rounds on my left wrist solved the problem for the time being. Now I was ready to leave the Dan Wesson at home and take the Contender hunting.

Several unsuccessful hunts later, I had almost given up hope of seeing another deer before the close of the season. In fact, this last morning of hunting was mainly for my hunting partner, Denny Morgan, who had always been a successful handgun hunter, but hadn't been able to connect this year. I was content to sit in my tree and daydream about past hunts while Denny hunted a half mile north of me.

My daydream was interrupted by a sudden flicker of movement, but I wasn't really sure that I had seen anything at all. I stared at the thicket of short pines and brush 70 yards away for what seemed like 15 minutes until I had convinced myself that nothing was there. Just as I was about to look away, something moved again and I brought the Contender up smoothly to eye level. The 2X magnification of the Leupold scope helped me to pick out a patch of brown fur, but I still couldn't see enough for a positive identification. Then the deer started moving forward. He was moving away from me, quartering to my right, and looked as if he would cross a narrow opening several yards ahead. I thumbed the silent Contender hammer back and moved the crosshairs ahead of the deer to the small opening ahead of him. For an instant, his head and shoulder were visible, and the shot had to be now or never. The big gun kicked and I knew instantly that the crosshairs weren't on the deer when the hammer fell. I never found out where that bullet strayed, but it was obvious that the deer had not been hit. Everything, especially my hands, moved in slow motion as the deer spun around and bounded back along the trail he had just passed. I bumped the Contender action open and jerked the hull from the chamber as the deer covered

ground back to the safety of the thicket. I mentally cursed myself for

not having the trusty Dan Wesson while I pulled a fresh 30-40 round from the wristband. The round slipped into the chamber and I snapped the action closed. My eyes were glued to the deer during this whole process, and at the sound of the action closing, he slid to a stop with only his head and neck in the clear. At a heart-pounding 70 yards, the Contender had one more chance to stay in my arsenal as the crosshairs found the deer's neck. The gun went off and everything looked good. I reloaded again and strained to see or hear anything, but the woods were still.

I later found out from Denny that the time from the first shot to the second was less than 10 seconds. I may have shot faster with the Dan Wesson, but the shot would have probably been wasted on the running deer.

I stayed in the stand for another 10 minutes and marked the spot where the deer had last stood. It was 70 paces to the spot I had marked, and the brown **Memory Maker (From Page 1)**

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I've enclosed \$20 (\$26 outside U.S.A., \$40 airmail) for membership benefits including six issues of SAFARI Magazine, governmental affairs newsletters, membership card, decal, patch, certificate and member services kit.

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Account # \_\_\_\_\_

I'm interested in my area's SCI Chapter

Signature \_\_\_\_\_





Joe Tartaro, Chairman of the OAHA Foundation presents J. D. with the bronze statue of a handgunner in a classic field shooting pose.

## J. D. JONES, 1983'S OUTSTANDING AMERICAN HANDGUNNER

By Hal Swiggett, No. 008

J. D. Jones, founder of Handgun Hunters International and Publisher/Editor of The SIXGUNNER, won the title Outstanding American Handgunner for 1983 at the eleventh annual dinner/ceremonies held in the Phoenix Hilton May 7, during the annual NRA meetings.

But then we've known all along that J.D. was an Outstanding American Handgunner.

J.D. (I know what those initials stand for — but refuse to tell) proved his worthiness of the title eight years ago when he was one of two gun writers of note to show up at and shoot in the first ever handgun silhouette match in Tucson, Arizona. Three or four others were present but were decked out with multiple reasons why they couldn't shoot. The rest, all of them, failed to show. Neither J.D. or the other writer won anything but they did show the world they were interested in and fully supported the sport of handgun shooting. And, also, that they didn't care who saw them miss — the somewhat obvious reason the others wouldn't shoot.

J.D. Jones was one of the first "Top Ten" at the initial ceremonies in Shelbyville, Indiana, when Lee Jurras, President of Super Vel Cartridge Corporation, founded "The Outstanding American Handgunner Award" and

sponsored the first event 11 years ago.

Jones was on the "Top Ten" more than once then acquired Chairmanship of the Foundation, a position he held through the 1982 awards ceremonies. Joe Tartaro, Publisher/Editor of Gun Week, accepted the responsibility of Chairman, Outstanding American Handgunner Awards Foundation, and was in charge of the ceremonies this year.

The 1973 program said of J.D., "A labor relations specialist in an explosives plant, Jones has been an avid handgun hunter and experimenter for many years and assisted in the early development of Super Vel ammunition."

The 1983 program said of J.D., "One of the original developers of HV expanding ammo, his many firearms innovations include the JDJ line of hunting cartridges and cast bullet designs as well as the .41 Avenger, 1911 Colt conversion. J.D. has authored hundreds of handgun articles, appeared on pro-gun panels and TV programs, and has actively participated in (won International Long Range Free Pistol title 1981 at Bisley, Eng.) and promoted handgunning sports. Founder of Handgun Hunters International, president of SSK Industries and past chairman OAHAF."

As might be suspected, a lot of



HHI member Ron Power presents J. D. with one of his limited edition Grand Master Redhawks.

bullets have passed through a lot of barrels between those two descriptions of J.D. Jones. Long an exponent of big bores, big cases, and heavy powder charges, J.D. has single handedly done more for big game hunting with short guns than any other man alive. True, his own calibers are rifle-type, but they are in 10-, 12-, and 14-inch barrels designed for handguns. JDJ cartridges will do most everything rifles will and at almost those same ranges. Though it is still .44 Magnum for we sixgunners J.D. has made it possible for us to tackle anything that walks with handguns.

Each nominee received a presentation gun. The 1983 "Top Ten" included: John T. Amber (Charter Arms); Massad Ayoob (Harrington & Richardson); John Bianchi (Thompson/Center Arms); William M. Davis, DDS (Remington Arms); Elgin T. Gates (Navy Arms Company); Charlton Heston (Dan Wesson Arms); J.D. Jones (O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc.); Dick Metcalf (Smith & Wesson, Inc.); Roy Rogers (Metlife Industries, Inc.); Hank Williams, Jr. (Sturm, Ruger & Company).

Jones, in recognition of being named 1983's Outstanding American Hand-

gunner was awarded The Classic Bronze Statue and presented with a Grand Master Redhawk conversion by HHI Member Ron Power.

A new Board of Directors was elected to serve the Outstanding American Handgunner Awards Foundation with Joe Tartaro as Chairman of the Foundation. The program is to be expanded. If desiring a part in this effort to promote the sport of handgun shooting memberships on an annual basis are available for \$15 with \$150 bagging a life membership. Contact Joe at P.O. Box 153, Station C, Buffalo, New York 14209

Starting with Elmer Keith (1973) winners of this award were Colonel Charles Askins (1974), William B. Ruger (1975), Bill Jordan (1976), Harlon Carter (1977), Skeeter Skelton (1978), Lee E. Jurras (1979), Warren Center (1980), Steve Herrett (1981), and Hal Swiggett (1982). It is with great pride I have the privilege of writing about the addition of the name J.D. Jones to that list. He should have been ahead of at least one that I know of — like I said — we've all known for a long time that J.D. Jones is an Outstanding American Handgunner.

## HOT SHOTS!

By Jim Willson  
Toronto, OH

Being an Ohio resident has one great disadvantage. No handgun season on big game! However, this doesn't mean you cannot use a handgun to hunt small game. The Thompson Center 44, with choke and using hot spots is an excellent choice for this sport.

Squirrel season starts in early September and gives you a chance to get some of the rust out of your system, as well as prepare you for the rest of the seasons to follow. You can sharpen your stalking abilities and learn how important your sight picture is.

There is a 25 yard maximum range with the T/C, so the better you can stalk, the better your chances to score. The five squirrels in the picture took John Shaw (HHI 202) and I about two hours to bring in. All the kills were one shot and under 25 yards. They are not all small, easy kills, the two T/C's pictured are 10", if you want something to compare to.

Pachmayer grips are used, but T/C forearm is necessary for us, as Pachmayer will not fit into the T/C

holster.

The loads were 8 grains of Bullseye behind 9/16 oz. of No. 6 shot. Primers are what ever large pistol that were handy as pressure is not critical here. This load works well on squirrels, rabbit, and quail. It works well on grouse if you can hit them. Pheasant are big and tough, but can be taken with the T/C. I would recommend a good dog to try pheasant.

J.D. and SSK Industries are working on some 14" barrels in .410 bore. As soon as I get one to try on the big pheasant, I will let you know more about the versatility of small game and handguns.

This article covers small game for the fall and winter, but don't put your handgun away. Ground hogs are plentiful in many areas and farmers will be glad to have you shoot all you can find. If you stop and chat with a farmer each time you go to hunt, you will know where the hogs are populated and keep on the farmers good side.

Good will between farmer and sportsman is something that must be cultivated. The better sportsmen can get along with farmers the more hunting we will have.

Now get out there and put those handguns to good use.





Les with his long range buck.

## HANDGUNNING AT 300 YARDS

By Les Baer, Allentown, PA

This article is about moderate to long range handgunning. Most people think it is impossible to consistently hit game or deer size targets at 300, 400 or 500 yards. When told groundhogs can consistently be hit at those distances, they think you've gone off the deep end.

I know it can be done because I'm doing it, and know of several other handgunners doing it. It takes a lot of practice and a lot of time at the loading bench. I shot over 24,000 rounds last year with handguns. Of the 24,000, only 4,000 have been shot from revolvers. I keep a complete log of all loads and number of rounds fired in each of my handguns. Most of my shooting is done with X-P's and T/C Contenders. My X-P's and T/C's will consistently shoot five shot groups under 1" with 10 shot groups. Sounds impossible, doesn't it? I'd be more than happy to show anyone that it can be done.

My velocity measurements are taken with an Oehler Model 33 chronograph. Most loads throughout this article are at maximum or near maximum pressures in my guns. Reduce loads shown by 10% to 15% for starters in your guns. My X-P's and T/C's are fine tuned. Locking lugs are checked on the X-P's. If they are not seating properly, I lap them in. I chromeplate a lot of the moving parts so they don't wear. I fit hinge pins for a very close fit on the T/C barrel and frame. There are a few of the things that I do to get everything in top notch shape for accuracy.

Being a cyrogenic machinist, I have access to machines that hold very tight tolerances so I have an unfair advantage in some ways, but these guns shoot very tight groups to begin with. There is nothing more annoying than a trigger that creeps. Sometimes there is considerable grinding or stoning involved on the sear and other parts, so if it seems too touchy to do, let a good gunsmith handle this for you. Don't get your trigger to the point where it isn't safe.

In late spring and early summer, I enjoy going hunting for groundhogs. With handguns, this can be a real challenge. So on many occasions, Herb Lenhart and I go afield. In the 1982 season over a period of several months, I tried several different X-P's and T/C's. I have a rangefinder, which I used quite often. I zeroed my T/C 223-14" at 200 yards. It is scoped with

a 4x Redfield. The first few chucks shot were at 210 yards. The Speer 52 H.P. worked just as it should with good blow up every shot. The load is 24.8-H-322, Federal brass, CCI 450 primer and the Speer 52 H.P. just touching the rifling when the gun is closed. It gives a velocity of 2968 out of the 14" tube with an S.D. of 12. The 223-14" downed chucks at 240, 270, and 320 yards, with a few in between the yardage shown. I downed 14 chucks with the T/C-223 from 210 yards to 320 yards without a miss within a couple of weeks. Six shots were taken from a portable tripod, and eight were fired from the creedmore position. The 223 is a fine cartridge in the T/C. The T/C 223 had these few things done to it to improve its accuracy. The sear was stoned to an even and fairly sharp edge, and then chrome plated along with some other internal parts to prevent wear. I reduced the trigger pull to 18 ounces. I fitted a hardened pin for a precise fit between frame and barrel. It is a fit where the pin must be tapped in. This cartridge is very efficient in the 14" version, but loses ground in the 10" version. With powders that worked well in the 14", the 10" lost as much as 950 F.P.S. with the same load. The 14" barrel can get very close to rifle velocities. I now have close to 4,500 rounds through the 223 and it shoots just as good now as it did when it was new.

The next gun I used for groundhogs was an X-P-100 in 7mm/08. It's topped with Redfield mounts and Redfield 4x scope. The barrel is a 15" Douglas premium chrome-moly. The trigger and sear have extensive work. Its trigger pull is 24 ounces. The load I use most often is 45-IMR 4895-CCI 200's, Remington 7mm/08 brass and the Speer 115 A.P. for a velocity of 2778 F.P.S. with an S.D. of 14. With this particular handgun, I sighted in all the way out to 500 yards. With targets set at every 50 yards after 200 yards, I wrote down sight adjustments out to 500 yards. I zeroed at 200 and adjusted from there.

The Redfield scope passed with flying colors. After knowing where to set the scope at the various distances, I could shoot anywhere between 200 and 500 yards and it would repeat its adjustments every time. In the next few weeks, I had 18 shots at groundhogs and downed 17 of them. I cleanly

missed one lone critter at 580 yards. I had now shot at 200 yards with all other shots being 250 yards and further. Six of them were at 400 plus and two were hit just shy of 500 yards. Maybe it sounds impossible, but I'd be glad to demonstrate it. Most of the shots were shot from the creedmore position from nobs in the fields. This particular handgun isn't picky about the load I use in it, and shoots very well with different load combinations.

In a recent egg shoot, I took the X-P 7mm/08 along. It's a standing off hand shoot at eggs, hanging on a string at 100 yards. Break an egg and win a frozen turkey. I used a 6mm Remington 700 varmint rifle to shoot in the contest and won a couple of turkeys. So I put the 6mm away.

I got the X-P out and asked if I could shoot five shots at five eggs from 100 yards in the creedmore position, just for fun. They said, "Sure! We would like to see if you can hit those eggs with a pistol." While waiting for some of the rifle shooters to finish their round, I started to get ready. I got five rounds and laid creedmore style on the shooting bench. I heard people saying, "There's no way he can hit those eggs this far away with a pistol!" The line cleared, and five shots later, I had plastered five eggs. I got up off the bench and had plenty of questions to answer, the main one being, "How did you do that?" I said "Lots of practice!"

I had practiced on paper eggs cut to size. Shooting at those small targets gives me good practice for steady holding which helps me in hunting situations and silhouette shooting. I have consistently shot five shot groups from creedmore at 100 yards measuring one inch or under. Many times I'd have four holes touching and have one shot about a bullet diameter away from the cluster. At the ranges, the rifle shooters can't believe the groups I get. One guy will say to his buddy, something like "Look at the groups this guy is getting with these pistols."

In the 1981 deer season, I used my T/C 444 Schafer magnum. Lewis Schafer from Boise, Idaho made up this T/C for me in a 14" barrel. I had the barrel Mag-Na-Ported to help with the muzzle flip, and mounted a 4x Leupold scope. On the third day of the season, I got my chance. I was sitting on a big boulder along the mountain-side. Right out of nowhere appeared a deer, walking very slowly down the mountain. He must have been in the

laurel and just stepped into sight. I first saw him at about 75 yards. I slowly got the binoculars up to look for horns. I saw antlers and got ready for my shot. He was at a steep angle down the hill. I lowered myself into the creedmore position, found him in the scope, and waited briefly for him to turn broadside, but he kept walking very slowly down the mountain. I didn't wait any longer. I put the crosshairs on his back about a foot in front of his hind quarters, and squeezed off the shot. He went down with no hesitation. The bullet entered and severed his backbone and exited out of his chest. It looked like an instant kill to me. He was a nice 7-point buck. It was a one-shot kill at 135 yards. The 444 Schafer magnum worked fine. The load I used was 46-4198-CCI 200 primer, Remington reformed 444 brass with a 240 Sierra J.H.C.

In the 1982 deer season, I used the X-P 7mm/08 zeroed for 250 yards. On the first day of the season, it rained on and off most of the day and I saw just two does. On the second day, I got my chance. I was beside a fence row, completely surrounded by forest. In mid-morning, I saw six deer run across this open field. They never even slowed down, running into the woods. About 15 minutes later, one lone deer came into view. The deer was moving in a slow trot. I looked through the binoculars and saw horns. I put the X-P on my shooting stick and got ready for my shot. I estimated his range at 325 yards. But he was still moving too fast to get a shot. Finally he stopped before entering the woods. I put the crosshairs just above his head and squeezed the trigger. With the crack of the X-P, the buck went down and I chambered another round. He got back up and I thought I had just winged him, but I had had a good hold. I shot again, aiming just above and behind his shoulder. This time, he went down and stayed down. I waited a few minutes and walked down to him. He was dead when I got there. I think he died quickly after the second shot. The first shot hit him in the head, about two inches below and about two inches back from his eye. It exited, leaving about a one inch exit hole. The second shot hit the edge of the shoulder and wiped out his lungs. The second bullet stopped at the surface of his skin on the far side. All I did was pinch the bullet between his skin and cut it out. The 120 Sierra expanded to .838 diameter at its widest point. The bullet tipped the scale at 91 grains. So it

(Continued On Page 6)



Les, 358 Winchester XP and a 95 yard boar.



retained much of its weight.

The load used was 45-IMR 4895 Remington 7/08 brass, CCI 200 primer and the 120 Sierra. Velocity was 2856 at 12 feet from the muzzle with an S.D. of 10. In the X-P action, this cartridge is very efficient with the right bullet-powder combination and a 15" barrel. I've had excellent results with the cartridge.

During the early winter months of 1982, I got to thinking of a 358 Winchester in the X-P action. All it took was a couple of phone calls to J. D. Jones. After talking to him, I was convinced. So I sent SSK a new X-P in 7mm B.R. I had intended to use the gun for the 1982 bear season, but a few minor delays didn't give me the chance. When the gun arrived, I went to work on the bolt and trigger, getting them to my liking. J. D. talked me into the SSK muzzle brake and I'm 100% satisfied with the way it keeps the muzzle flat when shooting full house loads. And I mean flat with full house loads with a 250 grain bullet! I did have trouble with a few fiberthane stocks. They cracked badly only after a few rounds. So I called Mr. Brown of Brown Precision and asked if he could build me a stock that would stay together. He said, "No problem!" I took my time finishing the stock, using body filler on the few larger holes in it, and used seven coats of polyester resin, sanding each coat smooth between coats. I glass bedded the action, and applied four coats of fast drying acrylic enamel Paint. It looks like a sheet of glass, and there are no signs of cracking anywhere after firing several hundred rounds. I drilled two blind holes in the receiver and the Redfield base to install recoil pins. This keeps the mount from moving under recoil. I put Loctite 601 on the pins, and Loctite 271 on the screws and mounted it to the action. I machined very fine grooves in the rings to firmly hold the scope. I mounted a 4x Redfield scope and was ready for the range. Next, I worked up a load with the 250 Speer spitzer. The load I settled on for now was 45.5 Grain of IMR 4064-W.W. brass, CCI 250 primer and 250 Speer. It gave me a velocity of 2123 with an S.D. of five across the "33" screens! This combination gave me five shot 100 yards groups of 3/4" to 7/8". I zeroed for 100 yards and was ready for the boar hunt the following weekend.

Finally the second weekend in January, 1983 rolled around. Seven of us headed up to the Black Boar Hunting Lodge in Wellsboro, PA. We arrived at about 4:00 in the afternoon. A good hot meal was being served when we arrived. After eating and talking about who was going hunting

for what the following day, we played some cards. I found out I played by different rules than the others. After some rule changes and some laughs, we turned in. In the morning, we had an excellent breakfast and were ready for hunting. With the X-P in .358 Winchester, we went to the woods. After about an hour, I saw a few boars but passed them up. About two hours later, I saw the one I wanted. A big black boar was standing right behind two trees that formed a "V". Looking through the 4x Redfield, I could see he had a nice sized body and an excellent head for mounting. I put the crosshairs on his mid-section between the "V" in the trees and took a shot. He didn't fall but looked like he staggered a little. My first thought was that I had hit the damned tree! He moved forward about 15 feet and was looking for where the shot came from. I had chambered another round and now there was a red boar standing broadside beside the one I wanted. I looked through the scope and saw the red boar's nose covered the black boar's mid-section. I set the crosshairs just behind the black one's shoulder and ahead of the red boar's nose and fired. He went down instantly. The red boar looked around for a split second, and then took off. On the way to the boar, I paced it off at about 95 yards.

By now, the rest of the guys were coming to see what was going on. A few of the guys thought I had missed on the second shot, because they could hear the bullet crashing through the woods. Checking the boar, we found the first shot hit the mid-section, but went through, causing no real damage, with a clean hole in and a clean hole out. The second shot hit just behind the shoulder and struck a rib on entry and left about a 1-1/4" exit hole. The bullet had lots of energy to spare, going through the woods like it did. He was a big boar with no meat damage. A head shot probably would have ruined the head for mounting. By the end of the day, six hunters scored. We got four boar, one ram and one Spanish goat. Four of the guys scored with bows. The guides skinned the game and quartered the meat for us. We packed up and headed for home. Boar is one of the best tasting meats I've ever tasted. I had the hams smoked, which tastes great. The chops and the rest of the boar is better than any pork chops or ham we can buy from the store. It's a real treat to eat.

In an X-P 100, the .358 Winchester is a real powerhouse. It probably has enough power for most, if not all, North American game. If you limit your shots to 200 yards or under. Using a slug like the 250 grain Speer with the

**ALL REMINGTON 7mm/08 BRASS — TEMP. 40° TO 78°  
X-P 7mm/08 Loads (Reduce 10% To 15%)**

Powder	Charge	Primer	Bullet	Velocity	Comments
IMR 4895	45	CCI 200	120 Sierra	2856 (S.D.10)	Very Accurate
IMR 4895	45	CCI 200	120 Horn. H.P.	2866 (S.D.12)	Very Accurate
IMR 4895	45	CCI 200	115 Speer H.P.	2906 (S.D. 8)	Very Accurate
IMR 4895	44	CCI 200	120 Sierra	2743 (S.D.14)	Accurate
IMR 4895	44	CCI 200	120 Horn. H.P.	2763 (S.D.15)	Accurate
IMR 4895	45	CCI BR-2	120 Sierra	2796 (S.D.13)	Accurate
IMR 4895	43	Fed. 210	120 Sierra	2638 (S.D.17)	Accurate
IMR 4064	45	CCI 250	120 Sierra	2686 (S.D.19)	Very Accurate
IMR 4064	45	CCI 200	120 Sierra	2643 (S.D.22)	Accurate
IMR 4064	44	CCI 250	120 Sierra	2602 (S.D.18)	Accurate
IMR 4064	43	CCI 250	120 Sierra	2518 (S.D.15)	Accurate
IMR 4064	43	CCI 250	130 Speer	2498 (S.D.14)	Accurate
IMR 4064	39	CCI 250	160 Speer	2283 (S.D.11)	Accurate
IMR 4064	41	CCI 250	145 Speer	2419 (S.D.13)	Accurate
H-322	39	CCI 200	120 Sierra	2566 (S.D.17)	Accurate
H-322	40	CCI 200	120 Sierra	2677 (S.D.18)	Accurate
IMR 3031	40	CCI 200	120 Sierra	2601 (S.D.11)	Accurate
IMR 3031	41	CCI 200	120 Sierra	2690 (S.D.10)	Accurate
IMR 3031	42	CCI 200	120 Sierra	2777 (S.D.12)	Very Accurate
BLC No. 2	41	CCI 250	120 Sierra	2538 (S.D.19)	Accurate
BLC No. 2	42	CCI 250	120 Sierra	2618 (S.D.21)	Accurate
748	46	CCI 250	115 Speer	2778 (S.D.14)	Very Accurate
748	45	CCI 250	115 Speer	2686 (S.D.18)	Very Accurate
748	45	CCI 250	120 Sierra	2671 (S.D.10)	Very Accurate
748	44	CCI 250	120 Sierra	2581 (S.D.11)	Very Accurate
H-322	23.5	CCI 450	50 SX	2802 (S.D.19)	
H-322	24.5	CCI 450	50 SX	2913 (S.D.11)	
H-322	24.5	CCI 450	52 Speer H.P.	2906 (S.D.13)	
H-322	24.0	CCI 450	55 SP.	2716 (S.D.15)	
H-322	24.5	CCI 450	52 B.T. Sierra	2919 (S.D.14)	
H-322	24.5	CCI 450	53 Horn.	2869 (S.D.12)	
H-322	24.5	CCI 450	50 SX	2460 (S.D.21)	
IMR 4895	26.5	CCI BR-4	50 SX	2893 (S.D.18)	* .223
IMR 4895	26.5	CCI 450	50 SX	2916 (S.D.12)	R
IMR 4895	26.5	CCI 450	50 SX	2116 (S.D.25)	E
IMR 4895	26.5	CCI 450	55 SP.	2998 (S.D.14)	* M
IMR 4895	26.5	CCI 450	55 SP.	2060 (S.D.24)	I
H-335	27.0	CCI 450	50 SX	3023 (S.D.22)	* N
H-335	27.0	CCI 450	50 SX	1987 (S.D.33)	G
BLC No. 2	27.0	CCI 450	50 SX	2747 (S.D.14)	* T
BLC No. 2	27.0	CCI 450	50 SX	1940 (S.D.31)	O
IMR 4198	22.0	CCI 400	50 SX	2898 (S.D.17)	
IMR 4198	22.0	CCI 450	50 SX	2940 (S.D.19)	
IMR 4198	22.0	CCI BR-4	50 SX	2903 (S.D.11)	
IMR 4198	22.0	CCI 450	50 SX	2317 (S.D.19)	*
IMR 4198	21.0	CCI 450	50 SX	2853 (S.D.22)	
H-322	32	CCI 200	130 H.P.	2060 (S.D.10)	
H-322	31	CCI 200	150 SP.	1981 (S.D.30)	
IMR 4895	35	CCI 200	150 SP.	2070 (S.D. 8)	
IMR 4895	34	CCI 200	150 SP.	1963 (S.D.12)	
IMR 4895	33	CCI 200	150 SP.	1854 (S.D.11)	
IMR 4895	32	CCI 200	150 SP.	1760 (S.D.19)	10"
748	35	CCI 250	150 SP.	1940 (S.D.27)	
748	34	CCI 250	150 S.P.	1820 (S.D.33)	
BLC No. 2	34	CCI 250	150 SP.	1903 (S.D.31)	30-30
3031	32	CCI 200	150 SP.	1860 (S.D.26)	
3031	31	CCI 200	150 SP.	1753 (S.D.23)	
H-335	34	CCI 250	150 SP.	1981 (S.D.30)	
H-335	33	CCI 250	150 SP.	1890 (S.D.27)	

**\*10" Velocity**

good placement, it should do the job with no trouble. With bullets like the 180's, it should be an excellent deer size game gun. I probably should have used the 180's on the boar, but time ran out.

Since I had a very accurate load for the 250 Speer I was using, which I knew worked. Later this year, I'll try some 140's, 158's, 180's and 200's and report on what I find out. I'll also work with the other X-P's and T/C's and list more additional load data.

Good Luck To All!!!

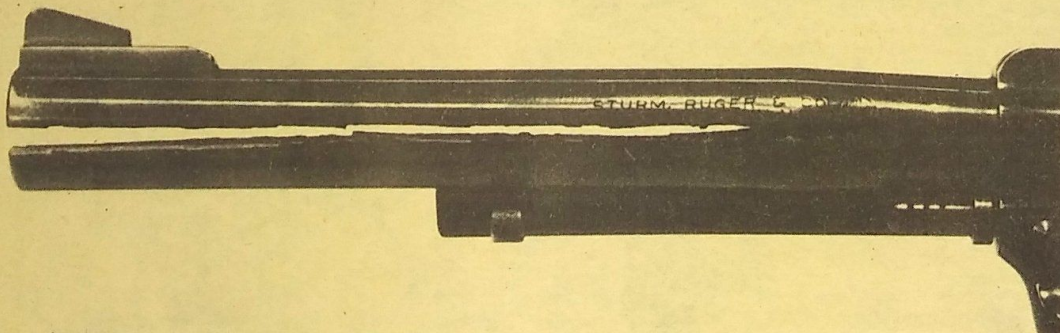
**\$3500 HAND CANNON**

Safari Club International auctioned an SSK 375 JDJ T/C during their annual convention in Las Vegas.

The T/C, bearing serial number SCI 1983 was equipped with a 14" barrel, arrester muzzle brake, T'SOB full length vent rib scope base, 2x Leupold Silver scope, Pachmayr grips and forend and SSK sling studs and swivels.

Bidding was very spirited between several individuals to around \$2700.

The successful bidder was HHI member and entertainment star Ted Nugent.



**Don't Think It Can't Happen To You!**

This shooter, wearing earmuffs, thought he had either a misfire or dropped the hammer on an empty. The primer had fired, driving the cast bullet into the barrel where it lodged. Either the powder failed to ignite, or more likely there was no powder in the case. The next shot opened things up a little. No injuries this time. What would have happened had the shooter been in the creedmore position or if someone had been standing next to it?





Kelly, Tom & Hound. This cat is the No. 1 HHI mountain lion.

## MOUNTAIN LION

By Larry Kelly

My plane was a half an hour late arriving at Idaho Falls, ID. Keith Madsen, Gary's brother, was waiting for me at the airport with his family.

The plan was that I was to use Keith's truck and drive the remaining 160 miles to Challis, ID where I would meet Gary. As Keith was getting into his wife's car, he said, "Just head straight out this highway and it'll take you right to Challis."

So, I kept driving on Highway 20 overpasses covered with snow drifts and ice covered roads. After driving for three and a half hours, I finally stopped in a small cafe on the edge of a town. While I was having a cup of java, I asked a fellow if the town I was in was Challis. I nearly fell off the stool when he told me that Challis was 168 miles back in the direction that I had just came from.

Keith had forgotten to mention a fork in the road where I was supposed to make a right turn on Highway 93. After I had specific directions, I headed out again, and finally arrived at Gary's ranch around midnight. As I laid in bed that night, I thought to myself, "What a poor way to start a hunt." Little did I know what was in store for the next day.

We got up at 4:30 a.m., loaded the horses in the trailer and the hounds in the back of the pick up. After driving approximately 60 miles, we stopped to put the chains on. After we got the chains on, we drove for a couple more miles and the front drive shaft broke on the front wheel drive. Then it took us quite a long time to unload the horses, turn the trailer around and get the trailer back to the main road, especially when only the rear drive was working. I led the horses to the main road and after loading them, in a few minutes we were at a rancher that is a friend of Gary's, so we left the horses at his place. We then headed to Salmon, ID, and that night, had the truck repaired.

On the 4th of January, we were up at daybreak and started our 10 mile horseback ride up the East fork of the Salmon. Herd Creek had snow up to my knees but it didn't present any problem because we were on the horses. The first few days of hunting were really cold. On the 7th of January, my sixth day of hunting, we came across a lion track. "It looks like a tom," Gary said.

I asked questions that most hunters ask their guide. "Is he a big one?" "How old are the tracks?" "Do you think we've got a good chance of catching him?" Gary looked at me and said, "Yep" to all three questions. Feeling rather foolish for asking, I thought to myself, heck, he's probably just telling me what I want to hear. Gary and I proceeded to follow the lion tracks for about five miles. The tracks were still cold because the hounds would just let out a howl once in a while. I did notice that the cat did seem to have a long stride. I thought it must be a large tom since the tracks were so far apart. Things started turning out to our disadvantage as the cat was heading up higher, and we would have to leave the creek bed. As we went up the mountain, I felt sorry for my horse, because he was a huffin' and a puffin'. "Better you than me," I said to my horse. Every time the horse would stop to catch his breath or eat some snow, I'd tell him he was doing a hell of a job. As you all know by my photos, I'm no Tiny Tim! When we reached what I thought was the top, I was looking up into another canyon. The hounds now changed their howl to a faster bark. Gary instantly let the two other hounds loose. Within five minutes, the dogs were holding the cat in the tree. "They've got him" Gary

said as he took off in a cloud of snow with me and my horse following. Finally Gary stopped and said, "This is as far as we can go by horse." I got off my horse and I was standing in snow up to my waist. "If you can't keep up with me, just follow my tracks," Gary said. "It's only a half mile up there." Well, I knew then it had to be at least a mile hike because no guide ever tells the truth about things like that! Before I started up, I took off my coat. Halfway up, I was wringing wet with sweat and took off my vest. Then my hat. My glasses were all fogged up and I was gasping for air. When I was about three-fourths of the way up, I was crawling on my hands and knees, wondering why I hadn't gone on that diet, or given up those damned cigarettes like I was going to do for the past five years. When I reached Gary, he was taking out some Cherry tobacco. He said, "Looks like a big one."

I looked up at the cat, the first mountain lion I had ever seen in the wild. I had my Mag-na-port Stalker slung over my shoulders. It's an 8-3/8" Stainless Ruger Super Blackhawk, scoped with a 2X Leupold Pachmayr grips, sling swivels, and naturally Mag-na-ported. The sling is great for climbing or riding horses. I never really cared for holsters for large handguns. I used hand loads with 240 gr. Hornady FMJ bullets. I was on the side which brought me just below the cat. I shot him in the chest as he was facing me. The FMJ Hornady exited out his lower back. The mountain lion was dead when he hit the ground. I shook Gary's hand and thanked him for an exciting hunt.

The lion measured 7'6" and weighed 170 to 190 pounds and goes well in the SCI Record Book. It is No. 1 in the HHI Book, and 1/16" from getting into the Boone & Crockett Book.

Gary hunts nine months out of the year. Most of his hunting is done in the Middle Fork, the Salmon Primitive Area. He guides for bear, deer, elk and mountain lion. His success on elk and deer is close to 100%, taking mostly large bulls. Anyone interested hunting in beautiful country with an excellent guide can contact Gary's agent, Jim Hebert, 4326 Snook Road, Metamora, Michigan 48455. Phone (313) 546-6262. Jim has booked most of my hunts for the past five years.

Would like to see Larry Kelly stay home for a while!

Guess Who . . .



Kelly, cat and prototype Stalker.

Compare the size of the cat's paw and arm with Kelly's.

## BUSTING CROWS

By Yancy Riche  
Westwego, LA

All starts by finding a place to hunt. I'm lucky, a hunting buddy has an uncle with plenty of land which we hunt often. They have crow everywhere. I often think that we are in crow heaven. In Louisiana the crow is an unprotected game bird and you can eliminate as many as your heart desires and methods permit.

Let me explain how we do it. My buddy and I take our tree stands and set them up so we are about 15 feet off the ground. Before getting set in our stands we throw feed on the ground near the stand area.

We call to bring them to the area and the feed really brings them in. We like to shoot them while they are on the ground feeding. That way we know where our bullets are going. Between the feed and the calls we really get some action.

I most always use my T/C super 14 in .223 with a 2.5x scope for crows. My buddy used his Dan Wesson .357 Mag with an 8" barrel and a 2x scope. All our ammo is handloaded. We are mostly concerned with accuracy. I use 20.5 gr. of IMR 4198, with a Hornady 53 gr. hollow point in my .223. My buddy's .357 load was 14.0 gr. of 2400 with the Hornady 158 gr. hollow point. I estimate my load at around 2700 F.P.S.

Well, let me tell about one of our crow hunts. We got to his uncle's land about 7:00 a.m. After arriving we gathered our things together and walked to our usual hunting spots and set up. We were finally ready for some action. We sat in our stands gun in lap. My buddy whispered over and told me to start calling as he was going to do the same. My buddy Clint's stand was about ten yards to the right of mine. After about five minutes of calling, a flock of about 20 landed and started feeding. I picked out one about 30 yards away, put the cross hairs on his chest and squeezed a round off. Wow! Made a connection. Feathers flew all over the place. As I looked up I saw Clint getting ready to squeeze one off. I looked back at the flock just in time to see Clint's bullet strike its mark. There goes another ball of feathers. Crows are kind of dumb birds, after a few shots they fly off in a circle and come right back in and start feeding again. As the flock took off Clint and I got ready to drop the hammers once again. We waited for the flock to land once again. This time they landed further into the field. I picked one maybe 60 yards away, fixed the cross hairs on him and squeezed my round off. Once again I connected. Those 53 gr. hollow points really blow when they hit. They actually blow crows to bits. Clint also hit another at about 40 yards. On that day we did real well, between us we bagged 22 crows. We also did our share of missing too. All in all we really have fun bustin' crows.

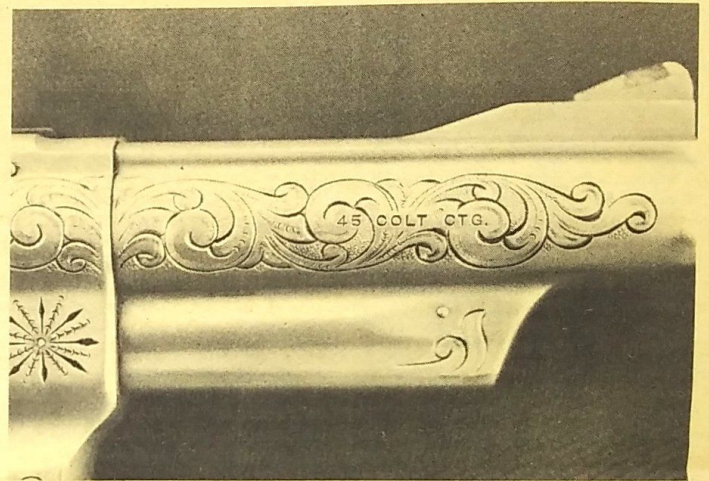
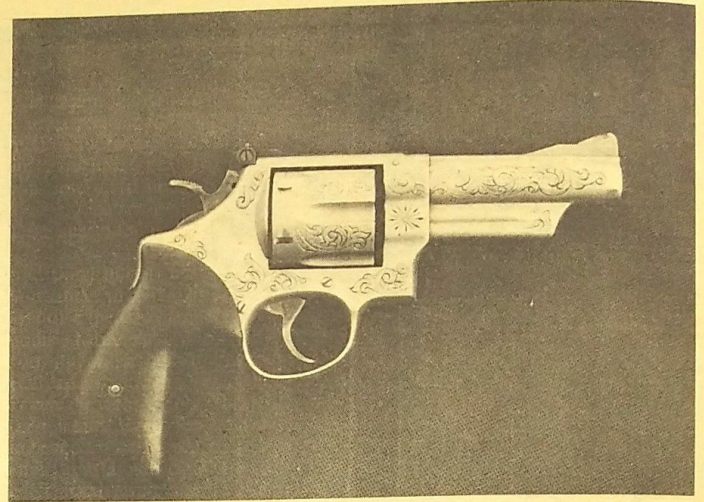
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## THE WORK OF JIM RIGGS

By JDJ

I'm continually amazed at the talents of HHI members and Jim Riggs is certainly no exception.

Jim has a few things in common with many individuals in the firearms industry. First and foremost he is a handgunner. Secondly, he is an extremely talented engraver who engraves a lot of handguns. Thirdly, his hobbies are now his full time occupation.

On the way to the "Where the Hell is Texas?" hunt, Swiggert arranged a get together at Jim's home/shop.

Frankly, I'm not an expert on engraving by a long shot. I know what I like and what I don't like. I don't like the power engraving I see around gun shows and a lot of the work I see making the rounds.

I do like Riggs 100 percent done by hammer and cutting tool work and

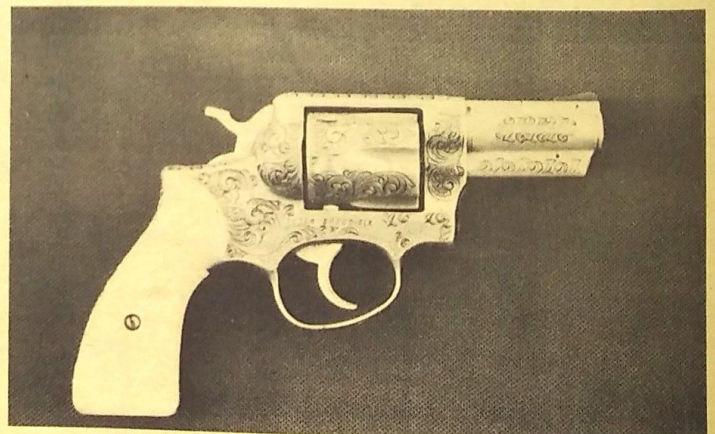
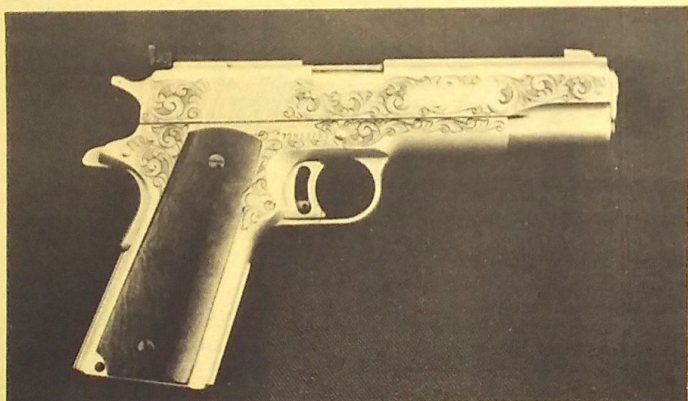
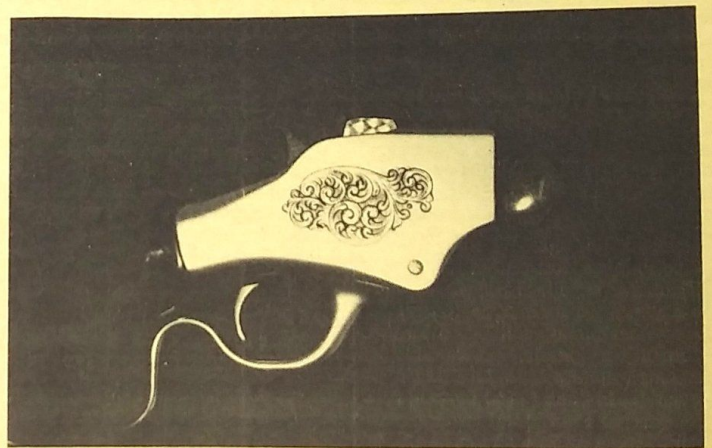
style.

Most engravers develop a basic style and it usually dominates the theme of their work. The photos demonstrate Jim's basic style as applied to various guns.

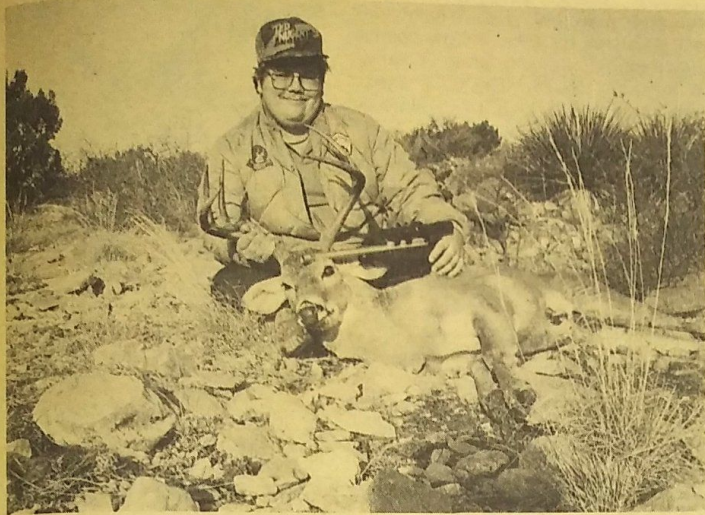
His polishing, plating and engraving are superb. His prices are right. His work is available without excessive wait time. I expect all that to change as Jim and his work become better known.

He will do just about anything in the line of engraving knives, belt buckles, etc., as well as guns.

It's easy to see from his work and just looking at him, he is a man well satisfied with what he is doing. (Jim Riggs, 206 Azalea Trail, Boerne, TX 78006, 512-249-8567)







Kenny Lucky would be his mafia name. Dropped him instantly at about 150 yards to take the No. 1 HHI Whitetail contest.

## NO. 1 WHITETAIL

By Ken Kelly  
Mt. Clemens, MI

Dad wouldn't let me take a vacation for the past two years, as he says work, work is the only way to make it. So when in December he told me we were going to Texas to hunt with J.D. and Bob Good I got really excited.

Other than hunting in Michigan a couple days each year, I really haven't been doing much hunting. The first of December I took a seven point buck the first time I went out with my black powder T/C.

In Texas, Bob Good introduced me to my guide Louie. After shaking his hand and shooting the bull for awhile I knew that I was in trouble, but I figured I would like him as my guide even if he did talk Texaneze.

The guns that I had selected for the hunt were a T/C in .375 J.D.J. and our new Mag-na-port Stalker which is a scoped Stainless Steel Ruger .44 magnum with a 2x Leupold scope.

Our expert guides said the rut was just starting and I hoped this would increase my chances of getting a good buck. The first morning the first buck I got a shot at was about 100 yards away. I knew he wouldn't wait around long and got excited and pulled or jerked. Anyhow, something went wrong and I missed him. I was very disappointed, but not for long. About an hour later I took a nice spike at 100 yards and it was a one shot deal. This

helped build up my confidence which I immediately started tearing down by missing does and bucks. On the third day as I topped a ridge I jumped a bunch of does who ran up the opposite hill about 150 yards away. Out of the corner of my eye I saw a honey of a buck running after the does. As they neared the opposite hilltop the does stopped and looked for me. The buck did too, and in a spot where I could see him pretty good. I had my .375 J.D.J. with 46.5 gr. of H 4895 under a 270 gr. Hornady spire point. I knew it should be dead on and did my best to fire when it looked good. It was like magic when the .375 went off. He just dropped. The 270 grain Hornady went through both shoulders. As I got closer I could see the buck's rack sticking out of the brush and knew that it was a good one. I was really excited because this was my first big buck with a handgun. At the time I never dreamed that I would be the winner of the H.H.I. Big Buck contest. That was a hunt that I shall always remember. Thank you for inviting me Mr. Good, it was really a dream hunt come true.

Ed: Bob told me, "Once is enough!" Not only did he kill the best deer, his snoring terrified the ranchers horses so badly they had to be saddle broken again when he caught them three days after Kenny left.

## HUNTER PISTOL

By John Woods, Washington, MO

I recently discovered there is life after the hunting season is over. In fact, this "new" sport presents some interesting opportunities to fine tune your handgun shooting skills, even during the regular hunting seasons. It can also serve to test some new handloads or factory ammo that may do double duty in the hunting field. This sport I am referring to is Hunter Pistol Silhouette and it is definitely for handgun hunters.

Based on the principles of Conventional Pistol Silhouette shooting, Hunter Pistol Silhouette allows the shooter to utilize firearms he might normally use for hunting. A typical Hunter Pistol Silhouette match consists of shooting 40 individual steel targets, 10 each of chickens, pigs, turkeys, and sheep. Each group of 10 is shot at regulated distances of 25, 50, 75 and 100 meters (or yards). Each target is sized and ranged accordingly with chickens being the smallest and sheep the largest.

The first match I was invited to observe sold me entirely on its application of shooting skill refinement for the handgun hunter, whether a veteran or novice. I witnessed a wide variety of equipment being used and chamberings ranging from 22 rimfires through the 44 magnum. Only certain calibers are allowed by the rules, but they include the most popular calibers commonly used by many handgun hunters. Virtually every major handgun manufacturer was represented along with single action, double action, semi-autos, and single shots. Also, strict safety rules are adhered to by the match directors, which helps to teach good shooting behaviors.

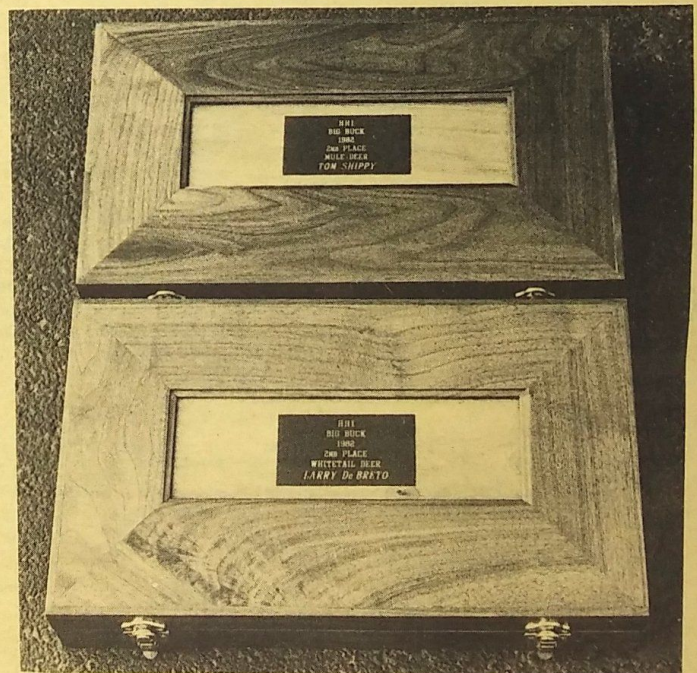
It is interesting to watch a shooter taking on the steel targets with a 22 rimfire, while the shooter next up uses

a heavy magnum, or some other centerfire. It's really embarrassing to see the rimfire shooter do better (sometimes), but then I can hear the arguments about how much more difficult the magnum is to shoot. Anyone's cup of tea can be tested, because that is where the fun is.

The good thing about participating in Hunter Pistol Silhouette is that it does not require the use of expensive, highly modified firearms. Most any "hunters" pistol will do, so long as it meets the specifications of the silhouette rules as to weight, barrel length, and other criterion. Even scopes can be used if so desired.

The centerfire shooters that I witnessed almost exclusively used home brewed handloads carefully worked up to separate the iron from the rails, but I see no reason why factory ammo couldn't be used. Some shooters did utilize factory ammo, however, I suspect the cost factors would begin to play a major role in considering hand-loading.

The shooting skills required to do well in pistol silhouette can contribute directly to better shooting in the hunting field. Practice in sight alignment, trigger control, and offhand shooting techniques can make the handgun hunter even more skillful. I fully intend to exercise this new sport to enhance my overall shooting skills. I know it can help any shooter become a better handgun hunter by making him a better shooter. If Hunter Silhouette matches are held in your area, I'd strongly recommend you check it out, no matter what the hunting seasons are in your area. You'll soon discover hunting the iron silhouettes can be just as fulfilling as stalking the real thing . . . well, almost so, anyway!



### GLEN RISSER SECOND PLACE AWARD

Larry DeBreto and Tom Shippy won the second place Whitetail and Mule Deer award in HHI's contest. Glen Risser, owner of Custom Woodcraft (R.D. 5-Box 1750, Lebanon, PA 17042, 717-273-6920) awarded each of them one of his custom walnut hand-

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# 30 RUGER

By Paco Kelly, Tucson, AZ

Sometimes my cool runs a little thin . . . everyone has soft spots — knots that get under their skin. I'm sure mine probably wouldn't bother you . . . but if I read another article by a certain 24-year-old expert staff writer for a popular gunzine, that the 30 Carbine is inherently enemy, and is without grouping abilities . . . he is going to get one hell 'uva letter delivered right to his front door!

Wait a minute, say what . . . ? Paco Kelly, the fella that shoots 1/2" bullets out of his 45 Colt Ruger . . . the guy that developed the 44 Keith Express . . . that knocks down helpless 1000 pound cows with glops of lead . . . is going to write about the 30 Carbine . . . ? ! ! You got it.

Those lucky folks that have a good deal of exposure to the grand old 32-20 in handgun and rifle. And/or the 30 Carbine in handgun or rifle . . . that suits it, like the Marlin levergun, will not be surprised by this article. The others, read on . . . you are in for some surprises! The first handgun I ever fired was a 32-20 S & W hand ejector . . . and it was the loudest gun I ever fired, until 25 years later when I first fired a round of G.I. 30 Carbine ammo out of a Ruger Blackhawk.

Though that first Ruger-30 Carbine was fired in 1970, in some of the wildest country in North America, it wasn't until 1974 when I returned to the civilized world, that I finally got to own a 30 Carbine Blackhawk. The man who owned it before me put a good deal of work into smoothing and fitting its action. He also cut the barrel to an easy carrying 6". Though I have had the gun all these years, I've never thought to test its velocities till I started testing powders and bullets.

When I fought in that dirty little Asian war, it was before the M16 and the Jolly Green Giant. I was issued an M2 Carbine and a 45/1911. We used to keep little boys in groceries and they used to cold grind the noses off the 30 Carbine military ammo, (un-military, of course, but effective as hell). The 45 ammo was fine as issued.

So, when I tell you my load in the Ruger was nosecut G.I. stuff, you should know I wasn't surprised when it tested at 1600-plus fps from a Ruger with 7-1/2" tube. The gap between the barrel and the cylinder in the 6" gun is only .0002. So the velocity is higher than one would suspect, but still below the 7-1/2", off the shelf Ruger I tested it against. The 6" gave 1562 fps average (all averages 10 shots). Also I found the military ammo I was using, 1968LC semi-pointed full patch, would go through the damndest things if uncut . . . telephone poles . . . #8 block . . . lots of walls in a barn . . . truly like a 32-20 magnumized, or a 32-20 rifle was go — 'loaded'.

The fella that let the gun go also threw in the loading dies . . . carbosizer, and polished seater. The whole kit was first class. About a year ago, I converted a 32-20 Winchester 1892 into a 30/357. Normally, I would be the last to do this to a fine old rifle like the '92, because there are so few left, unaltered. But this gun was ready for the bone yard . . . stock split, no forearm, barrel pitted badly, for sale as parts at a local gun show. I took pity on it. Thinking I had plenty of 357 mag brass, but 32-20 is in short supply and expensive . . . I necked down the 357

case to 30 caliber. The rest is history. I put a 26" barrel, with a nine twist, on it . . . and rebuilt the entire rifle. This cartridge worked out so well, I was thinking of rebaring that Ruger 30 Carbine also to 30/357. Until I started testing the Ruger, that is . . . ! ! It turned out to be one of the most accurate handguns I've ever owned. Thinking the converted Ruger (30-357) would make a nice companion gun to the Winchester '92 rifle, my plan was to test it first as a 30 Carbine, record its potentials, then rechamber and compare. Such simple plans. Also in my aging head, I had a corner marked 30 Carbine, and into that corner went all info, true or not, on the 30 Carbine round and the guns chambered for it. Luckily for me, I had used the 32-20 extensively as a youth, and the 30 Carbine as a young man. So I intuitively knew the round to be much better than the pap written on it today in our national gunzines, by our expert gun writers. I just didn't know how much better.

In another corner of my brain was a section labeled 357 magnum. Now for all my liking of the big 40 caliber handguns, I truly think the 357 is a fine cartridge that is powerful, compact, and very versatile . . . from 90 grain bullets at 1700 fps, to 180 grainers at 1300 fps out of 6" to 8" barrels. And it's only normal to think in fixed concepts, like pushing a 110 grain 357 mag bullet at 1600 fps and watch the varmints violently fall apart. It's a flat shooting, powerful, small critter load. And that was a fixed idea in my mental cubbyhole marked 357 magnum. Of course, the 30 Carbine is less powerful, not as versatile as the 357 . . . and that was a fixed idea also . . . Wait a minute! Did I say the 110 grain 30 Carbine load out of the Ruger went 1600 fps plus? WHAAAT! Imagine my surprise, when I duplicated every 357 mag load in my 30 Carbine Ruger . . . only one difference, the 30 Carbine shoots flatter and penetrates deeper in test media!

I will remember my first shot over the test screens with the 6" Ruger, for a long, long time. It had to be a mistake, I knew military cut down ammo was fast . . . but it's loaded hotter, and for rifles. But the commercial ammo like Federal and Winchester had to be loaded down . . . like all commercial ammo. This damn Carbine test project was turning into a can full of surprises . . . the batteries had to be bad or something . . . a commercial load, 110 grain Federal soft nose out of my 6" Ruger hit almost 1500 fps. Then I got my T/C Contender out, with its 10" 30 Carbine barrel (original — not for sale!). It put 10 over the screens at a sensational 1842 fps average! Then and there the thought of converting that Ruger went out the window. The 30 Carbine cartridge was a sleeper.

Still the idea of a 30/357 Ruger wouldn't go away. So I thought, getting an extra cylinder would be no big thing. About that time, I ran into a poor soul who just had to have a 357 mag, and he had a 30 Ruger Carbine to trade . . . the fastest swap in the history of gun trading in Tucson took place. Now I could convert to a 30/357 with a clear mind . . . but first, I would use the 7-1/2" to get 30 Carbine ballistics at that length.

In the 7-1/2" Ruger, Federal 110

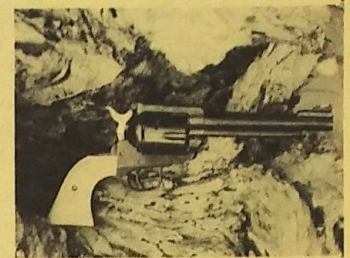
soft nose went 1601 fps, Winchester went 1620 fps for their hollow point, and Remington's 110 grain hollow point went 1605 fps. The 6" pushed these three in the high 1400 (almost 1500) fps bracket. And the 10" Contender hit in the low 1800's. For the guy that doesn't handload, but wants a flat, deadly shooter, in a handgun, the Ruger 30 Carbine is a hell'uva deal.

The 30 Carbine has a bad name because the military ammo zips right through the target without transmitting much shock. The military Carbine rifle in semi-auto was not the most accurate thing to come down the pike . . . and the cartridge suffers an inaccuracy image because of it. My T/C Carbine tube, seats the shell on its case mouth like accurate 45 autos, not on the case taper like the rifle. The Rugers also seat on the case mouth. Doing my best at 25 yards with a load that suits each of these guns, the 6" shoots into 1-1/2", the Carbine Contender into 3/4" (scope) and the 7-1/2" into nearly 1". Using the 30 Carbine 6" Ruger, using a 25 yard handgun bulls-eye target at 100 yards, off of sandbags with Federal ammo . . . I got three 10s, two 9s, and an 8. Two myths generally believed, the 30 Carbine round is not powerful and is inaccurate . . . horsecrap! ! ! !

Hitting the 200 meter Ironrams is easy with this cartridge. Knocking them down is the harder part. I started looking at jacketed bullets I could use for iron rams and game up to whitetail deer. We have a whole new generation of 30-30 class jacketed bullets for sale by most bullet makers today. I think we all know that the day of the flat faced 170 grained 30-30 slug is over. It has been proven the pointed boat tail shape drops dramatically less than the round and flat nose shape, even out to only 200 yards.

Speer makes a varmint bullet, a 100 grain hollow pointed job called the Plinker, and it will kill varmints out to 150 yards at handgun velocities. Speer also produces a 130 grain 30-30 class bullet. This bullet has a small flat nose in deference to rifle loading tubes, but also a good ogive and an almost boat tail base. Which gives an all around effect of substantially less drop at 200 yards. Out of the 6" Ruger, the 130 over 14.3 grains of WW-296 gives 1429 fps, and 600-plus pounds of punch. This load in a deer's ribs wouldn't do it any good at all!

Sierra makes a number of light-weight bullets, one of them with a surprise. Their 110 grain spire soft point, is made as a varmint bullet for large caliber 308 rifles like the 30-06 and up. Subsequently, in the 30-30 class and lower handguns, it becomes a medium game killer. Over 14 grains of WW-296, it gives 1562 fps and almost 600 lbs. of muzzle punch out of the 7-1/2" Ruger, and 15/2400 gives 1501 fps. With the 10" Contender, 1900 fps is easy to achieve. Sierra a few years ago brought out a line of .307 size bullets for 30-30 class guns. Their 125 grain hollow point is a deadly killer on coyotes, without pelt damage. Their 307/150 grain almost boat-tailed bullet will not stabilize in either Ruger, but does well in the Contender. With 14.3 grains of WW-296, it hits 1428 fps (less barrel friction 307 dia) in the Ruger 7-1/2" tube. And with the same load hits a respectable 1665 fps for well over 900 lbs. of punch in the Contender. From the Contender they stabilize and dump Iron rams consistently. Sierra also makes a 307/170 grain bullet in the



Paco's six in .30 Carbine Ruger. Paco figures it's as potent as a 6" .357.

same shape as the 150 grainer, but I didn't get a chance to try it.

Norma makes the second best bullet on the market for handguns and 30-30 class velocities. It's a true spire soft point boat-tail at 130 grains. And the damned thing goes forever. The only problem is expense . . . they cost like hell. Hitting 1800 fps in the Contender, their drop out to 200 meters is negligible . . . and their steel under-jacket takes rams off every time. For game hunting, they are too stiff, but the Speer 130 will do 1845 fps and kill deer easily if hit right.

A good test for this class of bullets is half gallon water bottles filled to the brim and tightly capped . . . the plastic ones, of course. The varmint bullets that act like varmint bullets at these velocities will rip them absolutely apart. Oh, you have to stand at least 30 yards away when you hit them with a varmint load. A game bullet at 30 Carbine speeds will rip the bottles open, but the damage is obviously more controlled. Of course, if you get only a hole punched into the front and out the back, you don't want to use that bullet or anything but Iron rams. Try the same load at 30 feet, 50 yards, 100 yards, and 150 yards . . . the plastic bottles are a good gauge of expansion.

The first best bullet out of the Contender is the special Nosler 30-30 class small flat nose 150 grain boat-tail. This bullet is a real boat-tail, it flies flat and kills tough animals as dead as dead can be. Javalina are hardy little beasts, and they take some killing. The 150 grain Nosler, like all Noslers has a controlled expansion factor built in. They are of the heavy base type, and will stabilize in my 7-1/2" Ruger and the Contender. They go into neat little groups at 100 yards, and hit 1350 fps with 15/296 in the Ruger. And 1789 fps out of the Contender, with 1834/15.2 grains of H110, they will do all your deer hunting for you, if you so choose. I've killed Javalina with both the Ruger (7-1/2") and the Contender with this bullet. I have hit them long ways, broadsided, and through the Texas roadmap . . . they have always exited! Always left an exceptional wound channel . . . This is the No. 1 jacketed bullet for this class and velocity weapons in my book . . . the 130 grain Speer is just a notch below it.

The military bullet with the nose cut off, is also a good killer of medium class animals on down . . . 100 lbs. down. But it's a pain to cut the noses. Military is a source of exceptional brass, though. It's heavy, cheap (relatively like anything today), and lasts a good long time. Also I found that the number of cast bullet molds is very, very large, in 308 caliber. The 150 grain limit seems to hold true with cast also, even though velocities were above the jacketed bullets. The Lyman

(Continued On Page 11)



**30 Ruger (From Page 10)**

311440 is a 150 grain flatnose bullet shaped like a fist in a boxing glove. It could do all your Iron rams, deer, varmints, and what ever else you settle your sights on. It can be pushed at 1400 fps from the 6", over 1500 from the 7-1/2", and well over 1800 in the Contender.

Lee makes a mold for a semi-pointed traditional shaped, 113 grain, gas checked bullet, in water tempered hard alloy. This bullet and the 100 grain Plinker have something in common. With AL5 powder they are the fastest, simply the highest velocity loads I have ever fired out of any standard revolver. With 13/AL5, both the Plinker and the Lee hit over 1700 fps in the 6", over 1825 fps in the 7-1/2" and a sizzling 2098 fps in the Contender. When the Lee cast hits, it tumbles, vermin and pests look out . . . and the Plinker simply comes apart when it hits.

With all the bullets I tried (except those that wouldn't stabilize), I could shoot better groups at 50 and 100 yards than a friend could with his commercial copy of the M1-Carbine. Obviously, they copied the original too closely.

But not all was roses, there are a few thorns, also . . . noise . . . if you flinch because of noise, not recoil, you're in for a shock when you first pull the trigger of a Ruger 30 Carbine. And the other sore point is sights. I'll get to those in a minute.

While slowly meandering along in the desert in my truck, I spied a black devil in the shape of a crow on top of a power pole. Rolling down the window, I took careful aim with the Ruger and the 113 gr. cast bullet over 13/AL5. I squeezed the trigger . . . and the crow blew up, but I didn't see it because my world blew up with it. I forgot my ear plugs. This is the world's loudest, rippingest, sharpest report . . . words fail me! I now even use those little sonic ear plugs in the field . . . and I never ever used them or anything else in the field . . . before now. If you want to keep your friends, don't let them stand beside you, when you let one go in the 30 Carbine. Of course, if it's someone you don't really like . . . well, hell, let your imagination be your guide.

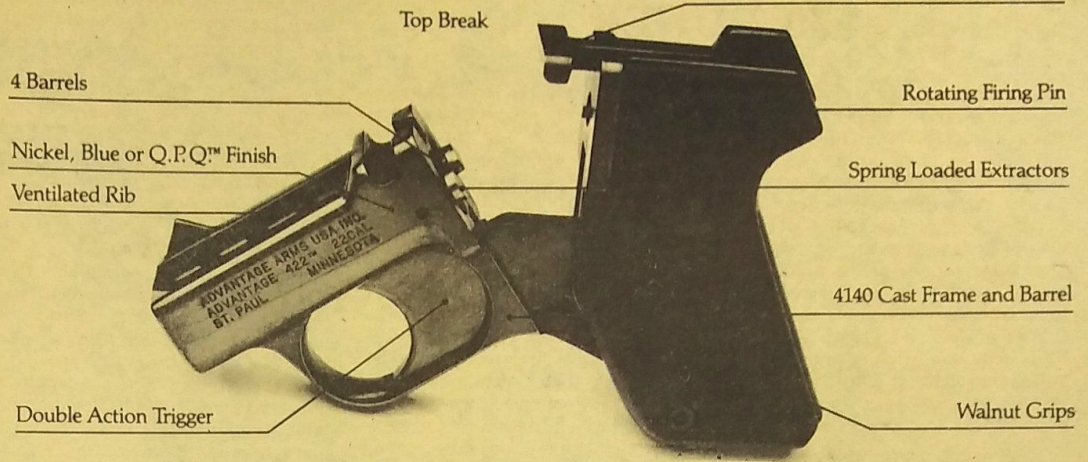
The last thorn, sights. This cartridge is so flat shooting and accurate it just screams for a scope. I think a scope on a Ruger is like a bra on a Dallas Cheerleader, very functional . . . but it sure ruins the lines and looks of it. It's fine on the T/C. But the T/C has always been like a flat-chested girl with an attractive face . . . it's good for a certain few functions, but not to carry around all the time.

Would I carry a Ruger Carbine or T/C on a bear hunt? I have no doubt that a 150 grain slug at 1400 to 1600 fps in a griz's head would do him handsomely. The only thing wrong with that, is hitting him in the head the first time . . . I'll pass. But I think the Ruger .30 Carbine will do 90% of what a 357 Mag will do, and do it better, because of the overwhelming asset of a very flat trajectory. Too bad Ruger is dropping it . . . I think I'll hold on to mine. When I have the second cylinder rebored (30/357), I'll test it, and do another article.



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The Advantage Arms 422 carries a 5-year materials and workmanship warranty and will be sold nationally to dealers through distributors.

\*QPQ™ is a trademark of the Kolene Corporation.



**Memory Maker (From Page 3)**

form lying still in the brush was more than I could have hoped for. A 10-point buck, the best that I have ever taken, was hit in the neck and had died in his tracks. The old deer's scarred muzzle was gray with age, and all but three of his front teeth had fallen out. He was probably in the last season of his life, but the memories he gave me will never die.

This story describes what fascinates me about hunting big game with a handgun. The sport is new enough, at least in Southwestern Georgia, that experimenting with new equipment and loads is an exciting part of the game. Give me a new gun to try, and I'll hunt with the same enthusiasm I had on my first hunt.

As late winter passed and spring arrived, I continue to experiment with loads and accessories for the Contender. I have discovered an even faster method of reloading the Contender than from a wristband. I sewed a 4" long by 1" wide strip of nylon webbing end to end to form a circle. This band is pressed flat and wedged through the space between the Leupold base mount and the scope, with equal parts of the band on either side of the scope. This forms two loops, and a spare round can be slipped into each side. This puts two extra rounds on either side of the chamber right at your fingertips for the fastest possible reloading of the Contender. I have never seen this done before, and yes, this idea is for sale.

The Contender will probably accompany me on the first hunt of next year, but who knows . . . maybe something new will come along and I'll have a new gun, a new load and a new reason to hunt deer with a handgun!

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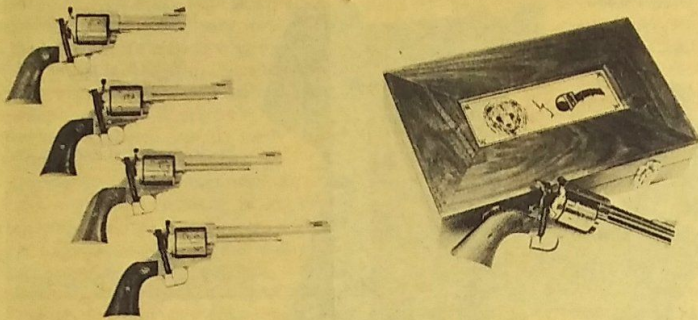
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A series of four customized stainless steel Ruger Super Blackhawks in .44 Magnum, dedicated to the Big Game Animals of Alaska is now available from Magnum Sales Limited. Only 200 of each gun will be offered.

Each of the series will feature an animal profile etched into the cylinder. "Alaskan Series" is etched into the barrel, and "One of 200" into the top strap. The guns are fitted with the new high contrast C-More™ front sight by Magnum Sales, and an Omega white outline rear sight. Timing in every Alaskan is checked, the action is smoothed, and the barrel Mag-Na-Ported.

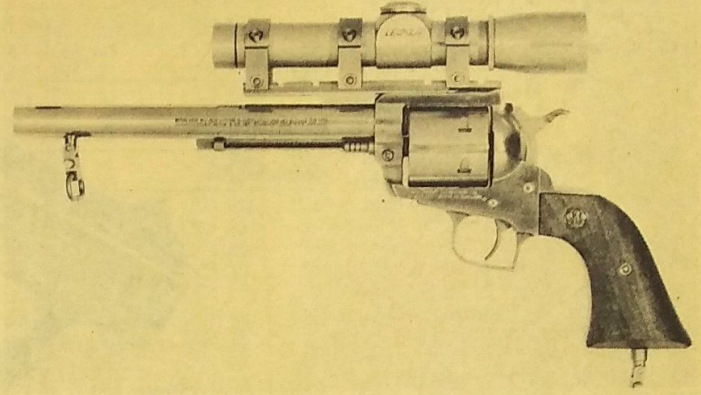
The guns are sealed at the factory, assuring the collector that his gun's hammer has never been cocked. Each is shipped in a fitted walnut case. The appropriate animal's profile adorns a maple insert.

Subject animals and barrel lengths:

Grizzly Bear ..... 4-5/8"  
Caribou ..... 6-1/2"  
Dall Sheep ..... 5-1/2"  
Moose ..... 7-1/2"

Price: \$695.00 per gun. \$645.00 each when entire series is ordered.

Dealer inquiries are invited. For more information, contact: Magnum Sales Limited, 30016 South River Road, Mt. Clemens, Michigan 48045. Telephone (313) 469-7534.



## THE STALKER

The STALKER, available from Magnum Sales Ltd. of Mt. Clemens, MI is offered to the growing number of serious handgun hunters. It has been proven throughout North America and Africa, having taken game ranging in size from whitetail and impala to giant Alaskan brown bear.

The basic gun is a Stainless Steel Ruger Super Blackhawk. Before shipping, the timing is carefully re-adjusted, the action smoothed, the trigger pull lightened, and the barrel Mag-Na-Ported.

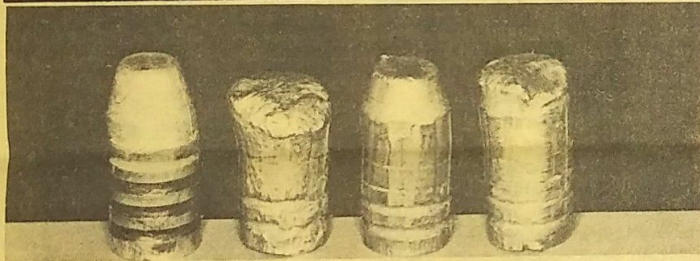
The STALKER is then fitted with a 2X Leupold Silver Scope. Extremely strong bases and rings by S.S.K. Industries assure secure, recoil-proof mounting. QD swivels and a 1-1/4" nylon web sling are provided for

convenience and ease of carrying.

Specifications:

Caliber: .44 Magnum  
Basic Gun: Stainless Steel Ruger Super Blackhawk  
Barrel: 8-3/8"  
Scope: 2X Leupold Silver  
Mounts: S.S.K. Industries T/SOB  
Sling: 1-1/4" Nylon Web  
Swivels: QD Type by Michaels of Oregon  
Price: \$695.00

Dealer inquiries are invited. For more information, please contact: Magnum Sales Limited, 30016 South River Road, Mt. Clemens, Michigan 48045. Phone (313) 469-7534.



Peter Horn sent back three bullets recovered from Cape Buffalo. All 315 grain, .44 JDJ. Unfired, head shot, lung shot, shoulder shot. Load 21.5 WW 296. Gun used was an SBH.

## .44 JDJ BULLETS

By John Taffin

One of the great benefits available to the bullet caster is the almost endless supply of .44 bullet designs. There are more bullets available in this caliber than any other, giving a good indication of the popularity of the "forty-four". Probably the most popular design for many years has been the semi-wadcutter Keith design, a flat nosed game getter usually weighing 240-250 grains.

In recent years, a new design of .44 bullets has surfaced, designed by J. D. originally for his .430. Wanting heavy weight bullets, and finding none available, J. D. came up with the 320 and 350 grain designs known as #320429 and #350429 GC as manufactured exclusively for S.S.K. Industries by N.E.I., a top notch manufacturer of bullet moulds.

J. D.'s designs are a modified truncated cone design with a flat nose and long straight body. All of J. D.'s bullets are identical in appearance when loaded. As much weight as possible is extended forward of the case to fill the cylinder in all weights. I say all as there are four now available in .44 caliber: #350429 GC (342 grains); #320429 PB (309 grains); #260429 PB (252 grains); #220429 PB (207 grains). All weights are given as

cast from type metal, rather my source of type metal. (Editor's Note: New type metal will give heavier weights and even new type metal varies in weight.)

Moulds in either two or four cavity are available directly from S.S.K. and may be used with RCBS handles (two cavity) and Lyman handles (four cavity). The blocks themselves are aluminum, of very high quality with very easy casting properties. New moulds should first be cleaned thoroughly (I use lighter fluid and cotton swabs), and then using a candle, smoke the cavities thoroughly being careful to not get wax on the blocks. If the bullets begin to stick during casting, simply resmoke the blocks. (Editor's Note: Simply boiling 20 minutes in tap water is all that's necessary!)

The lightest bullet in the line, #220429 has one grease groove, plus a crimping groove and can be driven over 1800 fps from a 10" Ruger, punching holes through 3/8" steel in the process. This also is an excellent bullet for high velocity loads in the .44 Special with loads in the 1300-1400 fps range possible from a 7-1/2" Colt New Frontier.

Number 260429 is the standard weight .44 Magnum bullet having two

grease grooves and one crimping groove. Out of a 10" Ruger, velocities over 1500 fps can be achieved with 22 grains of #2400, or 25 grains of H4227, or 24 grains of WW296. This makes an excellent hunting or silhouette bullet — drop to 20 grains of #2400 for less recoil for silhouettes and still get over 1300 fps from a 10" Ruger. This is also a good load for Smith 29's that won't shake them loose.

The best bullet of the quartet, let's say most useful, is #320429 which at 309 grains gives real heavy weight qualities to the .44 Magnum. This bullet can be driven at over 1400 fps from a 10" Ruger using WW680 at less pressure than factory .44 Magnums. Recoil, however, is right up there. From the .430 JDJ in a 14" TC, this same bullet can be driven over 1700 fps.

This bullet has made three one shot kills, two small bucks and one six point bull elk that I know of. All bullets penetrated completely, kills were instantaneous, and the elk, shot uphill at 80 yards died on the spot as the bullet went through his heart and out the other side. Trying to "catch" this bullet in trees is pretty fruitless, as even from a 4" .44 Magnum, bullets will completely penetrate 10' trees when loaded over 23.5 grains of WW680.

The heaviest bullet at 342 grains is mainly for use in .430 JDJ. For those unfamiliar with the .430, it is simply a .444 Marlin case cut back 1/10" and chambered in a TC. Power is awesome indeed. Look at these figures for comparison:

.44 Magnum 240 grain at 1400 fps = 1044 foot pounds.  
.44 Magnum 310 grain at 1400 fps = 1350 foot pounds.  
.430 JDJ 310 grain at 1700 fps = 1987 foot pounds.

.430 JDJ 350 grain at 1700 fps = 2244 foot pounds.

The last load is snapping right at the heels of some of our most popular rifle loads using 22" barrels and this from a 14" TC.

This same bullet # 350429 can also be loaded in the .44 Magnum case over 22.5 grains of WW680 and gives 1270 fps from my 4-5/8" Abilene. Now I am not recoil sensitive; I regularly shoot heavy .44 Magnum loads in my six guns and numerous large TC's such as the .430 JDJ and the .444 Schafer Magnum (also will work well with the JDJ bullets). But if you want to experience ultimate recoil, try 350 grain bullets in a short barreled .44 Magnum! But this surely would be a comforting load when going after a wounded animal in deep cover.

These heavy weight (307 and 342 grain) bullets also make excellent defensive bullets when loaded in either .44 Specials or .44 Magnums at velocities under 1000 fps. The 320429 over 6 grains of Unique in my .44 Specials shoots well and I'm guessing velocities are around 850.

The noted experimenter Kent Lomont did some pressure testing for J. D. using # 320429 in the .44 Magnum. Using 90% wheelweight 10% Linotype, bullets came out at 328 grains and gave the following results with Federal 150 primers.

22.0	..... WW 680	..... 29,200#
24.0	..... WW 680	..... 35,300#
20.0	..... # 2400	..... 40,900#
21.5	..... IMR 4227	..... 34,100#
21.5	..... WW 296	..... 38,000#
22.5	..... WW 296	..... 42,400#

My favorite powders are # 2400 with the 207, and 252 grain bullets, and WW 680 with the two heavyweights.

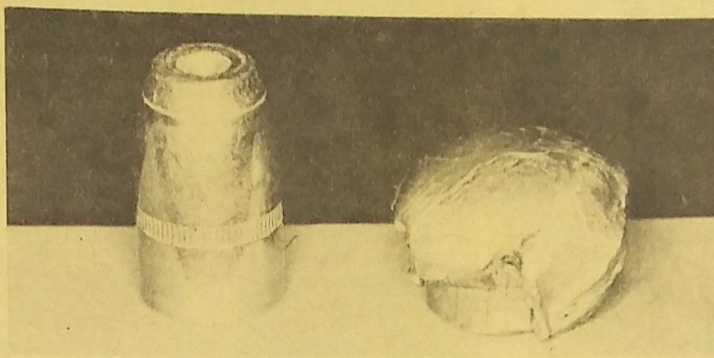
(Continued On Page 13)



My favorite # 320429 load is 23.5 grains WW 680 in .44 Magnum Winchester Western cases, CCI Magnum primers. This load shoots 1" 25 yard groups from my Abilene 10", and as a general rule, bullets over 300 grains at over 1300 fps shoot tighter groups than the lighter weight .44 Magnum bullets. J. D. particularly likes 21.5 WW 296 using the # 320429 bullet in .44 Magnum.

If you are a "Forty-Four" fan, one or more of these bullets will expand your horizons. Try the light weight in .44 Special or .44-40, and the # 320429 especially in the .44 Magnum. Order a mould from S.S.K. (Rt. 1, Della Drive, Bloomingdale, OH 43910) and start dropping your own bullets. If you've never been a bullet caster, you are missing a lot. If you are just getting started, plan on a good lubricator — sizer, a bottom pour melting pot, an assortment of moulds and you are in business. Bullet casting is relatively easy when a little care is taken, plus a lot more shooting can be done for the same amount of money. In the future, I will be doing an article comparing cast and jacketed bullets.

S.S.K. can also supply the JDJ design in .357 (150 — 182-205). I've used all of these preferring the 150 grain for my .38 Super while the heavier of the three makes an excellent G.C. revolver silhouette bullet in .357 Magnum, and should also do well in .357 Maximum. The same design is also available in .41 at 225, 275, and 310 grain weights.



300 grain Hornady .45-70 H.P. before and after impact with a deer. Impact was in ham — bullet ended up in neck, as I recall. Not sure who sent it in.

## OVERKILL!

By Robert Nunnally, Lizella, GA

Upon returning to base camp on our 1200 acres of leased land here in Georgia one crisp November morning, I noticed a fellow proudly admiring his smallish six-pointer which was already hanging on our scales, ready for skinning. The whitetails we have on this land are mostly small deer due to an overpopulation problem, so while this was no trophy, it was a respectable 120 pound specimen. The antlers would have measured 9" or 10" inside spread. This particular hunter, the only one of our group that had scored this Saturday morning, was an experienced woodsman with many larger and some smaller deer to his credit.

After offering the traditional congratulatory remarks and injecting a bit of good natured sarcasm about the billy goat that he had mistaken for a trophy whitetail, I then inquired about the gun and load he used to open the gaping hole through the deer's ribcage. He replied with a satisfied grin that this was the first of many bucks to fall to his new .35-70 rifle. He had loaded a 350 grain Hornady bullet at around 2200 F.P.S. The awe and approval flowed obviously from most of the crowd that had gathered in camp. This awe and obvious approval was not of the diminutive six-point rack, but of the effective job that the .45-70 had done on this deer.

Immediately, however, the few cynical bystanders started with their questions, most of which went something like this: "The majority of Alaskan moose or bear guides would not need the horsepower supplied by this .45-70 handload for their close range work, so why take such a shoulder buster whitetail hunting?" Well, the answer wasn't that hard to come by for our only successful hunter that morning. Number one, his shoulder still appeared to be in fine shape, and the 120-pound buck was very, very dead. Number two, the hunter had the utmost confidence in his gun and in the obviously effective load which he had carefully developed for it, and again, the deer was very dead.

My point is simply that a deer or a squirrel or a cape buffalo can be only so dead. If your shot kills your intended prey cleanly, then you have succeeded whether your effort was made with a .222 or a .460 Weatherby Magnum. If you have confidence in a potent combination of gun and load that YOU can shoot accurately as the hunter aforementioned here obviously did, then use it.

I am sure that most of you have at one time, read some of Jack

O'Connor's opinions on the .270 Winchester cartridge, and some of Elmer Keith's opinions on the .375 H & H Magnum, both as elk guns. I will also assume that most of you have at some time absorbed both of these philosophies as 95% gospel without stopping to think that they are in part as contrasting as night and day.

In ways obvious to most shooters, these ideologies are different, but in one way, they are very similar. They are similar in that both men had the utmost confidence in these guns and the loads which they individually touted as the best all-around combination for American game including elk, and for that matter, the best all-around combinations for any non-dangerous game of the world.

These opinions are as far apart as Reagan and Kennedy, however, in that one endorses a 130 grain .270 caliber speedster as opposed to the other favoring a 270 grain or 300 grain .375 H & H for the same game.

Jack O'Connor's basic theory restated was that a properly placed .270 round will down any North American game under most conditions. TRUE.

Elmer Keith's basic theory is that the most gun you can shoot with consistent accuracy will best down any American game for you under all conditions. ALSO TRUE.

My point is this: First of all, within the realm of handgun hunting, there is no such thing as 5000 foot pounds of muzzle energy, stopping power, or what-have-you. However, a handgun that will blast out 2200 foot pounds of energy at the muzzle may produce an apprehension in a novice handgunner just as the recoil and muzzleblast of a .458 Winchester does to a novice rifleman. There is but one cure for the natural hesitation of some to inflict certain pain on the palm of their hand. This cure is to shoot and shoot until you finally realize that the majority of this recoil was in fact, imagined, rather than felt in your hand.

When handgunning for big game, we must, as responsible sportsmen, shoot enough gun to make clean kills on our chosen quarry. I can think of no bigger advantage to the handgunner than to be shooting absolutely the most powerful handgun one can master. If you can shoot your .375 JDJ as accurately as another hunter can his 7MM T/C/U, there is absolutely no reason for you to step down to his level of performance while hunting anything. How can it be detrimental to your hunting success to accurately place a 35% bigger diameter bullet in the same big game animal? It can't.

While a .357 Magnum is legal here in Georgia for deer and bear, and is even legal in some states for elk and moose, I don't consider it at all adequate for anything larger than the smallest as whitetails at very close range.

The recoil sensitive shooter should spend twice as much time at the range as he thinks necessary with his big bore so as to be proficient with it rather than compromising his chances of making a quick, clean kill by using an inferior handgun caliber such as the .357 Magnum for big game. There is no doubt that the many powerful wildcat and "rifle" calibers available in single shot handguns today are ballistically superior to anything you can shoot in a wheelgun, but this superiority was not computed with flinching shooters in mind.

Another advantage to the performance of a wildcat or 'rifle' caliber chambering in your T/C or XP over that of most revolver chamberings (except some .44 and .357 maximum) is that most often, you will fully penetrate the body of most game animals. An entrance and an exit hole are really mandatory if blood trailing becomes necessary.

There is just no such thing as overkilling a big-game animal. It can only be so dead. Being overkilled is sort of like being over-pregnant. It's just not possible. Either you are or you aren't. The idea of a big heavy bullet doing more meat damage than most lighter ones is also a bunch of bull. More times than not, the controlled expansion of the big heavy bullets leaves less damage to the meat than the explosive action of the thin jacketed "pistol" bullets.

The point I have tried to make is this: You never will get satisfactory performance on big-game out of a .357 Magnum or most other revolver cartridges, or from the little 7 T/C/U and similar T/C chamberings. But you can get equal or superior accuracy out of the big JDJ calibers, .45-70 T/C, .35 Remington T/C, or .357 H T/C. There are also scores of possible chamberings for an XP that will deliver sufficient power to cleanly kill big game. Since you can have the accuracy and the power, why ever go afield under-gunned again? Why should you ever have to wonder if your well placed shot will do the job? The answer is simply that you shouldn't, any more than the whitetail deer hunter mentioned at the beginning of this article shouldn't have and didn't. His load in his gun did the job. The load and gun combined with his shooting skill were effective. This level of skill and level of tolerance to recoil that we all need to develop can be achieved only by practice.

Think about it . . . would you rather know that a real trophy got away (and later died) because you were under-gunned, or would you rather put up with some uniformed professional plinker saying that you were over-gunned while your trophy is hanging on your den wall? The answer seems very apparent to me.

## ANIMAL 'T' SHIRTS

Yancy Riche is a very talented guy with an airbrush. His specialty is airbrushing animals on 'T' shirts. He uses good quality 50-50 shirts and his work is really good. He charges \$12 per handpainted shirt. You specify the size, color and animal. Yancy does the rest. His address is 139 Farman Street, Westwego, LA 70094. JDJ

### .44 MAGNUM — JDJ BULLETS 10" Ruger

220429	fps	260429	fps
23.5/2400	1600	21.0/2400	1409
24.5/2400	1711	22.0/2400	1529
25.5/2400	1766	23.0/H4227	1406
26.5/2400	1838	24.0/H4227	1438
27.5/2400	1812	25.0/H4227	1532
26.0/296	1412	23.0/296	1482
27.0/296	1510		
28.0/296	1602		
29.0/296	1687		
26.0/H4227	1599		
27.0/H4227	1713		
24.5/H110	1333		
25.5/H110	1449		
26.5/H110	1471		

350429 G.C.		320429	
20.5/680	1276	22.0/680	1332
21.0/680	1284	22.5/680	1389
21.5/680	1321	23.0/680	1398
22.0/680	1353	23.5/680	1412
22.5/680	1350	24.0/680	1434
		24.0/680	1434
		19.0/2400	1355
		19.5/2400	1395
		20.5/4227	1269
		21.0/4227	1280
		21.5/4227	1378
		21.5/296	1450

### .430 JDJ-JDJ BULLETS 14" T/C

320429		350429 G.C.	
42.0/H322	1599	44.0/H322	1676
44.0/H322	1616	45.0/H322	1737
46.0/H322	1712	35.0/4198	1486
36.5/4198	1566	36.5/4198	1567
35.0/680	1651	33.0/680	1600
		45.0/4895	1572

### .44 SPECIAL — JDJ BULLETS 7-1/2" Colt

220429		220429	
18.0/#2400	1307	19.0/H4227	1153
18.5/#2400	1347	19.5/H4227	1170
19.0/#2400	1376	20.0/H4227	1230



# THE .357 MAGNUM, PT IV THE TC CONTENDER

By John Taffin

Two significant events for handguns occurred the third quarter of this century. One made all ideas of handgun power change radically, the other was hardly noticed at first. Remington and Smith & Wesson teamed up to bring out the .44 Magnum ammo and the Smith & Wesson Model 29. Handgun muzzle energy was now such that big game hunting with a handgun became a viable option.

Development number two was the introduction of the Thompson Center Contender, originally intended as a light, small caliber handgun for plinking and small game hunting. The first five calibers offered were .22LR, .22WRM, .22 Hornet, .22 Jet, and .38 SPECIAL; the first three still being in production.

The philosophy of TC can be shown by the almost endless array of calibers offered down through the years. Every possible cartridge has been offered in a TC chambering many of which such as the .25/35 WCF, .38 Super, 9mm, .45 ACP, .218BEE, have been dropped from production.

TC is staying right up to date with brand new chamberings available in '83 — the .357 maximum and the 7mm International Rimmed.

Shooting one of the original gripped TC with Octagon barrel is not something one enjoys when chambered in a recoiler like the .44 Magnum. TC is to be complimented for switching to a heavy bull barrel and up grading their stocks until coming up with their newest finger groove stock which is an excellent design, one of the new factory stocks that do not require immediate replacement.

Internally two significant changes that have been made are the split bolt for better lock up and the easy-open action. Sights have been vastly improved also. The original front sight which tended to be less than square has been replaced by a screw-on, excellent post, and the rear sight has gone through a number of changes until we have on both the 10" and 14" models, an easily adjustable sight with positive clicks. The present sight set up is as good as one is likely to find anywhere.

TC has been proven on the firing line being chambered in a number of rifle cartridges such as the .30-30 and .35 Remington by TC and .30-40, .45-70 and the JDJ line, notably the .338, .358, .375, 411, and .430's, by SSK. I know my TC .30-30 Super 14 will shoot better than the average .30-30 rifle.

Now this series is about .357's and this particular article, the TC .357. Very few people know that the first TC, No. 1001 was not chambered in one of the original five calibers, but in .357 Magnum. That first chambering, now second only to the .44 Magnum in sales, is still one of the best.

I currently own eleven TC barrels, all the way from an Octagon .221 Fireball up to a custom SSK Barrel in .45-70. Among these are two 10" bull

barrel .357's, one with iron sights for silhouetting, the other with a scope for serious testing and varminting.

The .357 is a TC is a real dream. Recoil is very mild when compared to bigger chamberings, while accuracy and power for either silhouettes or small game gunning is evident. My original .357 which now wears a scope is a particularly potent silhouette production gun when combined with a load of RCBS cast bullet No. 35-200 FN-GC at 200 grains over 17.7 grains of WW680 for 1540 fps. This load gives almost twice the energy of a standard .357 load from a six inch revolver and beats anything the .357 maximum revolver does.

There is just no comparison between the standard .357 revolver and a 10" T/C. The Single shot gets the .357 up off its knees allowing higher muzzle velocities with heavier bullets. Many silhouette shooters use 200 grain bullets in their revolvers, but are limited to velocities in the 1100-1200 fps range. Switching to the TC and loading the heavy bullets out where they belong allows the same bullets to be driven over 1500 fps.

My favorite Sixgun load for the .357 Magnum is made up using the Lyman No. 358156 Ray Thompson designed gas check over 15 grains No. 2400. Switching to the TC this load goes almost 1700 fps and prints 1" groups at 50 yards from my scoped Contender. For the TC my favorite cast bullet load is made up with the RCBS No. 35-200 FN-, a long, long nosed 200 grain gas checked bullet with a flat-tip originally designed for the .35 Remington. This bullet is normally shot over 17.7 grains of WW680 or 1540 fps.

My third choice for cast bullets in the .357 is the SSK design which is a little brother of the 44 JDJ bullet, and is designed with a crimping groove which allows a proper crimp when used in revolvers. This of course cuts down powder capacity, but makes an excellent bullet for sixguns, but I prefer a bullet I can seat out further for the TC to gain more boiler room space.

You will note, all of my choices are gas check designs, an absolute necessity for hot loads in .357 Magnums.

Switching over to jacketed bullets I prefer either Sierra or Speer 158 grain soft points loaded over 296. The best group ever shot at 50 yards is recorded on the accompanying chart — three shots into 3/8" using the Speer 158 Gr. SP over 17.5 WW 296 at 1614 fps.

Two new bullets that I have started to play with are both designed for silhouettes, full metal jackets at 180 grains. The Hornady has one crimping groove for single shots and a front shoulder for crimping over for revolvers.

Two other jacketed bullets that show up on the silhouette line are the Speer 180 FP designed for the .35 Remington, an excellent bullet; and round

nosed 200 grain by Sierra or Hornady.

I don't particularly care for the lighter bullets for use in the .357; the only load that did not do well in my TC's is the 110 grain HP, groups opening radically at 50 yards.

The argument continues over whether or not the .357 Magnum is suitable for big game. Certainly if I were going to use a .357 for such purposes, it would be a 10" TC with a scope. A look at a few ballistics might be in order here.

.30/30 150 grain at 2200 fps gives a ME of 1611 fp

.44 Magnum 240 grain at 1400 fps gives a ME of 1044 fp

.357 Magnum 150 at 1500 fps gives a ME of 750 fp

The .44 has 65% the paper energy of a .30-30, while .357 is 72% of the .44, and only 47% of the .30-30. Rifle bullets depend upon expansion, .44's are expanded already — what about .357's? The .357 is like the .410 shot gun — it belongs in the hands of an expert, not a beginner.

## "I'LL TRY HARDER"

By Tom Shippy  
Hudson, WY

When I'd read that HHI was having a big buck contest I decided to put a little extra effort into deer hunting this year. Hunting near Lander I've gotten into the habit of shooting anything with horns. This year, however, I told myself I was going to hold out and if I didn't see anything worthwhile I would either shoot a doe on the last evening of the season or go without. Reluctantly I passed up a lot of two points, some three points, and what I thought was a small four point.

My wife, Bev, and I got up at 5:30 Saturday, the last weekend of the season. Leaving the ranchhouse Bev hopped out to open a gate and came close to getting into an argument with a fat porcupine. It was still dark, but I decided to shoot it as porcupines and beavers do so much damage that ranchers dislike them as much as prairie dogs. I couldn't see through the scope (too dark) so I simply pointed the 10" 30-30 Ackley (150 gr. Hornady, 39 gr. 4895) in the general direction and fired. I could hear the "thump" of the bullet as it hit and the porcupine humped up without moving. Anyway, I walked the whole day Saturday on two different ranches and passed up several small bucks hoping to find a larger one. I got real close to several deer on different occasions and got to watch a three point and a two point square off at each other, pushing rather than fighting, for a couple of minutes.

Sunday morning, the last day of the season, I hoped to find a buck feeding on the hay meadows north of the house. Usually they feed the meadows at night and move into the draws and hills to the east during the day. It isn't unusual, however, to find deer bedded in the meadows during the day. Shortly after starting out my brother Dave and I started picking out deer with the binoculars. It was too early to shoot or to be able to see very well with the naked eye. There is nothing more serene than to watch a new dawn breaking and to be able to spot wildlife undetected by them.

When you spot a doe mule deer's head sticking up in underbrush that is 3 to 3 1/2' high it's easy to see how they got their name. It seems they are all ears. We watched five or six deer slowly move out of the meadow, cross a

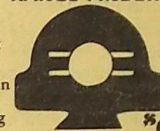
shallow creek and break the skyline on the other bank before we could be certain whether the bucks had horns large enough to shoot or not. Of the three bucks, the largest was a small three point.

Continuing, we kicked out a few more deer, mostly does. About 45 minutes after starting we topped a small ridge and a real nice buck, with only his head and neck visible, stood watching us less than 100 yards away. I was in a bad position for a shot so I dropped down low, out of sight, and worked my way to the right about five yards. The buck was apparently watching Dave because upon seeing me again he started off, took about five steps and stood broadside. Most of my misses are usually high so I held where I thought I should and then lowered the cross hairs an additional inch or two. That turned out to be a mistake as we found out later that the bullet hit

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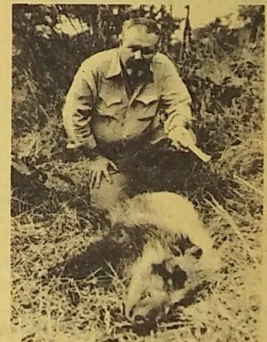
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(313) 469-6727  
30016 South River Road • Mount Clemens, Michigan 48045

Load	Bullet	MV	Shots 25 Yds.	50 Yds.	2-1/2X Redfield
15.0 GR 2400	Lyman 358156GC	1688	1-1/4"	1"	
15.0 GR H110	Lyman 358156GC	1642	1-1/4"	7/8"	
16.0 GR WW296	Lyman 358156GC	1517	1"	5/8"	
15.0 GR H4227	Lyman 358156GC	1415	1-1/4"	1"	
17.7 GR WW680	RCBS 35-200 FN	1540	1-1/4"	7/8"	
16.0 GR WW296	Sierra 158 JSP	1556	1"	1"	
17.5 GR WW296	Speer 158 JSP	1614	1/2"	3/8"	
16.0 GR WW680	Horn 180 FMJ	1254	5/8"	3/4"	
17.0 GR WW680	Speer 180 FMJ	1409	7/8"	1-1/4"	
16.0 GR WW296	Speer 180 FP	1508	1/2"	1-1/4"	
16.0 GR H110	Sierra 200 RN	1505	1-3/8"	1-1/8"	
10.0 GR Unique	Sierra 110 HP	1620	1"	2-1/2"	



the near shoulder low, shattering it and excited low in the brisket area. The buck was downhill from where I shot. At the shot he stumbled, took several steps, turned in the opposite direction and appeared to be going down on his haunches. David said that he appeared to be hard hit. I've replayed that in my mind several times — should have plugged him again as he then gathered his strength and took off running away from us through tall grass and trees as if he hadn't been hit. I ran up to the top of the next ridge and standing broadside, alone, was another (or was it the same?) buck at 180 yards. For what seemed like an eternity we glassed him and tried to decide if he was the same one I had hit. The light still wasn't too good. About the time we decided to shoot something told us that the rack didn't look right — too straight and narrow.

Ten or twelve deer came up to the left and back of this buck. Several were bucks and three were four and five points, one at least the equal of mine. Three big bucks appeared to the northeast going up a ridge — all three looked nice and one definitely had a tall rack that stretched out past his ears quite a bit more than the one I had shot. None appeared to have been hit. I had no intention of shooting any other deer while following a wounded one, but it was hard passing up bucks like those even if they were out of range.

We found blood and tracks showing the front hoof spread with all the weight riding on the left leg. The grass, cloves and brush was so thick and high we soon ran out of tracks. We searched for two hours and I was afraid that one of the disappearing rumps to the east could have been him. Backtracking over the same ground, we were about 300 yards from where I first shot when Dave spotted him lying down. He looked away, motioned to me and couldn't see him upon looking back. We walked around the ridge and found him as he was standing to leave. At the second shot he went down, got up again and took three or four steps. It took a third shot to finally anchor him permanently. Both shoulders were shattered and we figured the second shot penetrated the liver. He was a tough old mulie. Some say that the older ones tend to have a browner tint than the younger ones who appear more grey. I've always figured this was merely due to color adaptation. This one was brownish and had a few scars on his back apparently from close encounters with other bucks.

The gun I used was a T/C 30-40 Ackley sighted in dead on at 300 meters which proved to be too far for this type of terrain. I was also packing a 10" 30-30 Ackley in a belt holster that was sighted in for 150 meters. At this distance, later stepped off and measured with the rangefinder to be 86-87 yards, I should have used the 30-30 Ackley as I could have held dead on. With the 30-40 A sighted in as I have it, it shoots 10-12" high out to 200 meters.

Looking the buck over we were surprised in that he looked bigger than he had appeared at a distance. He was a good sized four point without brow points which are usually present on a buck this size. He was as big as or bigger than many five points.

After field dressing him, we only had to drag him about 20 feet, seven feet of which was an incline. We were thankful we didn't have to drag him any further. Field dressed he weighed 194 pounds so I don't think 225

pounds is off the mark much for his estimated live weight. I shot a two point three years ago that I carried out across my shoulders — two of us would have had trouble carrying (or for that matter, dragging) this one very far.

Bulletin 589 from the University of Wyoming, 1973, did a study of six bucks and six doe mule deer brought to the University the day of the kill. The field dressed weights of the bucks and does averaged 114 and 93 pounds respectively. Age of the six bucks, as determined by wear of the mandibular cheek teeth, ranged from 1.5 to 6.5 years of age. Three of the six does were 2.5 years, two were 3.5 years and one was 4.5 years. The 93 pound field dressed weight for the six does is average for these ages. They also stated that weights obtained from the Sybille Big Game Research Unit in Wyoming from 1956 through 1971, 16 years, support this finding. A field dressed doe mule which weighs over 120 pounds is usually over six years of age and quite rare. Field dressed weights of buck deer are often higher than the 114 average reported in this study. Buck mule deer killed at the Sybille Unit from 1956-1971 averaged 91 pounds for yearlings; 120 pounds for two year olds; 145 pounds for three to five year olds and 175 pounds for buck over six years old. A Colorado study showed weights slightly higher and indicated that they vary by area and that they average 212 pounds for bucks lucky enough to reach nine years of age. Using weights only it would appear that my buck could have been six to eight years old.

All things considered, I worked harder this season than I ever have and I was able to shoot the biggest buck I've ever shot. It was well worth the effort and will be a deer season that I'll remember forever. Adding to the satisfaction the fact that my buck scored well enough to win second place in the HHI "Big Buck" contest.

I would like to thank Glenn Risser for the custom walnut presentation pistol box he awarded to the 2nd place finishers in the "Big Buck" contest. Upon opening the package I was kind of glad I came in second. Not that I wouldn't have liked another Contender, but the pistol box far exceeds my expectations. It's beautiful with an added touch — the top has a section that's inlet (appears to be pecan which contrasts nicely with the darker walnut) with a plate giving the details. First class all the way.

Also, I would like to thank J.D. for his part in not only this contest, but for all the time and effort he has put in over the years on behalf of handgunners.

## ANTELOPE

By Mark Hampton

Two of my best friends and I had been planning an antelope hunt for six months. Fellow H.H.I. member Steve Bryant was about to embark on his first handgun hunt while Doyle Pitts, who was not yet a handgunner, would be facing his premier western trip. I would be experiencing my third pronghorn hunt armed with a 358 JDJ topped with a 2½ Power Redfield. Doyle, Steve and I went from first grade to college graduation together, played basketball and baseball on the same team, and chased deer all over Texas Country. Now that we're all married and have families, we don't get to see each other as much. This trip

would enable us to catch up on jobs, guns, animals, among other things.

Once we set foot in Wyoming, we began seeing prairie dog towns. I thought it might be a good idea to see how our guns shot out here in the 5700 foot elevation, and those pesky little gophers would be excellent targets. After stopping at a gun store to find out we didn't need small game licenses, we knew the next town of varmints would be in a heap of trouble. A few miles down the road, we found the next town of gophers, then unloaded all the necessary equipment and began to bust a few caps. The dogs were shooting at ranged from 200 to 250 yards. If we could just hit close with our handguns, I would be satisfied we'd be able to kill an antelope at that distance. After my first three shots, Doyle, my spotter, thought I had killed two of them while spotting for me through his 10X binoculars. When it was Steve's turn, we found the 180 grain Federals he was shooting through the 44 Magnum Contender were a hair low, which can be expected at that range. Nevertheless, it wasn't low enough to warrant a miss on anything the size of an antelope. I saw curiosity in Doyle's eyes, so I asked him if he would like to shoot my cannon. He got set up and prepared himself as I spotted a dog for him to shoot. He squeezed off a 358 round and the little critter collapsed. We stepped off 237 steps to the neck-shot prairie dog, and I can't tell you who was impressed the most. We searched the area THOROUGHLY and weren't able to find any other fatalities, so we figured I must have missed by an inch or less. Even so, I felt confident an antelope at that range would present no problem.

Driving on toward Unit 71, it was quite impressive to see Wyoming's abundance of pronghorns. We arrived at our destination on Friday morning, set up camp and spent the remainder of the day scouting. The rancher informed us that when the shooting starts on opening day, the antelope like to cross one particular hillside, thus making an ideal place for us handgunners to wait.

On opening morning of antelope season in Natrona County, daylight found me watching seven does and fawns grazing past my stand. The stand I'm speaking of consisted of boulders which concealed my presence and obliged me with a decent rest. After the sun yielded an hour's worth of light, I spotted a nice buck following four does about a half a mile away, heading directly toward me. Everything was looking good until I saw a white suburban stop on a road below the antelope. Hunters unloaded from the vehicle and the fireworks began. Even though I had left an orange coat on top of a rock in plain sight, the nimrods shot their guns dry in my direction as the antelope ran out of their range. When the animals came back into my view, they were within shooting distance, but I felt they would come closer. I position my sandbags and laid the 358 JDJ on top. As the first doe walked out from behind the boulders, she wasn't any further than 75 yards away.

I watched the others following her through the scope, thinking "This isn't going to be much of a shot." When the buck finally stepped out in the open, he was walking slowly, broadside. While tracking him through the scope, I placed the crosshairs on his shoulder and squeezed the trigger. When the 358



Mark and his antelope with wide-spread horns.

went off, so did all of the antelope. I couldn't believe I blew so simple a shot. The buck raced back to where he came from while the does headed up the hillside. Totally embarrassed, I reloaded just in time to see the buck stop to look back for his female companions. His body was facing directly away from me with his head looking over his left shoulder. I placed the crosshairs on the middle of his rump, hoping the bullet would connect on his backbone. When I squeezed the trigger on the second attempt, the buck dropped in his tracks. After stepping off 210 yards to where the buck lay, I noticed the 250 grain Speer Spitzer entered the back of his neck and never stopped. Surprisingly, the cannon was still shooting a little high at that range. Even though I had the 358 shooting 3" high at 100 yards, hoping it would be dead on a 200, I underestimated the gun. This is a problem I experience much too often. After missing an easy broadside shot, I made a much tougher one, at almost three times the distance. It seems like I never can cease to amaze myself.

While I was busy field dressing my harvest, I heard a shot from handgunner Steve Bryant. After finishing the necessary gutting, I headed in the direction the shot came from. Upon closer inspection, I found Steve had taken a respectable 12" from 150 yards. This was the maximum yardage he had allowed for his self-imposed limit. One shot through the T/C Super 14 using 180 grain Federals J.H.P. was all that was required to claim Bryant's first handgun kill.

With two tags filled and one to go, we decided to hunt a different area. Saying that Doyle experienced trouble with his 7mm Magnum is like saying World War II was a mild skirmish. Understand, if you will, when it sprinkles bad luck on Doyle Pitts, it doesn't just rain . . . it comes a full scale monsoon. After a box of shells or more, a handful of prickly pear, and a forehead full of scope warts, Pitts was more than slightly disturbed. Bryant began looking the rifle over and discovered the scope rings were loose, so we made an attempt to dismount the 3-9 from the rifle. Just as the scope was removed, a small band of prairie goats ran by us approximately 275 yards away. Using open sights, Doyle dropped the young buck antelope with his first attempt. I believe that two respectable antelopes taken with handguns might have gained us another H.H.I. member, especially after all that trouble Doyle had with his long arm. If this doesn't influence his decision, I'm sure the 237 yard prairie dog shot will.



# OUT OF HIBERNATION

By Tom Frick, Lima, OH

In the October issue, Bud McDonald wanted to know "What ever happened to: . . ." Well, Bud, I'm not really in hibernation, just out of circulation; rather in recirculation. I've been putting a lot of rounds downrange (mostly .44's). Unfortunately, the only critters in sight have not been edible unless you have the digestive system of a blast furnace. I've been in the midst of a couple of career moves and my hunting time has been nearly non-existent. A November '81 deer hunt with my Pappy up north was cancelled and a couple of HHI hunts had to be passed on, regretfully.

I've been strongly involved in the local club's IHMSA endeavors, and as some of you know, that is quite demanding on your spare time. The time I have spent handgun hunting has been in the hunting of handguns, the only hunting allowed on Sunday in Ohio. I have dabbled in Ruger collecting, but just cannot justify possessing handguns which aren't regularly used. The only trophy remaining from my '81-82 handgun hunting endeavors is a jealously guarded "flat-top" .44 Ruger which someone had cut off to 4-5/8". More about that another time. (Have to keep it away from Larry Watson!)

Most of my pleasurable spent time has been devoted to shooting the big .44 Magnums. I confess to trying the various .357's, .41's and .45's, but cannot find anything there which the .44 doesn't do as well or better. The only other revolver cartridge that keeps my interest is the half-sized .22.

Another favorite hibernation pastime is reloading, stalking components, and ferreting out new loads. With the introduction of so many new .44's in the past couple of years, I have noticed a consistent factor in the stacks of statistics. One or two factory loadings have always come to the fore in ALL guns tested with these loads. Federal 180's have always been up there, but going with the full bore 240 grain loads, the blue and white sleeves of the S & W 240 JHP's have consistently given the tightest groups. I've heard of bad lots and poor performance in S & W ammo, but I haven't experienced any. I did have one round blow up on the foreleg of a ram down at Shawnee Ridge, but it blew up the leg in doing so; other hits gave ideal performance. I do realize that as of now, this ammo has been discontinued, but now (February, '83) most shops still have some, usually at a good discount. I have two cases salted away as well as a supply in my hunting kit. Larry Watson shoots a 5" group with it at 200 meters in my 629. The best I have done was three out of five on 200M chickens, once.

My favorite silhouette load has come to be 21 grains of 2400 under the Sierra 220 JFP. Accuracy is equal to the factory loads and easy to handle through 80 rounds in the 8-3/8" 629 with the Mustang Ranger grips. It's not max, but it's better to lose a hit ram occasionally than to miss a bunch with the gut-wrenching loads some guys use which eat up a Super Blackhawk in a single season. Incidentally, this combo is very flat shooting, just 8 clicks up total. Dead-flat-bottom chickens: + 2 pigs, + 2 turkeys, + 4 rams and chicks. These settings are identical with the S & W load. The S & W has been 100% on rams so far.

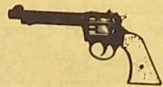
A great many other loads have come and gone: 240-260 cast with either 10 grains Unique or 20 grains 2400 give fine accuracy and plenty of power, and are not unpleasant in either the short or long barreled revolvers. 24 grain 2400 with the 200 grain Speer JHP is an excellent load in my HHI "Silverhawk" for varmints and hopefully someday, whitetails.

Powder is dropped through the very fine Pacific Pistol Powder Measure. If you're tired of weighing each charge and want speed with consistency, give this little jewel a try. It's rather inexpensive and few collets used with double or triple throws give the fine grained powders like 2400 and H110 accuracy well under .1 grains. Maybe an in-depth report on it later.

Tom Jr. still hasn't broken the seal on his #75 HHISB yet, but has been playing around with a 10" Super for experience. Looks like another .44 lover coming up!

Don't have one of J. D.'s hand cannon barrels yet, but have been using a 10" T/C in .30-30 with a 2X Leupold. All the best loads go into a 5" to 6" group out to beyond 150M. The Winchester 150 Silvertip (NOT 170) is flat on POA, from shooting the eyeball on a deer print at 25 yards on out to 6" steel discs at 200M. Sitting, rested across knees just doesn't seem to miss anything, and expands like gangbusters! Could be just the thing for those white-butt-goats out in the wide open spaces, range limited to 200M. Took it up to Michigan with the long delayed hunt in Pop's corner of the Park, but couldn't find horns again, so no successful report on venison in the freezer. Wouldn't trade those days in the woods with Dad for all the horns in Michigan, or the entire USA. A boy needs the time with nature and out with his Dad, even if the boy has just turned 40.

So I haven't been hibernating, Bud. Just getting ready to go out to bag that braggin' trophy anything. Maybe a boar this Spring, or a bear in the western June season, or the Wyoming trip with Ken . . . Colorado with Larry . . . I'll just be happy to chase squirrels with Tom Jr. . . . bust a chuck or two . . . and stroll the dunes and cedars with my Pop. It really doesn't matter all that much whether the meat pot boils. The inner trophies you can hang in your heart from the time spent with good companions and a handgun hanging on your side are all it really takes to be a successful HANDGUN HUNTER!



## FIRING LINE

I finally went and did it! I traded my Ruger 243 for a D.W. stainless 44 and it's all your fault. The gun might hit an elephant at 25 yards. No, I believe it to be a fine shooting iron. It has a fine trigger pull and I want to try it this fall on deer, and maybe go to Tellico Junction, TN and try it on one of those boars. Got the itch also to try shooting some of those steel critters.

Wanted to ask you if the 373 JDJ with 220 grain bullets could be used for silhouette. Could you fire it 40 yards with one hand or would you recommend some other caliber? I would like something to use for hunting and unlimited silhouette in 14" T/C.

Could you fix a barrel with Wichita sights and also use SSK scope mounts? I can't afford two barrels.

What about the 357 maximum for hunting? Sorry about all the questions but I think you know more about hunting and guns than anyone else.

The Ruger 243 was my last rifle! Want to swap my Ruger Sec. Six for R.S.B. 44 stainless! Do you like them in stainless? . . . Ray Price, Bristol, VA

ED: Blackie Sliva shot a 40 with his 375 the second time out. Iron rear sight and scope bases can easily be interchanged. The Wichita four step rear sight requires a lot of work to adapt to a T/C. The 357 Maximum is simply a hot 357. The SBH is available new only in stainless.

I would like to thank you and all the other members of HHI for the nice plaque I received for the 1982 Big Buck Contest. I would also like to thank Bob Gustafson for the T/C Super 14 in .35 Remington. This is the first T/C I've ever owned and it will be a very memorable piece in my gun collection. I hope you can continue to work with J.D. in the promotion of this great sport. . . . Handgun Jaeger, Mountain View, WY.

I just had to drop you a line and tell you how much I like the Glen Risser presentation case that I was so fortunate to have won. It's a work of art. I hope I can do as well this coming deer season. Thanks again. . . Larry DeBreto, Virginia, MN.

P.S. Would you happen to know where I can buy some (500 to 1000) 250 gr. SWC hard cast leads in .45 caliber? They are not easy to find. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

ED: I'd just look around for someone locally or a dealer who will order them. All dealers should be able to order them.

Concerning Joe Picariello's bear hunt to Maine, I'd like to inform Joe and all other prospective hunters going to Maine, be sure to check out your outfitter/guide carefully. I had a bad experience three years ago with Dick (Bobcat) Peters.

While we're on the subject of con artists, this world is full of taxidermists that are waiting to rip you off. If you'll recall, a few issues back I wrote about Texas trophies. That hunt took place in August of '81 and I haven't heard a word about my hog head from Heart of the Hills Taxidermy. Even after numerous calls and letters, at my own expense, to the guide I hunted with hasn't helped. Does it take 24 months to mount a wild boar? . . . Mark Hampton, Summersville, MO.

Please find enclosed check for one year's subscription renewal.

Just a note to let you know how much I enjoy THE SIXGUNNER. I probably spend more time reading and researching than I do hunting, but I'd rather hear of someone's hunting with a handgun (whom I don't know from Adam's house cat) than a nationally known writer (you know they are good). I enjoy hearing of any hunting trip, good or bad, equipment failure, muffed shots, and so on, but it just seems more personal from a "John Brown" that saved up his nickels and made a good hunt he enjoyed.

I'll probably never make it to Africa, but that is neither here nor there. I have used handguns on small game and varmints, but never on deer or bigger game. I carried a 6' 19 last year, but had imposed restrictions on myself because of what I carried and could hit. (35 yards 6") with power. Maybe I'm not what is considered a handgun hunter. I still consider revolvers and autos. I don't care for single shots but I know they can do a job when a revolver can't.

Ruger is rebuilding a used 44 Blackhawk for me and putting the conversion kit in it. While it is gone, I was considering more power from a 45 ACP revolver. I have two 1917 S & W triple locks 455 converted to fire 45 ACP and also a model 25 (five years old). Could any of these revolvers have the cylinder chambers reamed out to take 308 or 30-06 rifle brass with 45 bullets or is this off the wall or outrageously expensive? Rifle brass is stronger and thicker and would need the mouth reamed. I hate to load warm to get 200 grains lead going 1000 FPS. Just a thought.

Will close and load some 38 and 45 for PPC shoots this summer. Keep up the good work. . . . J. R. Daniels, Jr., Inman, SC.

ED: Those old triple locks (discontinued in 1915) in all probability are not heat treated. They were originally designed for 12-1400 cup loads.

Roy Jinks of S & W advises me rudimentarily neat treating on .44 caliber cylinders began in 1921. The 25-5 won't take it either. In addition, the special reamers, work and dies would make the job more expensive than a new 629 . . . JDJ.

Now for some bad news. This year the WV Department of Natural Resources pressed for a handgun hunting bill. It passed both houses of the legislature easily. This would have allowed large caliber hunting for all game. BUT, Gov. Jay "I can buy any office anytime" Rockefeller VETOED it. He said the State Police didn't want it. I talked to the State Police commander last year and he said the department did not oppose handgun hunting. So, Jay's full of it.

Publicize these facts. We have to spread the word about the kind of Governor we have. Anti-handgun, anti-hunting, PRO Jay. WV has kept its backward image, thanks to Jay.

Good luck in Africa. Wish I could go. . . Larry Rogers, Petersburg, WV.

J. D. Jones of Bloomingdale, OH was named this year's O.A.H. in Phoenix, AZ at the Phoenix Hilton. J. D. is founder of Handgun Hunters International, President of SSK Industries, and Past Chairman of the O.A.H.A. Foundation. His many firearm innovations include the J.D.J. line of hunting cartridges and cast bullet designs as well as the 41 Avenger, 1911 Colt conversion. J. D. has done hundreds of handgun articles and in 1981 won the International Long Range Free Pistol title.

Many handgun enthusiasts, celebrities and representatives from the firearms industry were on hand Saturday, May 7th for the 11th annual awards banquet, and to see J. D. receive his award, a handsome bronze statuette depicting a handgunner in the classic two-hand position. In addition to J. D., 1983 nominees included John Amber, currently editor emeritus for 'Gun Digest'; Massad Ayoob, author of several books in the gun field; John Bianchi of Bianchi Gun-leather Corporation; William Davis, DDS coach of pistol teams at Camp Perry; Elgin Gates, one of the founders and President of I.H.M.S.A.; Charlton Heston, actor, who contributed his time and talent to making a 30 minute film in support of the pro-gun position on Proposition 15 in California, and supported the No on 15 campaign; Dick Metcalf, handgun hunter, contributing editor to 'Shooting Times' and a legislative analyst/consultant, founder of the Pike-Adams Shooting Association; Roy Rogers who invested his national reputation as an actor in support of the shooting sports and handgunning. He has appeared in films, magazine ads and TV spots promoting the shooting/hunting tradition. He came out in opposition of Prop. 15; Hank Williams, Jr., handgun hunter, many of his records have shooting and hunting themes, contributed his time and talent to help defeat Prop. 15 in California.

Each nominee received a handgun as well as a commemorative plaque. Manufacturers taking part in the program were 'American Handgunner' Magazine, Bushnell, Charter Arms, Colt Firearms, Federal Cartridge Corp., Harrington & Richardson, J. B. Holden Co., Metalife Industries, O. F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc., Navy Arms Co., Northeast Industrial, Inc., Omak Industries, Pachmayr Grips, Penthouse Studios, Ron Power, Remington Arms, Second Chance Body Armor, Smith & Wesson, Inc., Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc., Thompson/Center Arms & Dan Wesson Arms, Inc.

Invocation was by Hal Swiggett, and guest speaker was Robert K. Corbin, Attorney General for the State of Arizona. The handsome bronze statue was awarded to J. D. by Joe Tartaro, Chairman of the O.A.H.A. Foundation, and President and Publisher of 'Gun Week'. Five Outstanding State Handgunners were selected this year. They were Richard I. Ulekowski of Illinois; John T. Pepper, Sr., of Maryland; Richard Rudman from Minnesota; Lt. Howard Deanto from New York; and Peter J. McCuskey of West Virginia. Past winners include Elmer Keith, Col. Charles Askins, William Ruger, Bill Jordan, Harlon Carter, Skeeter Skelton, Lee Jurras, Warren Carter, Steve Herrett and Hal Swiggett. Congratulations, J.D. . . . Barb Kelly, Mt. Clemens, MI.

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