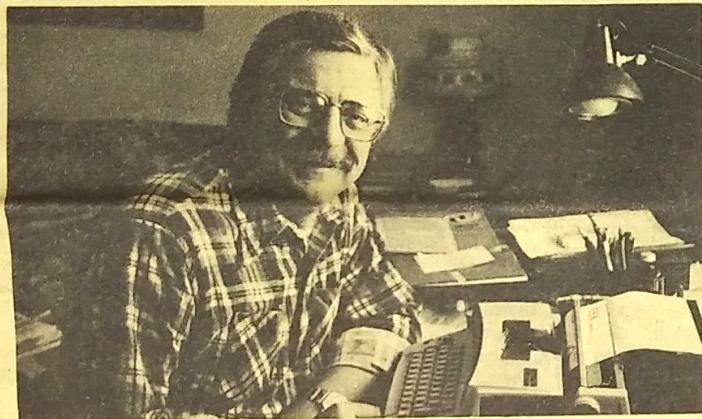




THE SIXGUNNER



MY CORNER

By J. D. Jones

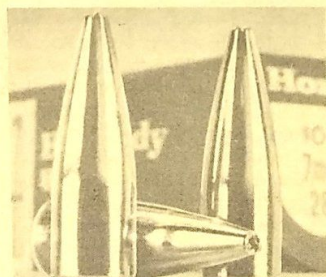
Charter HHI member Ed Wegrzynek sent me a sample front sight he makes for the Redhawk. This is without a doubt the best replacement front sight I've seen. Ed makes it from Sheffield tool steel hardened to about 53-55 RC. He then grinds it to fit the Redhawk barrel. After final inspection, the sight is bead blasted and blued to a matte finish. He only charges \$18 for it and won't get rich making them, but hopes to make shooting easier and more accurate for a few discriminating shooters. If you order, add a buck for postage. (P. O. Box 587, Grove City, PA 16127).

antelope hunt. One of the new and at that time experimental items we were shown was a 7MM 100 grain hollow point bullet. This corresponds roughly to the ever popular 87 grain 25 caliber bullets. Velocity increases attainable over the 120 grain 7MM bullets should be substantial. I would expect the 7 JDJ to exceed 2600 FPS with it. The bullet is designed to give reasonable performance from both rifles and pistols. It features Hornady's inner grooving for reliable expansion and weight retention. This new bullet brings Hornady's 7MM choices to 10 ranging in weight from 100 through 175 grains. It should be the best bullet going for the 7 TCU for varmint usage.



Redhawk sight.

About a year ago, Blackie Sliva, Dennis Kirkpatrick and I stopped at Hornady on the way to the HHI



Hornady's 100 grain 7MM.

(Continued On Page 2)



Mark, Craig and the tough buff on the skinning pad.

AFRICA DIARY

Mark Hampton, Summersville, MO

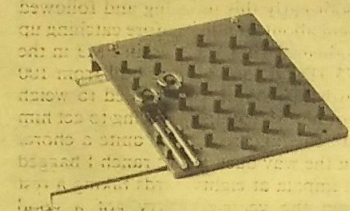
Getting ready for the HHI Hunt in Africa was an experience in itself. Its a miracle I didn't develop an ulcer worrying about every minor detail. Telling my wife we had to pack light went over like a lead balloon. I had to threaten to beat her half to death to keep her from taking every outfit she owned. But, we managed to make it to the airport without killing each other and flew to the Big Apple where we were to meet the rest of the gang. About an hour before departure we met J.D., John Reinhart and Larry Wise, bought a few bottles of snake bite tonic just in case and prepared myself for the fifteen hour flight. Ray Guarisco was missing due to Airline problems, but he met us later in Johnnsburg via London. Upon arriving in Joburg we were greeted by 3

South African HHI members who showed us the meaning of hospitality. We all appreciated their kindness. The next day we boarded our charter flight to Zimbabwe. After customs and a two hour plane ride we landed on a dirt runway at Nuanetsi where Don Price and staff were waiting for us. The HHI Hunt was about to begin and rather me giving you a long boring story, I thought I'd substitute a long boring diary instead.

After breakfast we all loaded the land cruiser with guns and ammunition and headed directly to the shooting range. Everyone wanted to make sure their guns were still shooting the way they had sighted in. After 15,000 miles of travel all guns were dead on. Most

(Continued On Page 3)

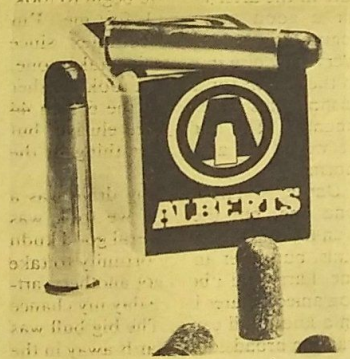
Lyman, as usual, has a couple of new items of interest. First, how about a \$25.00 lead thermometer calibrated from 200 to 1000 degrees in 10 degree increments! The 450 sizer/lubricator now has gas check seating capability. The new design assures consistent square seating of gas checks. The new unit can be purchased separately and will also work with RCBS sizers. Price — an amazing \$5.95. Lyman's Catalog is Free. (Rt. 147, Middlefield, CT 06455).



RCBS Shellholder Rack.

The GOOD OL' BOYS (in this case, RCBS) just outdid themselves with a handy little gadget called a shellholder rack. Lay it on the bench or mount it on a wall. It holds 33 shellholders either way and has a reference table incorporated into its design. Someone told me those guys were clever — they're going to sell it for eight bucks. It works, too!

I'll bet there are a substantial number of you deer hunting fanatics out there who have never heard of a magazine called "Deer and Deer Hunting". Well, it's been around quite a while and is very informative as well as entertaining. One year's subscription is \$15. (P. O. Box 1117, Appleton, WI 54912).



Alberts new swaged 45-70 bullet.

In case you didn't know, or forgot about it, Alberts Bullets (12-B Commerce Rd., Fairfield, NJ 07006) manufactures a very extensive line of swaged lead bullets in most pistol calibers as well as for the .45-70. They aren't designed to do Magnum duty but to provide a low cost alternative to jacketed bullets. I've found them good for 900-1000 FPS in most revolvers and auto pistols without excessive leading. They also have quite a lot of load data available and many of them are suitable for competition use.

A MOA single shot pistol recently came into the shop for a brake. It was chambered for the 350 Remington. I shot it both before and after installation of the Arrestor brake. In profile the gun resembles a single action. To load: cock the hammer, activate the safety, release the operating lever catch (if it works), operate the lever, hook little finger through the trigger guard and pull the action open fully, point it down, drop a round in, shake it till it falls in. Reverse the procedure. Fire. Open the gun, point it up and shake or

bang it until the case falls out. The extractor on this one did not appear to contact the case when it was activated. In short, this is the Champion Most Awkward To Use handgun I've ever used. Its grip is a stylized single action style that is way too big for my size 12 hand and has an excessive flare on the backstrap. On the positive side, it had a good trigger and appeared to be exceptionally strong. The action is a falling block. The trigger guard is very small and doesn't give much space to the trigger finger. No sweat on a 222 but on a heavy kicker, it can make you bleed. The 350 isn't much as far as something that really kicks, but both the trigger guard and flare at the butt hurt when I fired it. The brake tamed it considerably, giving zero muzzle rise and a substantial recoil reduction. The flared grip still hurt. The basic idea appears to have merit but unfortunately, its execution leaves a lot to be desired.

SOAP BOX TIME . . .

The NRA seems to get all of the good publicity it can muster. It seems to attack anyone or any organization that dares question it in any way very strongly and effectively. In some respects, I like that. In others, I feel in the long run its demonstrated power to crush any of its members or directors who question any of its attitudes, policies or procedures, unhealthy. I'm a life member of the NRA and wouldn't have it any other way. I strongly admire the organization's success and have promoted it whenever and wherever I can. We would all probably be without our guns, or hiding them, if it wasn't for the NRA. Still, in my experience, which I can readily document, the NRA has been of no help — and in fact, a hindrance — in effectively meeting some serious anti-gun threats.

For example: a few years ago, I was the first individual to go against Pete Shields and his extremely effective film "American Handgun Wars". I didn't intend it to be that way. I was in contact with the NRA some 30 to 45 days prior to the one hour TV show that was to be the film's debut. NRA reps assured me they would have a professional on the show who knew his stuff, as I was sure Pete Shields would be well prepared. To make a long sad story short — the NRA did absolutely nothing but lie to me. With very little warning, I was the first to meet this film. I obtained a script which I forwarded to the NRA.

On Monday morning, 10/24/83, I received a call from HHI member Victor Rivera of Milwaukee, WI advising me that a referendum of the general nature of "Prohibition of handguns in the city of Milwaukee" was going to be heard by the Common Council on the next day. Victor was doing his best to get something together to fight this undesirable legislation on very short notice.

Victor asked me if I felt contacting the NRA would do any good and if so, who could he contact. Frankly, I told him I felt contacting the NRA would be futile, but that since he had plenty to do, I would contact them personally and write up whatever occurred from first-hand knowledge.

I then called NRA ILA Director Warren Cassidy. He was too busy to talk. Would I like to leave my name and number? Does he return phone calls? Yes sir, may I inquire into the nature of the call? I strongly emphasized the possible importance of

the subject, the fact that immediate action had to be taken. She advised me that she doubted anything would be done as the Rep. in that area just got married and was on his honeymoon. I emphasized the importance again and that I would await Cassidy's call.

It's a damned good thing for me I didn't hold my breath waiting because he hasn't called yet! Late Tuesday morning, my office received a call from Mike Lashbrook of the ILA staff. I returned the call Tuesday afternoon; heard the lame excuses which didn't even sound very enthusiastic to me. He was interested enough to inquire about what happened, though. The most impressive excuse was that he tried to call and the ring sounded funny so he figured something was wrong with the WATTS line.

After thinking it over for a couple of days, I called Harlon Carter who, although he runs the outfit, isn't too busy to talk to me or even to return calls. It always seems that the higher you get in an organization, the more interested and conscientious the employees are. Harlon was definitely interested, and if anyone got an ass chewing for not doing their job . . . Thanks, Harlon! I'd like to think they know some of it was because of my call to you.

The upshot of the situation was that Victor, some Safari Club members and other spirited individuals with absolutely no NRA assistance showed, did their stuff and the resolution was referred to limbo-land and is now apparently dead.

Had the guys not done their stuff, there would have been a vote in April which just happens to be prior to the May Milwaukee NRA Convention.

When you go or read about the '84 NRA Convention and Handgunner Awards, remember that guys like Victor Rivera are the guys that make things happen, and without them, we wouldn't have the big organizations to let us down — of course, when they do — Vic and the guys will still be around to do the work the NRA and I suspect others claim the credit for.

Since Vic did his share and was interested enough to write it up for you, he gets his say — just the way he wrote it. No editing. Here it is:

DEATH OF A NATION

By Victor Rivera

On Tuesday, 10/25/83, the Milwaukee Common Council held a public hearing on a resolution authorizing an advisory referendum relating to prohibiting the sale of short barreled pistols and revolvers within the city of Milwaukee.

The vote tied 2-2 so the referendum was sent to the Council without recommendation to be voted on by the full council.

It is very important we look at the referendum and the tactics used by the anti-gunners closely or we might be fooled.

First, the radio station gave a date of 10/24 for the meeting. This was aired on 10/24 at 8:30 a.m. Important! It was played once the whole day at the mentioned time. I called the Common Council and was advised the meeting was to be held on Tuesday, 10/25 at 9:00 a.m. I called the radio station and talked to the reporter. She stated, "I screwed up. Are you sure about the date and time?" I responded "Yes." No correction was made by the station. **THEY LEFT THE PUBLIC MISINFORMED.**

Now the referendum itself. First, it's vague. It does not define short barrel.

Second, it implies crime will drop which is misleading. By implying a reduction in crime, it hopes to fool the people by playing on their fears.

It implies that the Supreme Court has upheld handgun control — this is not true — it was sent back to the state.

The IL State Supreme Court refused to hear the case, sending it to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court sent it back for the State to hear. This is not supporting the Morton Grove law but stating "We have a system — use it." The State must hear the case.

It refers to the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution as referring to the National Guard. (State Government).

This is wrong. The Guard is Government. The Constitution was written by the people for the people; not by the people for the Government.

It refers to the best interest of all citizens to control the unbridled proliferation of handguns which continue to inflict immeasurable pain and suffering.

It may sound fancy, but it's Bullshit. It says nothing about the criminal. It's playing on people's fears and their hopes to end crime.

The last paragraph is a joke with all the other lies ahead of it. What do you think?

City of Milwaukee Police Chief Harold A. Breier testified to the errors in the numbers used to reflect crime in the U.S. and how they were grossly inflated. He went on record against the Referendum advising those present we have enough laws and to use the ones we have.

This could spread like wildfire if not stopped now. The lies and tactics used can be applied anywhere, anytime. We must stop it before it's too late.

I want to thank JD and Larry Kelly for their help and support.

I find it unusual that there were no direct representatives of the NRA there. Safari Club International and other local groups were present but no one from the NRA. Is Milwaukee too small for them to worry about? (Morton Grove is smaller). Or have they given up the fight? Are they giving in to the loud mouths that would take our guns and empty our prisons while telling us how safe our streets will be; or how we need to register our guns so we can keep them from criminals and in the same breath scream that a felon's rights were violated because he is a felon he cannot have a gun, so forcing him to register one is a violation of his rights.

Who are these laws designed to protect? Who are writing them — the criminals?

Victor Rivera

* * *

ATTENTION NRA: If you care to answer Victor's question, I'll print your answer . . . **JDJ**

The Referendum by Ald. Voss follows:

Resolution authorizing an advisory referendum relating to prohibiting the sale of short-barreled revolvers and pistols within the City of Milwaukee.

— ANALYSIS —

This resolution authorizes an advisory referendum to be held in conjunction with the April 1984 election to

(Continued On Page 3)

ascertain whether residents of the city are in favor of prohibiting the sale of short-barreled revolvers and pistols in the city.

Whereas, In the United States, some 12,000 people are murdered annually with handguns and over 300,000 robberies, rapes, and assaults are committed every year with handguns, making handguns the most widely used weapon in the commission of crime; and

Whereas, Many communities across the nation have attempted to deal with handgun violence with a wide variety of handgun control legislation; and

Whereas, The U.S. Supreme Court recently upheld the constitutionality of handgun control ordinances; and

Whereas, The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution is not a guarantee to keep a firearm in one's home, and the "right" in the Amendment is limited to the arming of a "well-regulated militia," which today is represented by the National Guard; and

Whereas, It is in the best interest of all citizens to control the unbridled proliferation of handguns which continue to inflict immeasurable pain and suffering; and

Whereas, It is desirable to determine the opinion of residents in the City of Milwaukee on this crucial issue so that the problem can be properly addressed and resolved; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee that it hereby directs the placing of an advisory referendum on the April 1984 ballot relating to the sale of short-barreled revolvers and pistols with the City of Milwaukee; and, be it

Further Resolved, That the question shall be worded, "Are you in favor of prohibiting the sale of short-barreled revolvers and pistols in the City of Milwaukee?"



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

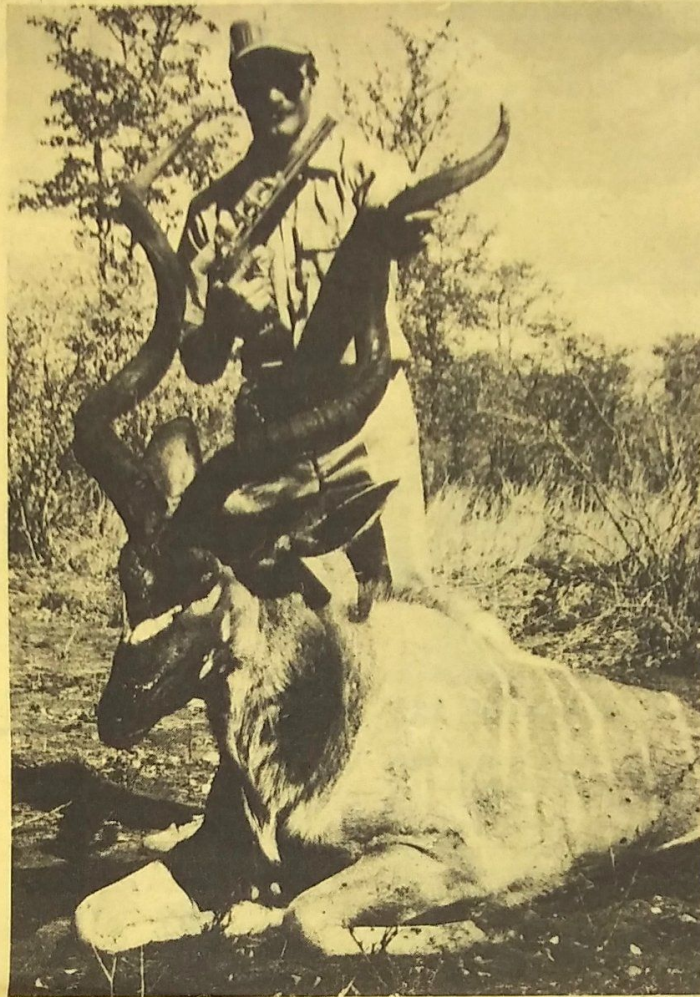
PUBLISHER & EDITOR
J. D. Jones

FIELD EDITORS
Phil Briggs
Larry Kelly
John Taffin
Bob Good

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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Kudu are magnificent trophy animals — all the more worthwhile when they don't come easy.

of us had sighted in at one hundred yards. After everyone shot enough to be satisfied, lunch was awaiting us back at camp. Kudu steaks, french fries and salad is not bad for being in the middle of nowhere. Afterward, my wife and I decided to take a stroll around camp while the rest of the crew took a siesta. During our short walk we saw several bushbuck, impala, monkeys, warthogs and a large baboon. Returning to camp we found everyone ready to take a scenic drive to get our adrenalin flowing as if we needed it. About an hour before dark we begin seeing several herds of eland, kudu, impala, giraffe, along with a few warthogs, bushbuck, and duikers. The abundance of game with the many different species is mind boggling to this Missouri boy.

Day 1 — Our first day of hunting found Larry Wise and I teamed up with our professional hunter Craig and three of his trackers. We began hunting along a river bed after Larry had won the toss for the first shot. The first animal encountered was a nice bushpig that Larry took with one shot from his 45-70 T/C. Five minutes later I took one using my 358 JDJ. Forty five minutes after that we jumped a small herd of waterbuck. A large bull was spotted and the stalk began. Trying to keep the wind in our favor was difficult. Finally an opportunity arose as the big waterbuck stood broadside at one hundred and fifty yards. I squeezed off a shot from the cremore position hitting the bull low in the chest. In the next two hours I learned how valuable a tracker can be. Eventually, I finished off the bull with my 6 inch customized Ruger 44 magnum. Sup-

porting 29½ inch horns with a 9½ inch base, this waterbuck qualifies for the SCI record book. After lunch, Larry popped a nice impala with one shot. Then, about an hour before dark we located a herd of wildebeest. Craig and I stalked the herd bull using an antihill to conceal our presence. From eighty yards I placed a 250 grain spear bullet right in the boiler room. Measuring 28 inches wide, the wildebeest made 5 trophies for 2 happy hunters.

Day 2 — Looking for sable, our day started off by following spoor a couple of miles without any luck. Moving to another area we spotted a few sable, but no good bulls in the bunch. A little while later we came upon a big herd of wildebeest. Craig and Larry slipped up within range of the largest bull and Larry busted him with a 400 grain spear from the 45-70. Afternoon came and found us looking for kudu. Many were found, but none big enough to warrant a stalk. Later in the evening I took a Zebra with the 375 JDJ. Just when I thought the day was over Craig motioned me over to the river bank where he was standing. There across the river about 150 yards was a leopard. I sat down quickly using my knees as a rest and lined the crosshairs up. Three shots later the cat disappeared into the reed grass. I was disappointed in myself to say the least.

Day 3 — We begin hunting this morning where we last saw the leopard. Walking up the river bed to our surprise we spot another leopard crossing ahead of us. Since my handgun was being carried by a tracker walking fifty yards behind, I grabbed a 30:06 from another tracker. An offhand shot proved unsuccessful as I watched the

second leopard in fifteen hours run off. After two chances like this, I don't deserve to display a leopard rug on my wall. The rest of the morning we followed three Eland bulls, but never got close enough for a shot. My wife got a chance to shoot an impala with Thompson Centers new single shot rifle. She connected on her first attempt from one hundred and twenty five yards. She is the first person to take a game animal with this rifle.

Day 4 — We picked up fresh eland spoor early this morning and followed them about 20 miles before catching up to them. Using a 300 grain FMJ in the 375 JDJ, I took a good bull from 100 yards. This bull was guessed to weigh around 1800 pounds. Trying to get him into the land rover was quite a chore. On the way back to the ranch I bagged an impala at eighty yards taking a rest from the vehicle. Larry got a good kudu bull early in the afternoon and I took a warthog running away from me with the 358. Just as the sun was about to go down Larry took an eland which made the second of the day with as many shots.

Day 5 — It was about 10:30 in the morning when we spotted a very small deer like animal laying down beside some bush. Craig looked through the binoculars and ordered me to shoot quick. As fast as possible I put the crosshairs behind his shoulder and squeezed. After the shot, Craig shook my hand and congratulated me for being the first person on the 1.6 million acre ranch ever to bag a gryshok. This small animal weighed every bit of 20 pounds and supported 1-3/4 inch horns. Craig informed me I was very lucky indeed to take such a trophy with a handgun. Late in the afternoon we begin to look for a good kudu bull for me. I'm beginning to get a complex since everybody else in camp has taken one. In the search for kudu, I took another bushpig this time using the 6 inch 44 magnum. The kudu were elusive, but we would try again first thing in the morning.

Day 6 — The morning drive was a long one, but the hike we took was even longer. We saw several good kudu bulls, but never an opportunity to take one. Larry and I both got another warthog apiece. Later in the day my chance on a kudu bull came. The big bull was walking broadside 75 yards away in the bush when I touched off a shot. He stumbled and took off into the bush. The trackers did a fantastic job of trailing the wounded animal, but 6 hours later the blood trail vanished and the bull mixed in with another herd of kudu. Now tracking that particular bull became almost impossible. The loss of this animal can be contributed to poor shot selection on my part.

Day 7 — We made our last attempt to find the kudu I wounded, but the morning search was in vain. After lunch we were sneaking down the river bed when a good bushbuck was spotted. Stalking the buck as close as twenty yards, I used the Super Blackhawk with 320 grain cast bullets to take him. A bushpig showed himself about a mile later. Karen, my wife, decided she wanted to try her luck at handgunning and bagged the pig using the Ruger. Tomorrow we begin hunting for Cape buffalo and I can't wait. I'm anxious to find out if all the stories I've heard are true.

Day 8 — Larry and I decided that he was to have first shot at buffalo. The area we were to hunt was an hours

(Continued On Page 4)

drive from camp and at 3:30 in the morning the topless land rover made for a cool ride. We were looking for buffalo on ranches that bordered National Park land. If we shot and wounded one and he made it to the Park land, we lose our animal and still have to pay the trophy fee. Even though Larry and I didn't want any rifle bullets in our buf we both understood the situation. Leaving the land rover shortly after daybreak we found spoor of two buffalo and followed them for about a mile. The bush was so thick I knew that our shots couldn't be over sixty yards at the most. We stalked the two bulls within shooting distance, but Larry couldn't get a good shot. The buffalo got wind of us and ran into the Park where they knew safety awaited them. Since buffalo hunting was a early morning affair our hunt was postponed until next morning. This afternoon I shot a hyena and just before dark I finally scored on a 51-1/2 inch kudu bull using a 45-70. Not only because they have given me a rough time, but the kudu is my favorite trophy due to their impressive horn configuration.

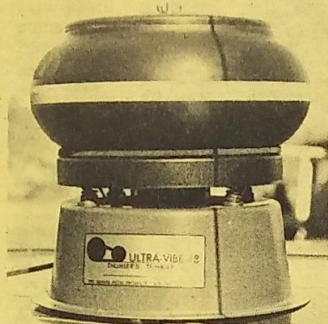
Day 9 — Leaving camp well before daylight again we started hunting the same place where we left off yesterday. Larry wanted me to have first shot this morning, so I loaded the 45-70 with 500 grain FMJ and cleaned the lens on the 2x leupold. We didn't walk a quarter of a mile and ran into a herd of about twenty. I sat down and got ready as they kept coming directly toward us. At forty yards the lead buffalo stopped and looked me right in the eye. He gave me one of those looks like he had just caught me in bed with his wife. I placed the crosshairs on his shoulder and tried to quit shaking. When the gun roared the buffalo stumbled and ran off with the rest of the herd. Craig told me to put the handgun down and take the 375 H&H rifle. "Now is when the fun begins," he said, making sure his 458 was ready. We caught up with the buffalo following a good blood trail, as the wounded animal was about two hundred yards away from the Park boundary. Craig told me we would have to finish him off before we got across the line. I put three 375 bullets in him as Craig dumped two 458's before the buffalo went down. It is amazing the amount of lead they can carry. My first shot from the 45-70 struck the buffalo high in the lungs. I wish this was the only bullet in him, but that's buffalo hunting for you. The rest of the day we spent taking pictures and just relaxing.

Day 10 — The last day of our hunt ended before it really got started. We were trying to find another buffalo for Larry when it started raining thus putting a stop to game movement. At this time of year it's unusual for it to rain in Zimbabwe, but when it does it lasts for a couple of days or more. Driving back to the ranch we were use to seeing a lot of game, but not today. We decided to dry off and take care of our guns and equipment that was exposed to the moisture.

When it was all over, but the crying, over half of the 67 trophies collected were eligible for the SCI Record Book. Hunting with guys I'd never met before went much smoother than you'd imagine. We got along great and I hope to hunt with these fellas again someday. Don Price and his staff were very professional in all aspects of the safari. Craig, my PH, was a hard working, ambitious young man that led us to the animals we were looking for. As for

the trackers, I won't even try to describe the job they performed for it wouldn't do them justice.

After this hunt I think I've caught a virus or something. Not exactly physical wise, but perhaps mentally. I daydream a lot, thinking back on the African experience, read everything I can about hunting the Dark Continent, and check my bank account periodically. African hunting can do strange things to people. If you decide to go be ready for it.



ULTRA VIBE 18

Case cleaning is a handloaders perennial problem. Handgunners use a lot of cases and burn a terrific amount of ammo. I think I've tried about everything that's been on the market that's looked worthwhile in the last 25 years and haven't been happy with any of them.

The Ultra Vibe has changed that. When I first saw it at the Shot Show last January I had to have one.

It's a bowl type cleaner built for heavy duty. Industrial motor and heavy enough to do the job. Very quiet too. You can load or even listen to the radio or TV in the same room with it operating. Time to clean cases depends on such factors as amount of dirt, discoloration, clean or polish to the lustre of a brass mirror, how many and how big are the cases, how old the media is and a few other factors influence it.

For example, with new media I fired a couple hundred 8-10 times fired without cleaning 45-70 cases in the hopper and let her rip. In 20 minutes they were as clean as my old machine would have had them in several hours. In 30 minutes they looked about like new brass cases and in an hour they looked like brass mirrors. With old media this time may be doubled or even tripled. I obtained a fair amount of collectors cartridges — some of the paper patched variety and cleaned them to a mirror finish without harming the paper.

I would guess capacity would be 700 45ACP cases with ease. It does the job better than anything I know of and is very competitively priced. This is one product I simply can't praise enough. See your dealer for a demonstration ride or write Al Thumler, Tru Square Metal Products, Auburn, WA 98002.

JDJ

COYOTE UGLY

Coyote ugly is ugly man, ugly! There is only one true test of whether or not a woman is Coyote Ugly. Just wake up some morning with her laying across your arm. If ya gnaw yer arm off to keep from waking her up so you can get away — that's Coyote Ugly!

OUTSTANDING AMERICAN HANDGUNNER AWARDS

The 12th annual awards dinner will be held Saturday, May 26, 1984 in Milwaukee, WI. The Awards are held in conjunction with the NRA convention. The Awards dinner is open to the public and you are cordially invited.

In 1983 an additional award category was added to include recognition of individuals by state.

Nominations for either the national or state award may be made in writing by anyone interested in fostering and preserving the traditions and sport of handgunning in America. All nominations are screened by an awards committee which selects the Top Ten nominees for the national award and the winners of the state awards. The winner of the Outstanding American Handgunner Award "is selected from the Top Ten immediately preceding the presentation of the award at the annual dinner."

The Awards Committee is primarily composed of directors of the foundation and former winners.

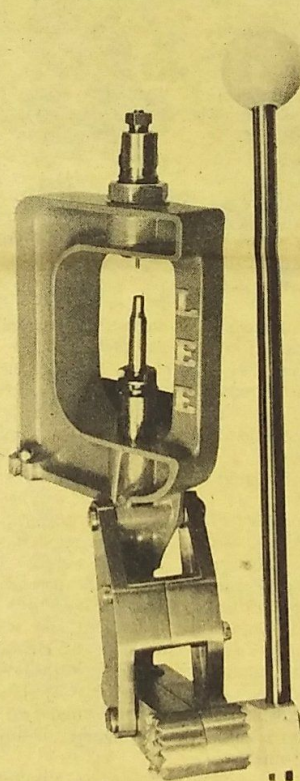
This is one of the few occasions when the public can get together for an

evening with notables from the field of handgunning — former winners, manufacturers, writers, designers. Dinner seating is open. Dinner tickets are \$35.00 per person.

Life, annual and club memberships in the non-profit foundation are available at \$150.00, \$15.00, and \$80.00 respectively. Membership includes a subscription to either Gun Week or American Handgunner magazines.

I urge you to give consideration to joining and to voicing an opinion of nominees. To nominate someone — simply send a letter outlining the persons contribution to the sport of handgunning along with that persons address and phone number (as well as yours) to OAHAF, P. O. Box 153, Station C, Buffalo, NY 14209. Send memberships to the same address.

Previous winners in order were Elmer Keith, Col. Charles Askins, William B. Ruger, Bill Jordan, Harlon B. Carter, Skeeter Skelton, Lee Jurras, Warren Center, Steve Herrett, Hal Swiggett and J. D. Jones.



CHALLENGER

The Lee 2001 Challenger is the first guaranteed unbreakable reloading press ever made. Even if you grossly misadjust the dies and try to break this press, it cannot be overstressed so it will not break or spring out of alignment. (Patent rights reserved). We are so positive that the user cannot break this press that it is guaranteed until the year 2001.

The Lee 2001 Challenger has a larger than average opening with a long 3-11/16" stroke and the best features of all other presses combined. Naturally, it has compound leverage for effortless full length sizing of the largest magnum cases and "O" frame design for the best strength at the

lowest cost. No other brand of press will size a case with less effort without a handle extension. The frame is offset 30 degrees for full vision, easy bullet starting and full access to the shell holder. It uses standard shell holders and 7/8-14 dies. A primer catcher that catches every single primer at the rear of the machine is included free. Of course, we used the adjustable lever that has won so much praise on the Lee Turret Press. It can be set to start and end the stroke whenever the user decides. The handle is offset and passes to the right of the press. This keeps the front open and gives a natural uncluttered feel when the level is up and ram down.

The handle swings past center on top to prevent accidental drop and there is no underswing so it can be flush mounted with the three mounting lugs. We added an even nicer feature by making the lever length adjustable and capped it with a hardwood ball. Now, if you are loading a large quantity of easy to size cases, you can quickly shorten the lever and save considerable hand motion on each case.

There are four optional priming methods. The two Lee hand priming tools or an economical ram primer that uses universal shell holders. The fourth and best primer is the new Auto-Prime II. This will no doubt become the reloader's favorite priming tool. It screws into any standard upright press. Primers are fed from a tray, not too unlike the Lee hand operated Auto Prime. It uses standard shell holders. The best part is the unmatched feel the user has of the primer touching home. You can prime just as fast as you can change cases and stroke the ram, because the primers feed by gravity automatically.

Like we said, "This press has the best features of all the "O" frame presses packed into one." The Lee 2001 Challenger will be available in the Spring. Price is expected to be in the mid-\$30 range.





“TWO & A HALF HOURS”

By Dr. A. N. De Villiers, South Africa

Saturday, the first day of October, 1983 was a great hunting day for me. My bag included one vlakvark (warthog), weight approximately 200 pounds, one jackal and one large kudu bull, weight approximately 700 pounds. These animals were taken before 9 a.m. the same day, with my favourite hand cannon — the 12.5” Mag-Na-Ported .375 JDJ hand cannon. Even two and a half hours in the bush can be a long story.

Living and working in Johannesburg, South Africa has advantages and disadvantages. The disadvantages being the difficulty we handgunners have in obtaining our weapons, ammunition and loading equipment. However, one of the great advantages is that big game is available not far away.

My favourite hunting farm at present is situated in Thabazimbi (Mountain of Iron). This farm is 250 kms or two and a half hours from my front door. This means that, with a weekend off starting lunchtime, on a Friday, it is possible to be in the bush hunting by 3:30 p.m., giving you approximately two and a half hours hunting on Friday, and a full day’s hunting on Saturday.

The Law in South Africa states that one may hunt all year round on a private game farm, if the farmer has fenced the farm with a game fence around its entire perimeter. Now all one needs is a permit from the farmer to transport the trophy and the meat. No further legal issues stand in your way.

On Friday, the 30th of September at 4:30 p.m., we started out. The bush was beautiful and green, and the grass was beginning to grow despite the severe drought. The farm had had 16 mm of rain only two weeks before. The farm is divided into game camps of which there are approximately 18. Our camp was 24 square miles in size and the bush varied from dense bush to open grassland and numerous dry river beds coursing through the whole territory.

During our two hour walk, we saw waterbuck, bushbuck, impala, warthog and sable. Although I was keen to open my account, I passed up a few opportunities, hoping for better ones. Being limited to one pig, one impala, and one kudu, I was determined to have three perfect shots.

Eventually we returned to camp, empty handed but extremely confident. I had seen two herds of kudu, and although no bulls were seen, just being able to spot them in this dense bush was promising enough. Kudus are large antelope, up to 750 pounds in weight, which, despite their size, are extremely hard to spot unless they move, and by then, it is usually too late. The bush we were in had been hunted in almost continuously for the last season, since the 1st of May.

Saturday morning found me in the bush before sun-up, having force-fed myself with litres of water and a pinch of salt to ensure myself against overheating. The outside temperature at noon was expected to reach between 38 to 40 degrees celsius. With two pairs of experienced eyes, my tracker, a 50-year-old African named Petrus, and my young brother-in-law, Neil, who grew up in the Messina bush, we set off. I recommended the *De Villiers Technique No. 1 . . . This technique can only be followed if the wind is blowing correctly, i.e., into your face. The very early mornings in the bush are very seldom accompanied by any wind. However, if the wind does start blowing, this is an added bonus. Early on, we were lucky as the wind started to rise. 7 a.m. saw us discarding all our clothes, apart from our hunting waistcoats. Moving stealthily and silently through the bush, we had a number of opportunities to watch Sable antelope, bushbuck and Waterbuck. Unfortunately, I had to stick to my order of one pig, one Kudu and one impala.

After a while, the wind really started to pick up, which pleased us immensely. We started moving into the wind fairly rapidly. Coming up the side of a dry wash with our eyes at the level of the grass, above us we spotted a single large warthog with a good pair of tusks. Warthogs are easy game for a hand gunner. Their eyesight is poor, and when the wind is blowing strongly in your favour, they are unlikely to spot you unless you move while they are looking directly at you. With the conditions being perfect, I inched forward slowly and whenever the pig lifted his head to look around, I froze. Luckily the wind was still blowing strongly and I managed to advance a couple of yards until my position was perfect. Sitting amongst dead thorn

tree branches with my dull red cap and my HHI logo, I knew there was no way the colourblind hog would see me. In the meantime, the pig had moved into a clearing and I slowly sank down into my shooting position, which is flat on my back, head up and my SSK hand cannon clamped between my knees. At this stage, the pig was slightly oblique and angling away from me, so I squeezed off a shot, aiming behind the elbow to go through the heart and out the other shoulder. As the bullet struck the pig, it took off, crashing blindly through the bush. I knew he was dead on his feet. His death dash went in a full circle and then came charging towards us, knocking into trees and bushes, approximately three metres away from us, he dropped onto his side, twitched, and remained still. What never ceases to amaze me is how an animal can take a 270 grain 375 round nose at approximately 2,000 feet per second, through the lungs, heart and shoulder, and still run 150 to 200 metres flat out. I was delighted at the size of the boar and the good tusks, so I took a few happy snaps. My tracker, however, was not interested in the pig which he thought was no great challenge, and was urging us to press on. We carried the pig into the shade and were then on our way again.

The bush was absolutely teeming with game, and between the three of us, our senses were becoming much sharper and we found we were spotting a lot more game unnoticed than we had been doing earlier. At one stage, I saw the neck of a large Kudu bull about 40 metres away in very dense bush. I alerted the other two and we froze. The Kudu had not seen us. Thick branches and logs were scattered around on the ground, making silent movement impossible. Immobile, we stood watching the Kudu until others appeared. Unfortunately, it was impossible to get into a reasonable enough position for a perfect shot. The Kudu were just over a rise, and whenever I saw down to get into my rock steady position, the Kudu were out of sight. The bush was so thick that I could not even see which one was a bull, because their horns blended in with the branches. Eventually, with all three of us trying to spot the curly tell-tale horns, one of them must have seen us and gave a shrill warning bark. Within seconds, they had all filtered away through the bush.

Once the Kudus moved off, I decided to try and circle round and find them again. Now my nerves were really on edge, and I decided to move even more slowly, since our quarry was now alert. After another 50 minutes of creeping, my nerves were really shot. Occasionally a rabbit or pheasant burst from the bush near me, and my heart nearly stopped beating from fright. We were just about to take a break when Neil spotted a jackal. He urged me to shoot it for him for the skin, and also because the farmer had asked us to, to help rid him of them, as they were taking the young impalas within a few days of their birth. The jackal had not seen us and was trotting down the edge of a dry river bed away from us. I quickly ran into the river bed, lay down with my head against a log, SSK hand cannon in hand, quickly picking him up on my scope. My check points flashed through my mind — distance approximately 200 metres, adjustment, aim 4” above the point of impact, movement (obliquely away, adjustment required), lead slightly ahead,

instead of leading ahead, I decided to try another of my favourite tricks, a long soft whistle. This brought the jackal on an immediate standstill, and I slowly squeezed off a shot. As the shot sounded, three things happened instantaneously . . .

[1] The jackal dropped dead.

[2] Neil jumped up to see his trophy.

[3] 600 metres away straight down the dry river bed in which I was lying, two big Kudu bulls burst out of the bush on the left side of the river bed, crossed the dry river and entered the bush on my right. During this time, all three of us had remained frozen. The Kudus had not appeared to have noticed us so that my chances of surprising them was still good.

The Kudus had run into a small triangular clump of bush which had its apex facing towards me. On the left was the dry river bed continuing past this bush, and on the right, running parallel to us was a second dry river bed. This meant that unless the Kudus stayed exactly where they were, they would be in the open the minute they left this bush. Judging by the angle the Kudus had taken while entering this small clump of bush and trees, I assessed that their most likely route would be to pass out of the bush into the river bed which was running parallel to the one I was now in. Between myself and the triangular area of bush, two trees grew out of the river bank, I made a hundred yard dash to the back of the closest tree, and sat down. From here, I carefully checked the area where I had decided the Kudus would leave from. No movement.

“NOTHING”. Because of the absence of movement and the fact that the wind had now started to blow towards me, I decided to risk creeping up to the closer tree. This tree had numerous small bushes underneath it which were now lying in the shade, which suited me even better. By this time, Neil had joined me and I positioned myself perfectly for a shot should the Kudus emerge from the bush we were carefully scanning. Nothing had moved or happened since the Kudus had entered the bush. Our eyes and ears were now straining for the slightest sight or sound of them, such as the twitching of an ear or tail. We sat and waited for what felt like hours. Had the Kudu moved directly away from our position back into the thick bush without us seeing them? Still we waited, watched and listened. Suddenly we saw a flicker of movement, approximately three metres in the bush, about 250 metres away from us, slightly to our right. Checking through my scope, I saw them. At this distance, they looked extremely small and indistinct due to the shadows cast by the trees. Knowing how tough they were, could I afford the chance of an imperfect shot? That could mean walking for many hours after a disappearing blood trail, so I waited.

Tension was mounting. The tracker was sitting in original dry river bed with the sun beating down on him unmercifully. Was it going to be soon, or were we going to lose them again? I waited, my heart pounding and my hands sweating. I remembered many stories told to me about perfect shots at Kudus, which had ended up with the Kudu disappearing into thick bush and not being found. Neil was urging me to shoot before they moved off and we lost them again. Luckily, the large bull turned to face us at that moment, the details of his horns lost in the branches

(Continued on Page 6)

and his right shoulder virtually touching the tree trunk.

Would my 270 grain round nose do the job at this distance with a 600 pound Kudu? I had set my scope to 0 at 100 metres. How far would it drop at 200 metres with a medium charge of powder and a mild to moderate breeze blowing from my left to right? Still Neil urged me to stop contemplating and shoot.

Making all my adjustments, I squeezed off a shot, the scope hairs solid on the base of the neck, and slightly over to the left to allow for the wind blowing from my left to right. The shot "felt" perfect. The sound of the impact "thwack" was unmistakable — the antelope gave a little hop and ducked back into the bush. My heart sank. Was it a poor shot? Will we be tracking it for hours and perhaps not find it? Meanwhile, Neil was ecstatic — he was convinced he could hear the Kudu crashing into the trees, and he thought it was about to go down. We immediately ran to the tree next to where it had stood and looked for spoor or signs of blood. We soon found the spoor and started to follow it. No blood. Fifteen metres away, a large scratch mark on the ground indicated that it had slipped or dragged its foot. Normally, a sure footed antelope such as a Kudu never slips on dry ground. This itself was a good sign . . . he was coming down. We looked very carefully at this sight for blood — still nothing. A second drag mark was seen. Suddenly, an unnatural colour caught my eye, and I looked up. There lay a beautiful sight, a large, dead Kudu. Immediate excitement! My tracker, Petrus, was ecstatic as this was the third time and the third day that he had tracked for me. The previous occasions had been unrewarding and nobody was as excited as I was! Out came the camera. After taking numerous photos of the Kudu with all three of us taking turns posing with it, our thoughts turned to the dead jackal we had forgotten about in the excitement. The time now was 8:50 a.m., and we still had a whole day of hunting time left.

Best regards to J. D. Jones, Mark Hampton of Summerville, MO and Ray Guarisco of Morgan City, L.A.

Good Shooting . . .

*De Villiers Technique No. 1 states that any area to be hunted in, you should be positioned in before dawn at a spot so that when you start walking when the sun rises, you have the sun behind you so that the game would be looking into the sun (wind direction permitting, of course). Furthermore, you should look for a dry river bed or any depression, so that the ground you are scanning is at eye level, and if you do spot anything, you can easily duck out of sight. You should move only short distances at a time and stop in the shade of bushes and trees, if available. Stop for at least five minutes at a time. Always walk into the wind — don't talk or make quick movements, such as swatting flies. Don't rush, or wear aftershave or deodorant while hunting.

LOSS WINNER

John R. Oswald's story "DOG GONE" has earned him 500 cast lead bullets of his choice as recently announced by John R. Musacchio, president of Ohio Shooters' Supply. Congratulations, John!

(Continued on Page 12)



DE-LEADING TOOL

Clymer Mfg. Co. (14241 W 11 Mile Rd. Oak Park, MI 48237) is known as a specialty manufacturer of various tools such as reamers for the firearms industry.

Max, Clymer, that is, recently sent a sample of his new de-leading tool for revolvers. It's available in just about any caliber, but 38 wadcutters are noted for cylinder leading. While I don't use many 38 wadcutters I do have a couple old Colt Match Targets that I use exclusively with wadcutters. Neither were very dirty, but I was surprised at the amount of lead the Clymer tool cut out of the chambers. The tool worked just like Max's letter said it would. Obviously, he had used it before he started making it for sale to the public. That in itself, much less the manufacture of a high quality, useful product at an affordable price is getting to be unusual these days.

The tool sells for \$22 and a "T" handle to operate it is \$10.50. Throw in a couple bucks postage if you order one. JDJ

YOUR STORIES WANTED

ANOTHER VICTORY FOR THE SPORTSMAN

TUCSON, ARIZONA — The Safari Club International is pleased to report that it was instrumental once again in securing another victory for the American Sportsman — this time with H.R. 2379 — The National Park Boundary Act.

During the House of Representatives' consideration of H.R. 2379, Congressman Austin Murphy (D-PA) offered an amendment on behalf of SCI and the NRA to protect hunting opportunities where they presently occur on lands near national parks. The amendment was adopted virtually unanimously by a voice vote.

"This amendment was absolutely critical," commented SCI President Sam Borsellino. "Without it, this legislation was looming to impose potentially limitless Federal non-hunting buffer zones in areas where hunting has traditionally and lawfully occurred."

(Continued In Next Column)

HHI JANUARY TEXAS SHEEP HUNT

The HHI January hunt will take place on the famous historic Y-O and Rocky Top ranches beginning 1/15. CORSICAN sheep are the quarry and each hunter will take a maximum of six.

Originally there was a lot of interest and the hunt filled up fast; however, due to some recent and justified

cancellations we have room for three more hunters. The cost is very minimal and will only be given by phone.

Both the Y-O and Texotic Wildlife are offering this special hunt to HHI in order to promote handgun hunting. If you are interested in this hunt call 614-264-0176 for details.

HHI BIG BUCK

T/C is again furnishing first prize in the HHI Big Buck contest. A prize is offered in each division — Whitetail or Mule deer. Serial numbers will be HHIW and HHIM plus 1983. Caliber will be the winners choice of anything T/C chambers.

GLENN RISSER CUSTOM WOODCRAFT (Rd. 5, Box 1750, Lebanon, PA 17042) last year furnished second prizes. Glenn voluntarily came through this year with second prizes. Glenn's custom presentation pistol boxes are an industry standard for presentation and collectors guns. Second prizes are custom pistol boxes

from Glenn. Just tell him what handgun you want it to fit or if you want a universal box. Course you have to win it first. Write for a brochure if you are interested. As a Christmas hint — Glenn makes some of the finest jewelry cases I've seen.

Rules of the contest. Safari Club International scoring method. Harvest the deer legally with a handgun during the 1983 deer season. Enter it in the contest. Call 614-264-0176 for information on how to find a scorer if you have a problem. Contest is open to current HHI members only.

HHI AUSTRALIA???

HHI has been offered an unusual hunt in Australia in June of 84. Basically it would be a super varmint hunt of seven days with boar and kangaroo a-plenty. Figure on shooting up to 100 rounds a day. Fox and millions of rabbits also available, but not really counted in the 100 round a day figure.

Trophy goat hunting will also be available. This should be a wild experience with shooting unmatched anywhere in the world. It's also legal to shoot at night. Reloading equipment will be available in camp.

I figure a day or so layover in Hawaii

on the way over, a day or so in Sidney and a couple of days in Tahiti on the way back to rest up from all of the exertion.

\$4,500 should cover it from the west coast back to the west coast. It's possible to add a week for Australian water buffalo and bag two for an additional three grand. Time is short to set this one up and we need six hunters to assure the price. If you are interested get in touch quickly.

After looking over the information, I'm convinced it would be a super good time! Call 614-264-0176.

ANOTHER VICTORY (Con't.)

"I am very proud that we were able to demonstrate so convincingly to the Members of Congress that contrary to the consistent claims by the supporters of H.R. 2379, the bill did contain inherent dangers to this country's grand hunting traditions," stated Borsellino.

"I wish to thank publicly Congressman Austin Murphy for his leadership on behalf of the American hunter," continued Borsellino. "He has proven time and time again to be a true friend of the sportsman."

SCI was formed to represent the sportsman/conservationist throughout the world and to assist wildlife conservation by supporting worthwhile management and research projects.

HHI AFRICA 1984

Everything is set for the African hunt except the date and a few minor details. The hunt will be at Nuanetsi and will be a repeat of the 1983 hunt in essence.

The dates are not finalized and may not be until Don is in the States in February. The hunt will occur in either July or August as it stands now.

We have space for two hunters at this time and no cancellations are expected. All I can say, is that it's the experience of a lifetime and won't be around forever. Do it now or you may never get to do it at all. This is a fantastic hunt. You're invited! Bring your loudenboomer. Call for further information.

THE Shooters' Accessory Box from MTM

At last, an equipment box designed to hold all of the gear you normally take to the range: gun cleaning accessories, reloading equipment, tools, ammo and components, spotting scope, hearing protectors, shooting glasses . . . and just about anything else you may need.

There's even a cavity for a spotting scope mounting-rod (not included).

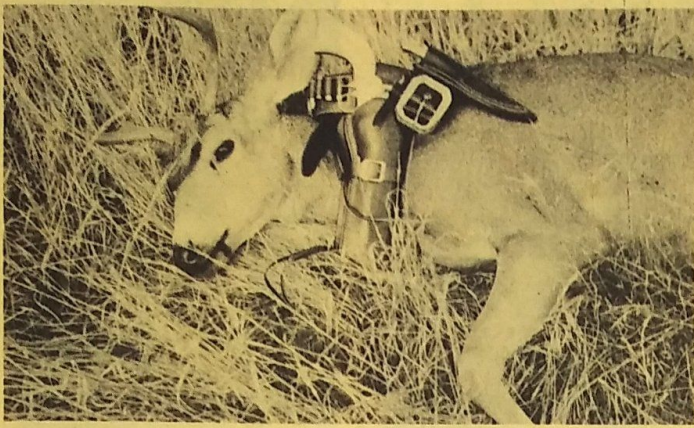
MTM's Equipment Box measures a full 21" x 9" x 9 1/2". Construction is of rugged polypropylene, with metal hinge and latches.

Add \$.75 to any order sent the company, to cover handling and postage. For complete data on THE Shooters' Equipment Box, see your local MTM Dealer, or send for Free catalog.

MTM Moulded Products Company
5680 Webster Street • Dayton, Ohio 45414

\$28.83





CALIFORNIA BLACKTAIL

By Del Roberts,
Hawthorne, CA

Just a few lines to let you know I'm still alive. I took my HHI Sixgun out to get it's first blood. If you didn't know, California has recently made it legal to hunt deer with a handgun. This is thanks to the new Director of Fish and Game, Don Carper. I have known him since 1958 and he is a true sportsman. He does not hunt with a handgun himself, but thinks those who want to should have that privilege. He is one hell of a man.

To get back to my hunt. The deer season opened on September 24. On the 22nd I drove up to the ranch to look around. I got all settled in camp and fixed dinner then had a good nights rest. The next day, I started scouting around the ranch. This is mostly 4-wheel drive country with a few dirt roads.

In an area called "the nursery", I spotted two bucks and a doe just before noon. One was a real nice fork horn with one fork a little bigger than the other. I made up my mind this would be my first California deer with a handgun. I went back to camp for lunch and then looked around the ranch some more.

Around 5:30 I spotted the little buck in another area of "the nursery". I just sat and watched him for a while and said you're sure going to look good hanging on my office wall. Back at camp I fixed dinner, checked my gun and ammo, then went to bed. Well, I couldn't sleep. I kept seeing that little blacktail buck.

After an almost sleepless night it was time to head back to the hills. Before sun-up I was on top of the hill about 3500 feet above sea level. I sat in a fog for about 2 hours before the sun burnt it off enough to see to hunt. I checked the areas I had spotted the deer in the day before. Not a sign of anything. I spent most of the morning scouting around the area and still hunting the deer trails. Around noon I spotted him grazing in a small meadow about sixty yards away. I said, "Now I got you". I put the sights just below the shoulder and fired, fully expecting the 200 grain Hornady hollow point ahead of 22 grains of 2400 and 350 CCI Mag primer to put him down right there. Well, you never saw a deer move so fast! Before I could shoot again he was in the brush. I looked for signs of blood, nothing. How could I have missed? It was a perfect shot. I have been shooting this load for months. The only thing I changed was the cases. I was hunting with Federal cases and had been using Western cases. I don't think that would make much dif-

ference. I could not find any signs of a hit anywhere.

Well, I said to myself, you'd better get out of here and check this gun. So down the hill I went to my truck and drove to the other side of the ranch where there is a big open flat full of ground squirrels. I sat down on a small bank and picked a squirrel about 50 yards out and let one go. To my surprise the shot hit about a foot and a half low. Then I looked around and spotted a rock about 12 to 14" across and about sixty yards out. The first shot was right in line, but about 1-1/2' low. After raising the sights, I fired another shot. I was still low, but right in line. I raised the sights two more clicks and fired one more shot — dead center. I fired two more shots to be sure. A ground squirrel stuck his head up about five yards past the rock. Taking a bead on his head and taking my time I fired. Nothing moved so I walked down to where the squirrel was, stopping to check the rock. All three shots looked real good so I started to look for the squirrel. Walking over to where I thought he should be, I stopped; and looking down about three inches from the end of my boot was a coiled up rattlesnake with his head looking right at me. I could not move. I still had my gun in my hand and aimed at his head and fired. At the shot the snake flew up in front of my face and I just knew that warm liquid running down my leg had to be venom.

Standing there looking down, I saw the head of the snake was blown clean off and his body; cut into three pieces. The warm liquid running down my leg was not venom. You got it; wet my pants. I spend the rest of the weekend looking for my buck with no luck.

Back at work I couldn't wait for Friday to come so I could go back to the ranch. Wednesday it started to rain and rained right through Thursday. Friday when I got up the sun was shining. I could hardly wait til 3:00 when I could leave. Three o'clock finally rolled around, I got in my Scout and headed for the ranch. About halfway there it started to rain. When I got to the ranch the roads were so muddy I could not get back to camp. I put on a heavy coat and rubber boots and walked to the area I had last seen the little blacktail. While I was climbing up the side of a canyon it started to rain again. When I got to the top guess who was the only dummy out in the rain and cold. Well, I'll tell you it wasn't the deer or any other wildlife. Soaking wet, I worked my way back down the canyon to my truck and went home.

The following week it rained on and off. Thursday it started to clear up and by Friday noon the sun was out hot and bright. Three o'clock Friday afternoon I was again in my truck heading for the ranch. I got there about 4:30 and dropped off my gear at camp and headed off for the canyon at the back of the hill and there was my little blacktail with the odd size horns. He was standing on the crest of the hill with his head in an oak tree. He was about 65-70 yards away. I aimed for the k-zone just behind the shoulder and squeezed one off. At the shot he made a little jump and went behind the oak tree. I waited for a few minutes then walked up to the tree and looked over the crest of the hill and there looking right at me stood this little buck.

I ran into the brush and down the hill across the canyon and started up the other side. He was too far away to get a clean shot through the brush, so I started working my way down the side of the hill and lost track of him. After about a half-hour I got to thinking maybe he doubled back on me. He had done it before. I kept wondering why there was no blood trail. I knew I hit him. I could hear the thud and saw the little telltale jump of a hard hit.

Well, I went back where I had last seen him and there, not ten yards from where I had shot him, there he lay. Going from where I shot him to where he lay, I realized the deer I had been looking at in the canyon was not him. I learned a big lesson. Before you run, look around real good if you lose sight of your wounded animal. The shot was right where I had aimed. Went in the right side breaking one rib, cut the liver in half and exited between the ribs on the left side.

I guess it goes without saying that I was very happy. He was not the biggest deer I have seen on the ranch, but this is the first legal buck killed with a handgun on this ranch. By the way, he dressed out to 130 pounds, not bad for a little forkhorn. I am enclosing a picture of him and my HHI outfit. I am very pleased with both of them. Thanks again for having these guns made.

BUDGET BLASTER

By Bud McDonald, Lakewood, CO

I'd had all I could stand! Why should Phil Briggs have all the fun with those XP's of his? Finally I made a trade for a brand new XP100 in 7mm BR. Taking Phil's advice, I immediately got Dan Dowling (303-422-6884) of Arvada, CO to ream it out to 7mm 08. He added an extra touch by stamping out the "7mm BR" and tastefully putting "7mm/08" in scroll on the barrel. A set of Burris rings and mounts were added and an old 3X Burris I had laying around was screwed on. After ordering and receiving a set of dies, I found that there were no 7mm 08 brass to be had! Dan suggested I just neck down 308 brass, so four boxes of 308's later turned out to be four boxes of 7mm/08's. Later I found I'd saved \$3.00 a box by going to the 308's. The necked down 308's are .020 of an inch shorter than normal 7/08, but two firings brought them right up to factory 7/08 length without any trimming.

Having used a T/C for five years, I

wasn't used to the trigger on the XP. It's amazingly versatile in its adjustments. I got it to my 2-1/2 pound preference and was ready for the range.

September 24, 1983 found my XP and me in Wyoming with a doe antelope tag to try it out on. A couple of hours on a prairie dog town showed me this budget blaster was everything Phil said it was. Anything I could see with the limited power of the 3X was in a heap of trouble. My fire form load of 40.5 gr. of 4895 under a 120 gr. Sierra smoked those little targets all the way out to 250 yards. One thing comes to mind immediately which I'd never encountered with any handgun before. I could see the hit (or miss) through the scope before recoil wiped out my sight picture. That's quick in my book! Several jacks were kicked out while stepping off distance to the splattered dogs. These were quickly dispatched using a day pack on sage brush rest. At all distances I could see a target, all I did was hold dead on. This little project was starting to exceed all my expectation already! The proof of the pudding turned out to be the 'lope.

Steve Hockman helped me locate a likely candidate for the test. If you've hunted in Wyoming, you know how hard that can be! It went something like this . . . "Bud, ya wanna go try that XP on your doe now?" says Steve. "Might as well," I replied. "You want to pop one of these around camp, or ya want to act like we're trophy hunting and ride around in the truck?" Steve asked. "Well, we don't want a gut pile too close to camp, so we'd better hop in the truck," says I.

We drive every bit of 300 yards before we're in the midst of 100-plus antelope. They are from 50 yards to 1000 yards away. Like to try one of these closer ones with my 5" 44 SBH but this was a test for the XP. Select a large doe about 150 yards off. Aim for a spot just behind and three inches high behind the front shoulder. Slight pressure on the trigger and the hunting load of 43.0 grains of 4895 under the 120 grain Sierra is on its way. A great cloud of dust rolls up behind the doe and Steve says "Damn! Ya shot high!" I think "How can I shoot high when the same hold was smoking dogs at the same distance?" The doe runs off with the herd for 50 yards or so, stumbles, goes down and my 'lope hunt is over. "Lung shot" Steve says. We step it off at 135 yards and find that the bullet entered between a rib but hit one on the way out. A high lung shot that ruined no meat at all . . .

I'm very happy with my budget blaster. I'd say it's a little too much recoil for your average day on a prairie dog town (100-plus shots), but 40 to 50 rounds bothered me not at all. Fajan's wood stock would probably tame some, plus extra weight up front would help, but we're not talking heavy recoil as with a 35 Remington or 357 Herrett. I've made plans to replace the 3X with Burris' 7X this Spring for some serious Rockchuck shooting. Fajan's wood thumbhole stock will be put on it someday, but right now, as is, the stock factory XP with its 15" barrel re-chambered to 7mm/08 is one hell of a handgun! Useful for gophers on up the line to mulies.

Go build yourself a budget blaster . . . you'll be glad ya did! ! !

Editor's Note: Some budget blasters work out — others don't! Not all 7 BR chambers fully clean up when reamed

(Continued On Page 13)

Getting Started in Bullet Casting

By John Taffin

A number of people, both personally and through THE SIXGUNNER have asked for information on bullet casting. In the October issue, Alan Jaeger asked that both Paco Kelly and I do an article on casting, so here goes my part. I'm sure Paco will also rise to the occasion.

From the very outset, realize that casting bullets is not difficult, nor is it necessary to spend a great deal of money, at least to get started. A minimum investment of around \$30.00 will get things off the ground. This would purchase a Lee mould with handles, a cast iron pot for melting bullet metal, a dipper, and something to push bullets through for sizing. Basically this is the way I started in 1957, although I've added hundreds of dollars worth of equipment since.

Realize by starting with only the very minimum basics, that casting will be a time consuming process. But, at least one finds out if casting bullets is worthwhile without putting out a lot of money.

My first efforts were over the kitchen range. Best have an understanding family as both the range and surrounding area will wind up with lead splashes. Gas works great, electric requires a shallow flat bottomed pan to gain full advantage of the heat. A small cast iron melting pot will suffice for a gas heat source, and an old cast iron skillet will do the trick with an electric range. Either of these can be picked up at garage sales or second hand stores for a couple of bucks. Simply place bullet metal in the pot, turn on the heat and wait until the metal has passed through the molten thick stage to a thin consistency. Good ventilation is essential as lead fumes are toxic. A dipper such as sold by Lyman or RCBS is necessary to transfer metal from pot to mould or you could use a small ladle.

After a good supply of bullets has been cast, they must be sized and lubed. Bullets come from the mould over-size, and this will vary according to the composition of the bullet metal. Therefore they must be "sized", that is swaged down to the correct diameter and "lubed", that is grease packed into the lubrication grooves before loading. The cheapest, and also the slowest messiest, method is to place the bullets base down in a pie tin, then melt lube and pour around the bullets allowing it to harden.

The next step is to cut the bullets out using an aluminum tube or cartridge case of proper size with the base cut off. The "cake cutter" is placed over each bullet in succession and the cut out bullets come out through the top, lubed and ready to be sized. Messy, but it works.

A local machine shop can probably provide a 2-3" piece of pipe of the proper inside diameter. Place it in a vise vertically and start punching the bullets through using a mallet and a wooden dowel. Make sure a pad is provided for them to fall upon. Lyman used to sell "Kate-Kutters" and hand sizing dies, but I don't believe they catalog them any longer. Sometimes a cartridge loading die can be found of the proper inside diameter to use as a bullet sizing die.

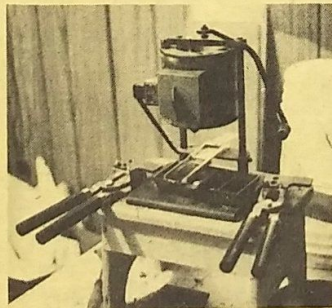
Now, I've oversimplified things just to give an idea of what it takes to get

started. If one is really sure that bullet casting is for them, the preceding approach is not the way to go. Spend a little money to purchase an assortment of moulds, preferably double-cavity, a bottom pour pot, and a lubricator-sizer much as made by Lyman or RCBS.

O.K., let's say you've decided to be serious about bullet casting. For less than the cost of one quality handgun it is possible to purchase everything needed for a shooting lifetime. For this article I will share how I do it and try to give a few pointers.

For moulds I have all makes: Hensley and Gibbs, Lyman, N.E.I., RCBS, and SAEO; all of these manufacture top quality moulds. Lee Precision also builds moulds to a price which, though not as easy to use as more expensive moulds, will do the job. My collection of over fifty moulds contains single, double, and four-cavity moulds both steel and aluminum. All of my casting is done with a Lyman bottom pot that was the only one readily available when purchased fifteen years ago. When (if?) it ever wears out I have its mate packed away. All of my sizing is done on a Star (the best, but expensive), or an RCBS Lubamatic.

My methods of casting are not offered as gospel, but they work for me. Before casting, a supply of bullet metal is required. The easiest way to go is to acquire a quantity of linotype metal. "Type" metal varies a great deal and you may latch on to some that is so brittle that bullets will shatter when they hit bone or silhouette targets. If this be the case, the mixture can be softened up a bit by adding some lead.

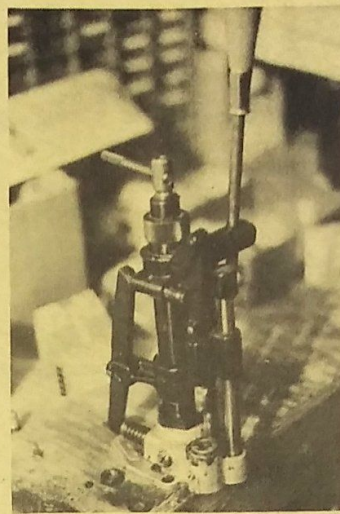


A simple, space saving casting set up. Lyman pot; two molds to alternate to keep at the proper casting temperature.

Another good source is old wheel weights from a tire shop. These are usually dirty and greasy and I prefer to melt them down outside on a Coleman stove in a cast iron pot. The dirt and clips rise to the top to be skimmed off and the remaining alloy is molded into No. 1 bars using an ingot mould available from Lyman or RCBS. Cast iron muffin tins also make good ingot moulds. Regular muffin tins usually wind up soldered to the hot bullet metal.

Wheel weights also vary in composition and may be too soft for some handguns. With wheel weights I use gas-checked bullet designs only and even so, gas checked .44's will lead my Redhawk with two cylinder's full through it.

The purists of the bullet casters start with lead and add tin for hardening. A



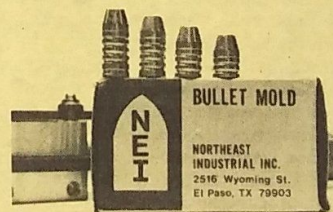
No doubt about it — the Star sizer and lubricator is the Rolls Royce of the S-L's for handloaders.

good ratio is anywhere from one part tin to ten parts lead up to a 1:20 tin-lead mixture. Pure lead requires the addition of tin to harden it or it will strip and leave streaks of lead in the barrel.

Tin and lead are both available at plumbing shops and wire solder is usually a tin-lead mixture. I've also obtained fairly hard "lead" at wrecking yards. While sold as pure lead it is usually hard enough for .44 Special and .45 Colt loadings.

Let's begin casting. I plug in my Lyman pot, turn the thermostat up to 800°, put four or five No. 1 ingots in it and leave it alone for about twenty minutes. The pot always begins with about 1" of metal left in the bottom as draining a bottom pour pot allows crud to enter the pour spout and keeps it from shutting off when casting. At the same time the pot is getting hot, I place the moulds I am going to use on top of the pot to heat up also.

After the metal has become liquified I add more ingots to fill the pot. Metal must be fluxed when casting begins and about every hundred bullets thereafter when using two double cavity moulds. The reason being that the lighter tin rises to the surface and must be mixed back in periodically. The color rising to the top is the tin that must be taken back into the mixture.



NEI mold blocks are made of aluminum with hardware of stainless steel. Bullets shown are JDJ 44 design which correct most deficiencies of the Keith design.

To accomplish this, drop some wax or bullet lubricant into the pot carefully. I use home canning sealing wax and just cut off a marble sized piece and add it to the pot. The mixture immediately begins to give off gas which either will ignite itself or should be lit with a match to help cut down on the smoke. Now stir the entire mixture with a dipper, scooping air down into the pot as it is mixed. I would recommend that adequate ventilation be provided at all times, and I always cast by an open window. It is not a good idea to spend many years breathing in lead fumes.



The RCBS unit is affordable, does a good job and will accept Lyman sizer dies and top punches.

The metal is now liquified and flowing feely. Using a bottom pour pot with a mould guide which is simply an aluminum bar to rest the mould on at the proper height below the pot, I hold the mould below the pour spout and allow the metal to flow freely into the mould. All the literature says hold the mould directly against the spout; this has never worked for me and I much prefer to have the mould about 1/2-1" below the spout. (Ed. Note: Me too!)

Before that first drop of metal is ever released, I make sure I have eye protection. Many times I have had splashes of lead hit my glasses; this could be disastrous without protection. Also lead splashes have a way of finding the area above shoe tops so I also wear boots while casting. I've never found it necessary to wear gloves, but beginning casters might be better protected so equipped.

When casting, I always run at least two moulds so one can cool while the other is being filled. My pot is set up so I can sit, comfortably place the mould under the spout, and have room on both sides of the pot to set the moulds down. On both sides of my chair I keep a stool with heavy pads to receive fresh bullets. With two pads my bullets are ready separated when I am through casting. As the pads fill, the bullets are placed in metal containers.

The temperature in the pot is up and we are ready to start casting. Mould blocks should have been thoroughly cleaned first; I use lighter fluid and cotton swabs. Allow the metal to flow into the mould until a generous amount, a sprue, forms on the cut-off plate. It will take a few times to get the feel of the handle that controls the flow of lead. The sprue will harden on the outside before the bullet, experience tells when it is sufficiently cooled. The bigger the bullet, the longer it takes to cool.

The first bullet probably looks awful, full of wrinkles, and not filled out. I just keep casting until the bullets fill out with no wrinkles, and good sharp bases. When this occurs I turn the temperature down to 600-650° and continue casting. When bullets start appearing frosted, either the mould, or metal, or both are too hot. If the pot temperature is down under 700°, it is usually the mould. I simply set it down, open, and allow it to cool for a few minutes while I stretch, take a pottie break, get a drink, etc. When I come back it's ready to go again.

Do not get discouraged when you

start casting your own. Every mould is individualistic, and it takes awhile to start them casting good bullets. Most steel moulds I've used take at least 50-100 bullets before they begin working properly. Aluminum mould breaking occurs much quicker, but once in awhile a stubborn one will be encountered.

The mould blocks are now full of bullet metal and it is time to take out the bullet. Never, absolutely never, strike the mould blocks as it will ruin the alignment. Strike only the hinge pivot pin of the handles. Most casters use a piece of wood like a cut-off axe handle, I prefer a nylon mallet. Tap open the sprue cutoff plate allowing the sprue to fall into a container reserved for pieces to be remelted later. Open the blocks using the handle and then tap the hinge pin until the bullets fall out on the soft pad. For stubborn bullets, it sometimes helps to tap the hinge pin before opening the blocks.

For easy release of bullet from mould, I smoke my moulds before casting using a candle and holding the moulds above the candle so no wax drips on it. There are commercial preparations that do the job better, but I'm still old fashioned and haven't used any of them.

I examine the bases of the bullets when the sprue plate is opened. If they aren't perfect, sharp, completely filled out, and flat, they go into the remelt box. Bullets are also visually inspected when sizing and lubricating. Common problems with bases are tiny holes which indicate air bubbles in the bullet, or holes in the center caused by opening the sprue plate too quickly and pulling the bullet apart. In either case they go to the remelt box. Metal will also smear across the top of the blocks and bottom of sprue plate if the mould is opened too quickly. Experience helps.

When casting I always try to keep the pot at least half full. It is also prudent to be very careful when adding new metal to the pot to avoid splashing, and above all water or any similar liquid is not allowed in the vicinity of the melting pot as water plus lead equals explosion. I once had a very dirty batch of wheel weights that I washed before melting. Thinking they had dried thoroughly I later dropped some of them into the pot and BANG!, lead splashed everywhere. Some water had laid up between the wheel weight and the clip. Needless to say that was the last attempt to wash wheel weights.

After the careful casting comes the lubricating and sizing operation. All of my sixguns have been "slugged", that is a pure lead bullet has been tapped through the barrel from muzzle to cylinder, and then milked. It depends on who you talk to whether bullets should be exact groove diameter or .001-.002" over. And guns, like moulds, are all different. My Colt Python with a groove diameter of .355" still handles .358" bullets perfectly. It shouldn't, but it does. Another factor is the diameter of the cylinder throat. If a sixgun has an over-size cylinder throat and tight barrel, or vice-versa, accuracy suffers.

As a general guide, and only as a guide I offer the following:

.45 Colt or .45 ACP — size to .451" or .452"

.44 Special — size to .428" as barrels usually run from .426" to .428"

.44 Magnum — All of mine are .429" or .430" except my Abilenes which go .428" so I usually size .430" in my Star of .429" in my RCBS since

they don't offer a .428" or .430" die.

.357 Magnum — Lot of variation here, mine running from .355" to .358". So I size either .356" or .358"

Sizing is relatively simple. When using gas checks, I prefer to tap them on with a mallet first. Then simply set the bullet in the sizer, pull the handle down and up, and if the die is set properly and lubrication pressure is up, out comes a perfectly sized bullet, ready to load. I do not lube and size bullets until I'm ready to use them for two reasons. First I like to size according to the barrel they will be fired through, and secondly, lube has a tendency to harden and fall out of the grease grooves when bullets are stored over a long period of time. I prefer "fresh" bullets.

With bullet casting not only is a tremendous savings realized over jacketed bullets, but the variety of bullets available is practically infinite. With thirty moulds in .44 caliber alone running from a 180 gr. wadcutter to a 350 grain gas check, I can load for any situation, plus I can vary my alloy according to how hard or soft I want my bullet.

Here are some recommended starting bullet moulds:

.44 Magnum — Keith style bullet, I like the N.E.I. No. 260429 Keith the best as it is the closest to the original design. Lyman's No. 429421 is probably the most popular. For a gas checked semi-wadcutter try Lyman's No. 429244 GC. All of these go around 240-250 grains. For a heavy bullet try SSK's No. 310429 which will weigh out around 310-330 gr. depending on the alloy used.

.357 Magnum — General purpose, small game hunting, etc., I prefer Ray Thompson's designed Lyman No. 358156GC weighing out at 150-160 grains. For silhouettes try SSK's No. 210358GC or RCBS' 35-200FNGC. Gas checked designs are essential for .357's.

.45 Colt — Lyman's No. 454424, A 260 grain Keith design is still first choice. N. E. I. has a new 310 grain Keith bullet No. 310451 that I've just started using.

.45 ACP — My favorite is RCBS' 200 grain No. 45-201KT, a semi-wadcutter that feeds perfectly in both my Mark IV and my Commander.

After a casting session, do not neglect the mould. It will rust easily if it is steel, and leaving the last bullet in the cavity will not prevent rust. Unless you live in an extremely dry climate, rust will soon enter between the bullet and cavity and ruin the mould. When finished casting, I put a light coating of oil on the blocks and a generous amount in the bullet cavity itself. When ready to resume casting, I know I will find a mould in perfect condition, and a swab and lighter fluid removes the oil before casting. If oil is not cleaned off, the mould will smoke and take an extra long time to start casting perfect bullets. All of this applies only to steel moulds, aluminum moulds can be packed away without oiling.

All of my moulds are placed in a storage cabinet where they are protected and safe until ready to be used again. With proper care a good mould should last a lifetime.

Casting excellent bullets is not at all difficult. And there is a real feeling of pride in shooting ammunition that is not only handloaded, but using "homemade" bullets as well. Try it, you'll like it.



Dropping a hot cast bullet from the mould into water . . . doubles the hardness of the lead. Warning! water, or a wet bullet dropped back in the pot gives off a violent reaction spuing hot lead all over everything and everybody.

THE LESS EXPENSIVE SPREAD

By Paco Kelly

Prior to about 1878, all of the wars, all of the animals harvested, all of the good guys . . . bad guys . . . and bystanders, killed with firearms, were done in with lead bullets. In 1878 several different metal jacketed bullet types were developed. But, were not generally known, much less used extensively. White powder which came to Europe before the U.S. in the mid 1880's, for bolt action rifles . . . demanded a jacketed projectile. But the big point is, the lead bullet wasn't given up because it didn't perform its job well . . . it was replaced because the lead of the day, couldn't stand up to the increased velocities without fouling the gunbores.

It was generally believed that above 1400 to about 1800 fps tops, was the limit for any kind of cast bullet. So when more power was needed, the caliber got larger. A few things have come about since the 1880's in the art of cast bullet making . . . ways of being able to push lead bullets way passed the once impossible velocities above 2000 fps, are today a reality.

I belong to an organization called the Cast Bullet Association. We have members in every state in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Australia, Europe . . . and a lot of other places that sure surprised me, from the mail that I get. I write a technical column for the organization's bi-monthly magazine called FOULING SHOT, and have for about two years or so. In those two years I have learned as much or more then I have imparted to my readership.

For example, the Cast Bullet Assoc. holds state, regional and national benchrest matches for cast shooting only. Some of our members shoot groups at 100, 200, and 300 yards that rival the groups shot by our national benchrest shooters of jacketed bullets. If anyone doubts that, write to me . . . I'll send you a copy of our last bench matches score list, which has the national and regional group sizes, the loads used, the type of cast bullet, the mould and its manufacture, the type of rifle and much more . . . and we have been doing this for years.

Let's get into some facts. The only rule to remember in comparing

jacketed bullet loading and shooting, to cast bullet loading and shooting, is that the rules for each are different. Just as bending the rules in jacketed shooting leads to lousy accuracy, the same is true for cast . . . even more so. Lead today can be made much stronger then lead just 20 years ago. Its the same lead, but you cast it differently . . . if you cast a bullet of wheelweight metal, the old standard way for example. Then load it into your favorite T/C case to push it at 1800 to 2000 fps . . . it is going to foul and be worthless.

But, if you raise your pot temperature as high as it will go. Also make sure the mould is as hot as possible . . . so when you open the mould to drop the cast bullet . . . let it fall into a deep can of water. If it sizzles, you have tempered the lead, in fact it is now twice as hard as it was before. It has to sizzle. Now you can push this cast bullet (called a CB) at velocities over 2000 fps. Using a good Alox mixture lube, like NEI's 10X, is also essential to high velocity, just as a gas checked CB is, but more on that later. This tempering will not inhibit the cast bullets ability to expand.

Lead gets stronger as it gets older, starting from each remelting. Store your tempered CBs for thirty days and again you can boost the velocity without fouling and loss of accuracy. Wheelweight lead is no longer standard as it was years ago. The tin content is way down and its original hardness is different from manufacture to manufacture . . . which means you have to test it for hardness. There are a number of ways from using the Lyman CB tester, to using your thumbnail. You must think of hardness as a state of the CB . . . in relationship to velocity, knowing the exact hardness on a scientific scale is not needed.

Get your pot in a molten state, with the temp at its highest setting . . . get your mould also hot, and I know this exactly opposite to what you have read, but you want frosty bullets, they are telling you along with the sizzle that you are tempering. Cast a bullet, drop it in the water, take it back out and test it. Run your thumbnail across the base. Does it resist heavy pressure, and leave

(Continued Next Page)

only a slight mark? If you started with wheelweight metal, your velocity upper limit with good alox lube is around 2000 fps in a good slick barrel.

If you want to go to higher velocities, and you have a twenty two lb. pot, (which means you will have about twenty pounds in it when full). Then drop a pound of 50/50 plumbers lead into it. That puts a half pound of tin in your molten mixture, that tin will bond with the ingredients the wheelweight manufacturers use to replace the expensive tin. Now a tempered CB from that mixture should not allow you to scratch it with your thumbnail. That CB with a good gas check and alox lube can be pushed to around 2500 fps; again in a good barrel.

Plumbers 50/50 lead is expensive . . . but your twenty to twenty-one pounds of hard metal will make 700 or more 200 gr/CBs. The cost of the wheelweights in my area is about .50 cents per pound making the twenty pounds cost about 10 bucks. Say 8 dollars for the plumbers lead . . . it averages about .02-1/2 cents per bullet. Seven boxes of 200 gr. jacketed bullets in my area go from the cheapest 35 caliber ones at \$63.00 to \$109 for the expensive ones!

Another way I use to make really good hard lead, is to buy birdshot when on sale, in twenty-five pound bags. Melt and mix the birdshot with two pounds of 50/50 lead, it gives 27 pounds of lead harder than lynchpin before tempering the CBs in water. After tempering and aging for thirty days, I can go 2700 to 2800fps, again using gas checks that fit, and a good lube. Dry lubes by the way can only be used to about 1100 fps, they are good only for low velocity loads.

The range of loads that can be made with cast bullets is staggering . . . low velocity pest loads with jacketed bullets, besides being expensive, are almost impossible to achieve. Using Bullseye, the fastest burning powder on the non-canister market, and cases the size of the 30-30 and the 30-40K, you can make up legal silent loads with good power. That's the power the equal of the 22RF at minimum, to the 38 Special 158 gr. roundnose in muzzle energy. Pest loads you can use around your homestead without the folks living near you calling the police, about shots fired!

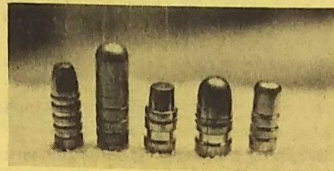
Load a round ball, or CB over three grains of Bullseye, fire into a box packed with newsprint, keep lowering the powder charge 1/2 gr. at a time till you get a silent load that still clears the barrel, every shot. I shoot them in my home, if they are silent or close to it inside, they they will sound even less outside.

The length of barrel has a direct bearing on the report or lack of it. My 14 inch SSK 30-40K barrel, can't be made totally silent . . . but it comes close. My 26 inch Ballard/Stevens 44-1/2 will send a ball at 800 fps and you can hear the hammer hit and only the hammer hit. Using a larger bore ups the power, but not the noise. I have a 45-70 Marlin with a 24 inch barrel, it can push 550 gr. CBs at 500 fps without noise. And that gives over 300 pounds of muzzle energy.

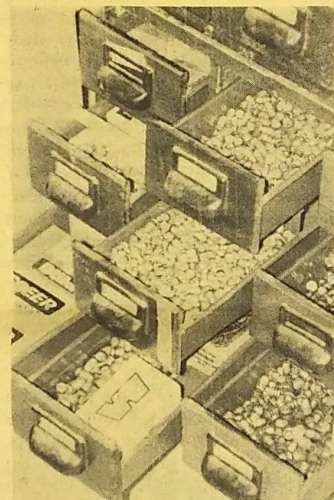
The best pest CBs are the lead shot you can buy in all kinds of calibers. Also leadshot in all sizes, has a dry lube on it that will allow you to push them to 900 to 1000 fps without lube. Over that velocity I use hard cast balls with a smear of lube over the ball in the case. Round ball moulds come in every

caliber you can think of . . . just be sure the ball is several thousands over your caliber size . . . and temper them. You should see what a hard .45 caliber ball (really 465 caliber) at 2200 fps can do to a varmint or close range deer.

Yes, cast bullets can be pushed to the same speeds as jacketed . . . even in the 3000 fps levels. CB shooters that want that velocity for long range varmints and pests shooting, go to paper patching the CBs. You should see the damage a hard, hard CB . . . paper patched and moving at 3000 plus fps does on contact with El-Coyote!



Paco, a technical expert for the Cast Bullet Association says many factors hurt cast bullet accuracy. Even bullet shape, these are of good design. But, Spitzer designed cast bullets are inherently inaccurate.



Aging cast bullets for 20 to 30 days increases its hardness. Paco stores cast bullets lubed and ready to load, each drawer is one 20 pound pot full of water tempered CBs.

For CBs that will expand only at the nose, yet allowing good velocities in the 2400 to 2600 feet per second range . . . several systems can be used. First the simplest . . . Lyman makes composite moulds . . . in many calibers. They are a two piece mould set. The CB base is made of your hardest, water tempered, lead . . . then the nose is cast of your softest lead. The two are glued together, lubed and shot. The hard shank rides the bore without fouling, the soft nose expands on contact with the target.

Using the same idea, but sans the two moulds and glue and limited CB shapes . . . your favorite mould can do the same thing. When I have my pot hot and the mould hot . . . I add a lead ladle to the system heated with butane flame . . . into that ladle I put one soft lead ball or birdshot . . . large enough so when I pour it in the mould it fills only the nose, (play with the amounts so only the nose is done or else you'll get fouling), then I fill the rest with the hard pot lead and drop in my water can. Soft lead tempered harder will still expand!

I have expanding CB bullets that act like controlled expanding jacketed types. Remember, I said at the beginning of this article that CBs didn't fall

from favor because they didn't perform . . . they did and still do. Wheelweight CBs, even tempered, expand at velocities of 1800 plus. But, their expansion is different than jacketed bullets. The CB expands at the nose as it is going through its target . . . the lead at the mushroom edge is sheared off leaving a trail in the wound cavity . . . it's like a progressive wearing down, nose to shank. Many people would look at what's left of the CB taken from the animal or testing box, and say something about it busting up . . . no, just a controlled wearing. That's why it is always better to use long, heavy CBs, over short light ones. And you can usually push them as fast as long, heavy, jacketed bullets, with few problems. Many cape buffalo and elephant have been taken over the last few years, with cast bullets. From pests to dragons. Cast works, if you use the right system.

Accuracy is ruined by a number of things, I'll list them cause they are important. Sizing probably ruins more good CBs than anything else. I use a lube sizer that will not size, it just adds lube and seats the gas check. Then you can ruin all your work by putting that nice new shiny bullet in a case, whose neck is too tight, doing the same damage as the tight sizer. The gas check MUST be thick enough to fill the gascheck shank end, so gas can not get around it in the bore . . . that's why I make all my gaschecks out of beer cans, with a FREECHEC tool. Using one to three or so layers of the aluminum seals the bore tight and stops gas cutting. By the way Winchester has been using aluminum for years in Silvertip ammo with no fouling problems. So gas checks made of the same stuff is fine, their softness seals better than copper.

Bullet design can hurt accuracy badly. What is good for jacketed is wrong for cast. The long spitzer type nose section with lead is too weak, and at ignition falls to one side of the bore or the other. Good-by groups. Short noses with good body support CBs work best. If you don't have lube rings that are deep enough, the CB runs out of lube near the end of the barrel, and fouls the rest of the way, again, good-by groups. After shooting 5 to 8 shots, there should be a dark or black star on your muzzle . . . that's lube from the grooves setting the rifling pattern on the muzzle. It tells you the lube amount is sufficient.

You should always use the heaviest CB made for your firearm that will stabilize in its rifling. That CB carries more energy no matter what velocity you use, up and down the scale. Also the heavier CBs are the longer CBs, they fly better and flatter. They kill much better, going deeper.

Also using the wrong powder, as far as burning rate for velocity wanted, can cause problems. For example for loads wanted at approximately 2000 or more fps, a fast burning pistol powder is exactly wrong. Yet many loading manuals call for the use of them. The pressure peak comes too fast, in effect kicking the CB in the behind too quickly and strongly. My personal powder for CB loads of over 2000 fps, is ReLoader 7. It has given me fine hunting accuracy in almost every firearm I've tried it in. Also some of the old standbys like IMR3031, 4895, and 4759 which was designed for cast bullet use, normally give good accuracy. The point is medium burners for medium velocities.

That doesn't mean that there is no place for the fast burning powders, there is, an important place. Once you get over the shock of not having each

shot cost you 10 to 20 cents each for just the bullet . . . you will find a great deal of pleasure in reduced loads. The best of the fast burners is Unique, it was made for cast bullets . . . I find that WW296/H110, will give reduced loads to about 357 magnum ballistics out of my rifles and the Contenders without a good deal of noise or recoil.

In a rifle they don't recoil, sound is way down and they are fun and accurate. Fast powders have their place, up to 1300 or so fps. For loads from 1400 to 2000 fps, try the small rifle powders, like 4227. Also cast bullets tend to give their best accuracy at around 1400 fps. And a 150 grain CB at 1400 fps is a landslide better than a 22LR at that speed. I do all of my squirrel and cottontail hunting with reduced cast loads in a 32-20 lever-action. If I didn't have that gun, I would buy a Rossi M92 leveraction in 357 magnum . . . and use it the same way. Ninety percent of my shooting and hunting, can be done with silent to 2000 fps cast loads . . . and it is fun!

For stronger velocities try the medium slow burners in long barrels, they start the CB off without a hot boot, and give high velocities, easily going over 2200 fps. In Africa for one 2-1/2 year period during my misspent youth, I shot thousands of animals with a 280 gr. CB at about 1800 to 2000 fps, out of a rifle in a caliber close to our 35 Whelen, (9.3mm60). I used reclaimed powder from 30-06 rounds (mil.) that looked like 3031 . . . it worked well.

And lastly, some of my avid Iron ram shooting friends went to cast bullets out of desperation at the cost of jacketed rounds being purchased at 2000 to 3000 per year. The cost was excessive in the extreme!! What they found was cast was just as good if not better (less recoil) than jacketed slugs in everything . . . Knockdown power, accuracy, and even in hunting and the killing of game.

The finest book on the market today about cast bullets is, CAST BULLETS by Col. E. H. Harrison, and it's a NRA publication. The Cast Bullet Assoc. address is CBA, Francis Standard, 7418 Ridgewood Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. \$15.00 year membership fee. The bi-monthly magazine is worth the price of admission. If you have any technical questions, write to me with a SASE . . . Just Paco, P. O. Box 17211 Tucson, AZ 85731.

DEER FANATICS!

SCI just released "DEER", a special edition book of deer of the world. It's a first class soft cover book with hard facts and the kind of art work seldom found in outdoor publications.

Actually, about 40 different varieties of deer are covered in an exceptionally interesting fashion. Color photos and reproductions of paintings abound as well as hunting tips, other useful, entertaining information and recreational reading. One article I found particularly interesting was how to judge trophy whitetails. Another was a photo section on rare deer of the far east.

Only a limited number have been printed and they may be obtained only from Safari, 5151 E. Broadway, Suite 1680, Tucson, AZ 85711 for \$10.50 plus a buck and a half P&H.

JDJ

OLDIE BUT GOODIE

By John Musacchio, Mentor, OH

My first introduction to the .45 Colt came some 15 years ago when a friend gave me the opportunity to shoot his Colt SAA. We set up some soda cans and blazed away at them a good part of that day. If my memory serves me correctly, he did quite a bit better than I did. After having shot that old Colt all I could think about was having one. The years later, I owned one.

In 1978, I purchased a Ruger convertible with a 7-1/2" barrel, mainly for the purpose of testing some new bullets in .45 caliber that we were producing at the time, after the testing was over and I was convinced that they were performing the way that they were supposed to, the Ruger was cleaned up and put away.

Recently, Ohio Shooters Supply introduced a .45 Colt 255 grain semi wad cutter design bullet I needed to test. At that point, I realized I had sold that Ruger to a friend. After making some phone calls to different distributors, I learned that Ruger had discontinued the manufacture of the .45 Blackhawk. All was not lost however, after one more call, I had secured a new Ruger .45 Colt with a 4-5/8" barrel.

I got busy at the loading bench and before long, had some ammo ready to go. I had chosen to work with 2400, H-4227 and the old stand-by Unique which has never failed to work well for

me in this type application. After getting set up on the range, I found myself looking over the sights of the Ruger and fond memories clicked in of that first time that I had pulled the trigger of that old Colt SAA. After having put five different bullets and eight different powder combinations through the Ruger, I was pleased with their performance. I was looking for velocities around 800 to 950 F.P.S. to duplicate factory loadings and wanted groups no larger than three inches at 35 yards. The velocities recorded are not the fastest that can be obtained with a .45 Colt. (See chart)

When I want magnum power, I use my .44 mag or T/C .444 Marlin. At 35 yards, the latest group was only 3-7/8" using the O.S.S. 230 grain copper-clad with 17.5 grains of 2400 at 915 F.P.S. Recoil with all the loads is hardly noticed and they are all easy on the gun. This is one caliber that is great for plinking or for hunting. Being over 100 years old, it has proved itself time and again and it probably will for the next 100 years to come. Now that Ruger has discontinued the .45 Blackhawk, prices will most likely start to skyrocket, but even if you have to pay a premium to get one, it's well worth it in my book. Mine isn't for sale. As soon as I finish testing with it, it's going up to Mag-Na-Port for a facelift!

Powder	Bullet	Average Velocity	Group
7.5 Unique	O.S.S. 255 swc-lead	717 F.P.S.	3-1/4
7.5 Unique	O.S.S. 200 swc-lead	765 F.P.S.	2-1/2
7.5 Unique	O.S.S. 185 wc-lead	780 F.P.S.	3-5/8
15.0 H-4227	O.S.S. 200 swc-lead	640 F.P.S.	2
15.5 H-4227	O.S.S. 255 swc-lead	683 F.P.S.	5/8
15.0 2400	O.S.S. 200 swc-lead	870 F.P.S.	2-3/4
15.0 2400	O.S.S. 230 rn-copper-clad	819 F.P.S.	3
15.0 2400	O.S.S. 255 swc-lead	830 F.P.S.	2-7/8
17.5 2400	O.S.S. 230 rn-copper-clad	915 F.P.S.	3-7/8
9.0 Unique	O.S.S. 255 swc-lead	832 F.P.S.	2-1/8
9.5 Unique	O.S.S. 255 swc-lead	893 F.P.S.	1-7/8
10.0 Unique	O.S.S. 255 swc-lead	926 F.P.S.	1-15/16

All velocities measured with Oehler md. 33 chrono. 12 ft. from muzzle. Groups are average of three five shot strings at 35 yards. Temperature: 78°.

THE 32 AND 380 AUTOS

By Bruce F. Schmidt Siren, Wisconsin

When you see articles about handguns in outdoor or gun magazines, they are usually about the 22 caliber handgun, or the big boys — the 357 Magnum, the 41 Magnum, the 44's, and the 45. Rarely do you see anything in between. I'll try to fill part of this gap.

One notch above the 22 caliber in semi-automatic pistols is the 25 Automatic. Unfortunately, it's a small gun. The bullet on this cartridge is only 50 grains in weight, just 10 grains more than the 22 Long Rifle cartridge. Most 25 Autos have only 2-inch barrels; the Bauer 25 Automatic from Fraser, Michigan, with a 2.25-inch barrel, has an overall length of four inches and weighs only 10 oz. This gives you an idea on the size and weight of these guns. They might be fine for a ladies' purse or handbag, but they are just too small and ammunition too expensive for spending an afternoon firing away at tin cans. They don't have the hand-filling characteristics of the larger guns. Enough said for the 25 Auto. Now a few words about the 9mm.

There are many guns made for this cartridge. In Europe it is used by the

Military, and Federal police forces, also some law enforcement agencies in this country have adopted it. The 9mm bullet is usually 100 to 125 grains in weight. Some of the handguns made for this caliber are on the heavy side, weighing well over two pounds. The 9mm cartridge was not made for paper targets, these guns are defense weapons.

One step above the 9mm is the 38 Super. This caliber has good velocity and carries bullets in the 125 and 130 grain weights, and is more powerful than the 9mm cartridge. Sandwiched between the 25 Auto and the 9mm are the 32 and 380 semi-automatics. Here are the handguns that are a pleasure to shoot. I can get more enjoyment from two hours on the firing range with these guns than if I were to spend all day plinking with a 22 caliber handgun.

There is far more enjoyment in shooting a centerfire handgun that you just don't get from the rimfire cartridge. These guns are light enough to handle all day without your arm getting tired, and range in weight from just under 17 oz. to 27 oz. Let's take a

look at the ballistics of these cartridges as compared to the big 45 Auto.

According to Peters cartridge ballistics, the 32 Auto (7.65mm) with a 4-inch barrel and using a 71 grain bullet, has a muzzle velocity of 960 feet per second; out at 100 yards it is 850 (fps). Your Energy (in foot pounds) at the muzzle is 145 (fp); at 100 yards it's down to 115 (fp). Mid-range trajectory shows a drop of 1.3 inches at 50 yards and 5.4 inches at 100 yards. The 380 Auto with a 3.75-inch barrel and a 95 grain bullet will have a muzzle velocity of 955 (fps) and it slows down to 785 (fps) at 100 yards.

In Energy, at the muzzle you get 190 (fp); out at 100 yards it is down to 130 (fp). For mid-range trajectory at 50 yards you have a 1.4-inch drop and for 100 yards out, the bullet will drop 5.4 inches. Now, let's compare these figures to the 45 Auto with a 5-inch barrel and using a 185 grain bullet.

The muzzle velocity is 940 (fps) with a reduced speed to 845 (fps) at 100 yards. Your Energy at the muzzle is 363 (fp) and will still be a potent 294 (fp) at the 100 yard marker; the trajectory at 50 yards shows a drop of 1.3 inches and at 100 yards down to 5.5 inches. As you can tell from the above figures, both the velocity and mid-range trajectory on all three cartridges are about the same. It's in the energy that the big 45 caliber excels, it has tremendous knock-down power.

The 32 and 380 Autos don't have the recoil that the bigger handguns have and are a real pleasure to shoot. Of course, these cartridges are not cheap as compared to the 22 rimfire, but then I'm assuming you are reloading your own cartridges. A good combination can be had for the 380 Auto by using Remington brass, CCI primers, Hornady 90 grain bullets, and 4.5 grains of Hercules Unique powder.

Set up your targets at 20-25 yards, depending on the size of the target you are shooting at. And, of course, make sure you have some kind of backstop. You don't want your bullet to zip through a paper target and end up going into someone's car window a half mile away.

Years ago, about all the firearms made for these calibers were foreign guns. Today, you have a wide choice of both imports and domestics. Here's a brief rundown on some makes available in the 32 and 380 caliber pistols. The Astra Constable in 380 caliber with adjustable rear sights is a double-action pistol which can be had in blue or chrome finish. It weighs 26

oz. Beretta has their Model 70S in the 380 Auto which weighs 23 oz. They also have the double-action Models 81 and 84. The 81 is their 32 caliber and the Model 84 is the 380 caliber.

These pistols have a huge magazine capacity of 12 for the 32 and 13 for the 380. The Model 81 weighs 24 oz. and the Model 84 one ounce less. Bernardelli from Italy makes their Model 80 in 380 caliber with adjustable sights and weighs just under 27 oz. Bersa offers a 380 with a magazine capacity of 13 rounds and tips the scales at 27 oz. Browning has the Model BDA-380 double-action with adjustable rear sights and a magazine which holds 12 cartridges and weighs 23 oz.

Erma from West Germany manufactures a pistol that looks like the original luger, it comes in three calibers, 22LR, 32ACP and 380ACP. This gun has a full 4-inch barrel and the 32 and 380 caliber models, KGP32 and KGP38 have adjustable rear sights.

F.I.E. (Firearms Import and Export) from Miami, Florida, assembles a low-priced Auto in both the 32 and 380 calibers that weighs 25 oz. It can be had in blue or chrome. Although this arm is the least expensive in this listing, the standard nylon thumbrest grips fit my hand better than any 380 I've ever picked up.

The Guardian-SS auto pistol from Michigan Arament Inc. is a double-action stainless steel pistol with a ramp front sight. It can also be had in a custom model with polished internal parts. Iver Johnson makes the Model X300 pony in 380 caliber with a 6-round magazine and adjustable rear sight. It weighs 20 oz. and can be had in blue or nickel finish.

Heckler & Koch from Germany makes a double-action in the 380 Auto that can also be bought in a conversion kit that converts the gun into a 22LR, 25 Auto, or 32 Auto. Llama from Spain has a nice small frame pistol with adjustable rear sights that weighs 23 oz. It can be had in both 32 and 380 calibers with the 380 available in a satin chrome finish. This gun was the first handgun I bought when I turned twenty-one. I ordered it through a mail order firm. This was back in the '50's the good old days when you could still buy handguns through the mails.

SIG-Sauer of West Germany offers seven shot 380 caliber pistol that weighs only a pound. It's their Model P-230 and it comes with a one-piece black plastic stock. Sterling produces a

(Continued On Page 13)



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357	.357	18"
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Roy, Paul and Mr. Short Tail!

SAGA OF SHORT TAIL

By Paul Schwemin, Quincy, MA

"My God, did you see that?" I whispered to Ray. He just looked at me and grinned. A huge whitetail buck had leaped from his bed and bounded away through the fir trees. This was no ordinary buck, but one we had been seeking for two years.

My long-time friend and hunting companion, Ray Cowen and I had been scouting a swamp in northern Vermont in preparation for the coming deer season, when the above happened. The year before, we had hunted this same buck and we knew him well. His right front hoof had one nail shorter than the other, which was probably due to an accident, and the top half of his tail had been shot off by a rifle hunter the year before we got on him. This short-tailed buck had outwitted us on every occasion since. . . . We really wanted him!

Opening day, Ray, my son Roy and I headed into the swamp before daylight and placed Roy on a large rock overlooking the crossing of two trails. We then went in opposite directions to hunt in a large circle that would end in a couple of hours somewhere near the rock, hopefully with someone getting a shot at Mr. Short Tail.

Our plans sounded good, but maybe the buck was listening, because all we saw were a few does and a lot of 20" to 24" scrapes, and also a rub on a tree at least 8" in diameter. We had found our buck's parlor.

For the rest of the week, we hunted, using all the tricks we knew, finding out that short tail knew more.

On our last day of the hunt, we were coming out of the woods at Noon, bemoaning the fact that we had gone all week without a shot, and seriously doubting the fact that man is smarter than beast, when I had a strong feeling that I should go back into the swamp for one more circle. I put my son on a run coming out of the swamp and Ray said he would go back to camp and start lunch.

I eased into the evergreens and ever so slowly, hunted towards the big rock mentioned earlier. I passed the rock and climbed a little knoll. From the top, I could look down into a little clearing that was full of ferns. I stopped and looked carefully from left to right. I caught a movement and

made out the head of a doe in the firs. Then another. I counted seven deer, one of which was a spike horn.

I decided I had better fill my tag then and there. I eased up the old Smith & Wesson 29 and cocked the hammer; but just as I started to line up the sights, something seemed to say 'wait'. I don't know why, but I took one last look around the area . . . very often a mistake in these heavy woods. Then up from the ferns came a rack of horns. Then the head and neck of a buck that could only belong to short tail. The sun filtered down through the firs and reflected from the tines of his rack. I had an awful urge to relieve myself.

I lined up the sights just back of where the neck meets the body. Although I could not see the body clearly, the red front sight settled in the white outlined notch and squeezed the trigger. The S & W roared and bucked in my hand. The place erupted with flashing white tails. It seemed as though all the deer in the area were there. The buck's neck just stiffened and his head disappeared into the ferns. I waited a minute, then eased down the knoll toward the buck. I expected him to jump up and take off, but when I reached the spot, he just lay there. His majestic head stretched out as if asleep. Of all the deer and big game that I have ever taken, I have never seen one die as peacefully as this one.

My son, upon hearing the shot, went for Ray, and in a half an hour, they were at my side. I had not touched the deer at this point as I wanted them to experience this scene for themselves. After making sure that he was dead, we rolled him over and examined the wound. The .44 projectile had taken him just to the left of the right shoulder blade and angled down through the lungs to exit the opposite side just above the brisket. The damage to the lungs were more than I expected from a cast bullet . . . Even a .44 caliber.

Now started the task that all successful hunters must face — how to get a 192 pound buck out of the swamp. My son Roy is a big strapping young buck himself, and he waded us aside. He grabbed the antlers and started pulling. He tripped on a stump

after going about five feet, picked himself up and looked at us in utter frustration. During the three hours it took us to reach the tote road, some choice words were said about the places deer hang out, and about the beautiful northern Vermont woods.

I was using my old Smith & Wesson Model 29 six and a half inch and a different loading than I normally use. It consisted of a bullet cast from 4 pounds of linotype and six pound wheel weights, which from my mould, (Lyman 429421) throws the bullet at 250 grains on the button. I used Federal cases with 24 grains of W-W 296 powder and CCI-350 primers. In testing this load, I found it to be very accurate, although recoil was heavy.

Contrary to what most writers say and what I am most often told, 95% of the deer I have taken have been shot between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.! Not in the early morning and late afternoons. I do not like to stump sit — I prefer still hunting. Maybe this is a factor.

Short tail now hangs on my wall. Not the biggest buck I have taken, but certainly a fine trophy and a pleasant hunt with the best of companions.

DAMPDOWN

DO MUZZLE BRAKES WORK?

By Paco Kelly, Tucson, AZ

I carry a S & W Model 29, 44 magnum for my duty gun. The grip is cut to the K-Frame round butt and covered with rubber grips. The barrel is only three inches, and it is Mag-Na-Ported. It carries well on my small frame with a minimum of bulk for that caliber and power . . . BUT . . . it sounds and kicks like a 105mm anti-tank cannon! I had Larry Kelly's outfit port it to help with the recoil. Up to that point, I never had a ported handgun, or tested one. It works, it takes about 30% of the upward kick out of the custom 29. But it is still loudmouthed when barking. I once had reason to fire it in a dark alley, one dark and murky night, just to get the attention of a couple of antisocial professionals. The boys were so impressed they immediately leaped to the ground yelling . . . "SHOT-GUN" . . . and other explicit words like "give up" . . . and "don't shoot please" . . . ! So noise isn't all bad sometimes.

That 30% reduction in recoil doesn't seem like much, because of the noise of the gun adds to the mind and bodies perceived image of recoil. When the handgun is fired at the range and I have muffs on, the reduction is immediately realized . . . the upward kick is noticeably less. Even in the field with only ear plugs, I can tell the difference in kick between the three inch, and my unported six inch 29. The three inch recoils upward less.

In a few conversations with J. D. Jones, we talked of muzzle brakes and recoil of HANDCANNONS and other heavy caliber handguns. He was very firm about the brake's ability to dampen recoil . . . and the harder the kick, he suggested the more dampening the brakes give.

I have two 35 caliber T/C barrels that match every bit of the recoil of SSK's JDJ 375 and 35 calibers . . . if not a little more. When you push 350 grain, and the smaller 280 grain cast bullets like I do, at very good velocities, your wrists want to immedi-

ately leap to the ground and yell . . . "surrender".

But recoil tolerance can be learned, starting with comfortable loads, and while learning to shoot the Handcannon and learning to hit with it at different distances . . . work up slowly over a month or more. After 300 to 500 light to heavy loads, you'll learn to absorb it . . . not like it . . . tolerate it!

My experience with the S & W 29, opened me to try porting a T/C 14 inch bull barrel. To see if it would help and how much, in other words was it worth it, or was it just another gimmick . . . gun products seem to gravitate to more than their share of gimmicks. Well, I never seem to do anything half way . . . besides, my experimenter blood was aroused by J. D. So I sent my two TRX (Tyranisaurus Rex Killers) barrels to get brakes. One with the internal brake that is a part of the original barrel, and the other the external . . . which is an add on to your barrel. SSK's turn around time is excellent. Less than 14 days later, they were at my door. And when you realize Tucson still uses horses to carry the mail, that's exceptional service by SSK.



The internal SSK Arrestor Brake in the TRX .35 caliber T/C is neat and unobtrusive.

The workmanship is flawless. I was anxious to try them . . . but Uncle Sam, my employer, in his wisdom, deemed that southern Florida was in the clutches of slow-learners with very antisocial habits. It was weeks before I returned. I had tested the unported barrels for recoil before I left, with 10 warm loads with two heavy CBs. For 20 rounds through each, and had also made up 20 more rounds each so I could use the same loads when the barrels returned. Running 40 rounds through these barrels doesn't sound like much . . . 40 rounds . . . But when you are pushing a 350 grain bullet to 2700 lbs. of muzzle punch, and a 280 grain to 2500 lbs. . . . 40 rounds in a row gets to you . . . even if you are built like a tank!

The Three Points Range in Sells, AZ is famous for the first silhouette/iron ram match in 1975, it was the first flag wave of the coming sport that has done wonders for the handgun hunter, in equipment as well as public acceptance of our sport. It sits in the summer sun and reaches temperatures in excess of 110°. My daughter and I finally got out there to test the barrels with the new brakes.

I braced myself for the first shot of the 280 grain busters. At firing, I knew it recoiled twice as much as usual! A small tree to my left fell like it was struck with lightning. My girlchild, standing with camera in hand, ready to catch the recoil, said she saw the bullet hit the tree! Something was wrong . . . it sure was. The screw on recoil brake was gone . . . She saw the actual brake hit the tree. It took an hour to find it. Neither the gun nor the brake was damaged. At first, we thought the cast bullet may have been larger than the opening in the brake, (Continued On Page 13)

and screwing it right off with rotational spin . . . but J. D. deflated that theory. He said his external brakes are cut to larger than the 35 caliber bore. It's still a mystery . . .

We fired a number of W-W Silver-tips at 250 grains, in excess of 1800 fps. The brake stayed put. But after each cast shot, it came loose, but not near off. The 39 remaining heavy loads were fired. I can give you the bottom line quickly. There is no difference that I can see between the external, and the internal brakes . . . as far as recoil is concerned. But, and it is a big but, there is a good deal of difference in the braked and the unbraked barrels, with felt recoil. With muffs on or not. I would say the brakes are more efficient with the T/C barrels and heavy loads than the porting on my S & W 29. (Sorry, Larry!) But that's comparing apples and apple sauce . . . I have no idea how well Kelly's rifle porting would do on a T/C barrel. I suspect it would work. The theory is sound. SSK offers that style of porting, also. The percentage in the 79 photos taken, is of course, subjective. But I would say nearly half the upward recoil is removed, a conservative estimate of 40%. What does that mean? For me, it means I fired those 39 rounds in the test and could have fired 39 more . . . when I fired the first 40 without the brakes . . . I was finished for the day.

For the labor cost in today's marketplace, SSK's cost is excellent. If you have a kicker and you're not enjoying using it, think strongly about braking it. The muzzle brakes I think add value to your barrel. If you use the barrel for Silhouette matches, it will take it out of production class. But it's good for practice. Use an unaltered barrel for the matches.

Velocity loss? I think that apple was sliced years ago . . . it's not anywhere near enough to come close to variances between shots anyway. The real question is it worth it? Is it a gimmick? Where does this muzzle brake earn its cost?

Not only does it reduce recoil, but the ability to handle the gun is enhanced, the wrists and arms don't anticipate that shock of the round, aim is less straining, hits are easier. That's not a lot of BS. There are few people I know of that fire as many rounds a year out of handguns, hand-cannons, handrifles, what ever you want to call them, as I do. My ability to aim on the second shot, and the 62nd shot, is better because I'm taking less recoil. No matter how good you are at taking it, how good you are at convincing yourself you can take it, less of it is better. Better for your gun, for you, and the game animal you line up on . . . 'cause better aim . . . is a quicker kill.

Also my barrels were . . . are of the older type. SSK put in a new barrel bolt. It's exactly what those two loose beasts needed. Now they lock up tight again. For the very small price, it's worth the new bolt. So I think it's

worth it, I'm sending my 30-40 SSK converted barrel next for the internal brake and bolt. And my 357 mag./357 maxi goes after that. Not because the maxi-mag kicks enough to need it, but the faster recovery time is a real help on the second shot on game. Did I say no recoil? I forgot about pushing that 280 grain at 1400 plus out of that 10 inch tube . . . maybe I'll send that one first.

Also I'm waiting for an SSK 45-70 (Continued On Page 13)

Handcannon, with brake, of course . . . my first SSK fully built CANNON. I'm going to wring the hell out of it and write that one up over the summer . . . I know where there are several fat and nasty coyotes that I want to introduce that 550 grain 45-70 NEI cast bullet to . . .


Oh, J. D. took that 35 caliber barrel with the external brake back to SSK with him last time he visited Tucson. It came back with a new brake and a set screw . . . It hasn't moved since. After that trip to Bloomingdale, I'll bet it never will!

BLASTER (Continued from Page 7) to 7/08. Not all Remington factory stocks shoot well or last long. There are a lot of "pre-chambered" barrels just screwed into XP actions that have never been headspaced. Thumbhole stocks tend to separate the thumb from the rest of the hand in the heavier recoiling guns. I've never seen a thumbhole stock I could get my hand directly behind. Without the ability to do that, heavy recoiling guns can be very painful. The Remington stock can be modified to fit your hand and strengthened. . . **JDJ**

32 & 380 AUTOS (Con't. from Page 11) good quality 380 double-action that can be had in blue or stainless steel. (ED. Mine will stay on 150M Turkeys 100% from a rest.) Walther from Germany makes their Model PP in 32 and 380 caliber that is a double-action pistol of high quality. A shorter barrel version, the Model PPK/S, is made in the United States; both weigh in around 23 oz. This is a general run-down of most of the pistols which can be bought in these two calibers.

All of the handguns listed here have barrel lengths from three to four inches in length. In my opinion, I do not consider either of these calibers to be heavy enough for a defense weapon, but for pure shooting fun with a handgun I feel they are hard to beat. They can be used for varmint shooting, target practice, small game, and just plain plinking. Get your enjoyment from the 32 and 380 Autos.





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TOUGHEST HANDGUN TROPHY

By Allan D'Aigneau, Hamilton, MT

When you sit down and think of all the animals you can hunt and shoot, the list seems endless. Everything from snakes to elephants! All of these are not too hard to accomplish with the right rifle, but change the name of the game to handgun hunting and it opens up a whole new arena of sporting accomplishment. Well, sport is what we are all after because it leads to action and action gets our blood to pumping, and this helps to keep us younger and happier.

We all have our waterloos in any type of hunting, and mine for years has been hunting coyotes with a sixgun. Over the years, I've called in any number of coyotes, and failed to collect one because either I didn't have a sixgun handy, or they didn't come within certain sixgun range.

Let me tell you here and now it's never been because I don't hunt enough or know how to call varmints. It's a matter of college educated coyotes here in my part of the west. This is sheep and cattle country, so the coyote gets short shrift. They have been hunted hard and long with poison, traps, aerial gunning, varmint callers . . . you name it and they have had it tried on them 10 times over. A few years of this and they become super educated! They are no easy target for a rifleman, let alone a handgunner with iron sights.

I'm in the woods the year around, either working, hunting, trapping, fishing, doing photography, or just plain being there. I've hunted all my life since I was six years old, and that's been about 32 years ago. So I do have considerable hunting education and experience, just nothing but bad luck when it comes to coyotes with a sixgun.

My hunting partners and I use about any type of hunting equipment you can name to help us to become better hunters and sportsmen. I own and shoot almost all factory calibers in rifle and handgun, plus a lot of the wildcats. But I'm partial to the 45 calibers in pistols, especially the 45 Colt in any make gun. It's a real sweet shooting caliber with a lot of knock down power. One of the best handgun hunting calibers, whether you use cast, swaged or jacketed bullets. Any weight from 200 to 350 grains shoots good in the old 45 Colt.

I'm partial to the 250 to 260 grain bullets, either hard cast or jacketed.

They really pack a wallop when pushed out the barrel at about 1150 to 1260 FPS. Two of the best powders are Winchester Western 296 and Hercules 2400. I favor WW 296 with CCI 350 magnum primers. With any of the good bullets, my guns group into 2" to 3" at 50 yards. The best cases are the new Federal cases. They have a better and stronger head and web section so the brass doesn't tend to bulge with heavy loads like WW and RP brass often does. Use a .450 tapered expander to flare the mouth of the case just enough to facilitate easy bullet seating, then use a very heavy crimp to insure proper ignition and burning of the powder charge. The best factory load for you non-handloaders is Federal's 225 grain swaged lead HP in the factory loading. It shoots with good accuracy and performs very well on game the size of deer and antelope at ranges out to about 75 yards. The 45 Colt is an easier gun to get off a second shot with than either the 41 or 44 magnums due to its milder recoil arc. This is a definite advantage on big game because a lot of the time, one shot just doesn't do the job quickly enough.

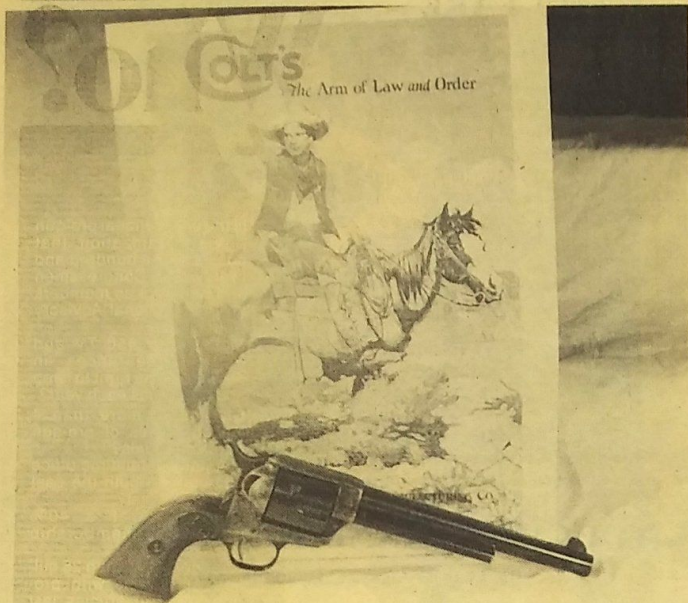
My favorite gun is a Ruge new model with a 4-5/8" barrel fully tuned with fluorescent pink front sight insert with a white outline rear blade. I carry it in a Bianchi No. 41 L holster on a Don Hume 2-1/4" River belt. This makes an excellent saddle rig.

I've called a lot of coyotes over the years all over Montana and Wyoming, and a lot of them are pretty damned smart critters! But the ones around where I hunt are definitely the world's smartest. . . They are just damned hard to call in and fool!

I've tried every call on the market and then some. It's really hilarious to be hidden in a blind and see a coyote top a ridge about 200 yards away and all unconcerned. You get all set and ready, blow your call and he sucks in his butt and hunts another state to call home. Lot's of frustration there!

Excellent camo, lots of prayers, rain dances, black magic, and a good night's sleep, all to no avail for many a year. But I'm a die hard, so I keep picking away at the problem, and in the meantime, I managed to kill a lot of other big and small game from badger to moose with various and

(Continued on Page 15)



Colt Peacemaker — The Gun That Won The West.

.45 Colt: Old, But New

By John Taffin

One of the most significant events in the history of handgunning occurred in the year 1873. This, of course, being the introduction of the Colt Single Action Army .45. Serial No. 1 was a 7-1/2" barreled sixgun with one piece walnut stocks. Certainly, the Colt Co. must have taken a serious look at both Remington and Smith and Wesson products of the time. While Colt's cap and ball revolvers had all been of the open top variety, Remington's offerings were solid frames with top straps. Smith and Wesson had been offering their SA revolver in cartridge ammunition since 1869, Colt simply blended the two ideas, and did it well.

The result was not only the most beautiful, and most perfectly balanced sixgun then or since, but also the ".45 Long Colt" cartridge. The original loading of 255 grain bullet over 40 grains of black powder was not to be eclipsed energy-wise until the coming of the .357 magnum in 1935. And then on paper only as most knowledgeable sixgunners held on to the old .45.

For those that object to the "Long Colt" nomenclature, I will agree that this was never an official title. However, two years after the arrival of the Single Action Army, the U.S. Government also purchased Smith and Wesson .45 Schofields and with the .45 S and W being shorter, military ammunition was standardized with a cartridge that would fit both, forty-fives with a loading consisting of a 230 grain bullet over 28 grains of black powder.

Cartridge collectors have found many of the shorter rounds marked .45 Colt instead of .45 S and W, hence the reason for the ".45 Long Colt" being used by old time pistoleros when referring to the original Colt cartridge. Old specimens of .45 Colt measure 1.271" in case length with the .45 S and W going 1.109". The S and W cartridge was last produced in 1939 while the .45 Colt is stronger than ever. Interestingly enough there is a third .45 Colt, that of the .45 U.S. Government of 1906 using a 325 gr. bullet in a case .915" in length. By 1911 we had the .45 ACP as

the military cartridge which gave way to a fourth .45 revolver cartridge, the .45 Auto Rim.

Of the nearly 400,000 Colt Single Action Arms produced from 1873-1941, nearly one-half of these were .45 Colts with thirty-five other calibers making up the other half, the .44-40 and .38-40 being numbers two and three. Remington also chambered their long gone Frontier model for the .45 Colt, with a few S and W Triplelocks and Model 1926's also being so chambered. Most encountered S and W .45's are actually rechambered .455's. Prior to 1941 the only other sixgun of note chambered in .45 Colt was the big Colt New Service. Smith did chamber a very few 1950 Target Revolvers to .45 Colt in the fifties.

My love affair with the .45 Colt goes back to 1957 when I purchased a brand new 7 1/2" barreled Colt Single Action. Colt had resumed production of the excellent old sixgun in 1955 and those early Single Actions were excellent examples of the gunmaker's art. The future would see the stopping of production of the Colt SA two more times before the final death blow was dealt in 1981. With a retail price of over \$500 the Colt had to die. Basically, the same gun in 1981 as in 1873, the Colt Single Action could no longer compete in price or power with the new breed of magnums. Only the dedicated Single Action lovers like myself still purchased the Colt SA, and we even winced at the price.

There's something about the feeling of a Colt SA that cannot be transmitted by any other sixgun. Especially in the 4-3/4" barrel length, the old Colt just seems to nestle into the hand with everything in the right place; the same feeling occurs whether this sixgun is riding in a hip holster or waistband. Performance wise, the old .45 is probably the most practical defense cartridge ever devised and when the conical factory bullets are replaced with Keith Semi-Wadcutter at 900-1000

FPS, its performance shines even more.

The complaint is often heard that the old Colt design is prone to breakage. This is true. Even though both the bolt and hand springs are particularly vulnerable, remember the design is nearly 150 years old, and parts are easily replaced.

If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, the Colt SA has been highly honored by spawning a number of imitators; some better, some worse, some improvements, some copies. During the '50's, Great Western made close copies of both western films and quick draw buffs, these being nearly identical except for a frame mounted firing pin. The one GW I have is an excellent single action, very tight and perfectly timed.

Pure pleasure is the only way to describe shooting Colt Single Actions. With factory loadings in .45 Colt, recoil is very mild and even when loaded up to 1000 FPS with a 260 grain the grip of the Colt performs perfectly. My SA .45 4-3/4" shoots right where it is pointed and is one of the few sixguns worthy of engraving.

My collection of sixguns includes three Colt .45's, two SA's in 4-3/4" and 7-1/2" barrel lengths plus a 5-1/2" New Frontier. Also tucked away in my parts box, waiting for the right SA's to rebuild, are two cylinders with a 4-3/4" and a 12" barrel, plus all the necessary innards to put a couple of old veterans back into tip top shape.

Elmer Keith's first big bore handgun was the .45 Colt, and finding the factory loaded conical bulletted round lacking in game killing power, he went to handloads of 300 gr. .45-90 bullets sized to .454 and seated over 35 grains of FFG black powder. These were a vast improvement, but the .45 Colt was abandoned when one of these loads blew the loading gate off an old blackpowder Colt. The switch was made to .44 Special and one can only contemplate what would have happened if a stronger .45 Colt had been available.

When approaching the .45 Colt as a reloader, one should load according to relative strength of each type:

Type I: Pre-War Colt SA's, New Services, and an occasional S and W. These should be used only with factory type loadings, a good example being 8.0 gr. Unique and 250-260 gr. bullet for around 850 FPS or 35 gr. FFG Blackpowder for 800 FPS.

LOADS FOR THE COLT SINGLE ACTION .45				
Bullet	Load	MV-3/4"	MV-7 1/2"	
Lyman 454424	9.0 gr. Uniq.	885	980	Favorite
Lyman 454424	10.2 gr. Uniq.	1010	1090	
Lyman 454424	18.5 gr. No. 2400	1050	1165	Favorite
Lyman 454424	20.0 gr. H227	1025	1085	
Speer 200JHP	10.0 gr. Uniq.	930	1010	

LOADS FOR THE COLT NEW FRONTIER .45				
Bullet	Load	MV-5 1/2"		
Lyman 454424	21.0 gr. H110	1040		
Lyman 454424	22.0 gr. H110	1110		
Lyman 454424	23.0 gr. H110	1070		
Lyman 454424	20.0 gr. No. 2400	1170		Accurate
Hornady 250 JHP	23.0 gr. H110	1105		Accurate

LOADS FOR THE RUGER .45 BLACKHAWK				
Bullet	Load	MV-7 1/2"		
Lyman 454424	20.0 No. 2400	1240		Accurate/Favorite
Lyman 454424	21.0 No. 2400	1265		
Lyman 454424	22.0 No. 2400	1330		
Lyman 454424	24.0 H4227	1250		
Lyman 454424	25.0 H4227	1300		
Lyman 454424	26.0 H4427	1335		
Hornady 250 JHP	23.0 H110	1200		
Hornady 250 JHP	24.0 H110	1225		Accurate
Hornady 250 JHP	25.0 H110	1250		Accurate

Type II: Post-War Colt SA's and Smith and Wesson M25's. These are made of strong modern steels, but they are not magnums by any means.

Type III: The "modern" .45 Colts. These are larger in cylinder dimensions than the Colt SA's and are basically .44 Magnums rechambered to .45. Very strong, but approach with common sense. In this category one finds the Ruger Blackhawk, Mossberg Abilene, Virginian Dragoon, and the various El Dorados and Sevilles.

The following loads have been used successfully and safely in my Colt SA'S. All loads are assembled with Winchester Western brass and CCI Magnum pistol primers are used with all powders except Unique which gets by nicely with CCI standard primers. As with all reloading, the normal precautions are mandatory with loads worked up carefully. What is safe in my guns may not be in yours. Top loads should not be used in Smith and Wesson .45's.

Ruger, by introducing a .45 Colt with a larger frame and cylinder, proved that the .45 Colt was a 20th Century Cartridge. Blackhawks have been very popular with .45 shooters and have been the subject of much experimentation with heavy .45 loads. For the first time in nearly 100 years, a really strong .45 was available. Care should be used, however, as overzealous handloaders have blown them apart.

The following loads have all been used in my .45 Blackhawk with WW Brass and CCI Magnum Primers. When 260 grain bullets begin pushing 1200 FPS, recoil of the .45 Colt changes dramatically. All of these loads should be approached cautiously as both recoil and pressure is approaching .44 magnum levels.

Friend Jim Taylor, Pastor and pistolero, of Oracle, Arizona, has been a long time fan of the .45 Colt, especially in the 7 1/2" Ruger. His has been in constant use since 1971 and though battle scarred it is still tight and still shoots. His favorite load is 20.0 gr. No. 2400 and Lyman 457191, a 300 grainer, sized to .452. Jim reports excellent long range accuracy and game killing ability with velocity just over 1200 FPS.

I have just acquired a heavy bullet mould for the .45 Colt, the N.E.I. No. 310.451 which casts out at 310 grains and is "Keith" style. Should do well from the Ruger at 1200 FPS or from

(Continued on Page 15)

Toughest Handgun
(Continued From Page 13)

sundry six guns. . . . but still no coyote! I've shot more than enough with rifles but was determined to take one with a sixgun.

While scouting for deer and turkey in early October, 1980, I started seeing more coyotes than usual at closer ranges than usual. So I thought that maybe — just maybe — my luck was about to change, if I kept at it.

Sure enough, about two weeks later while horseback hunting some of the back pastures with my trusty Ruger 45 Colt and 250 grain Hornady jacketed H.P. over 20 grains of WW 296 and CCI 350 primers in Federal 45 Colt cases along for company, I was checking the east and west running ridges and draws for deer. When along the south slope of the ridge I'm sitting on, comes old Mister Coyote, trotting along, just as unconcerned as you please, looking back over his shoulder away from me! Don't know what in the hell he was looking at . . . I couldn't see anything with my eyes or my 9x35 B & L Binoculars, but that coyote was sure as hell looking at something, because he never knew I was in the same country as he was.

Maybe the prayers or black magic were working . . . I don't know, but I wasn't complaining at the moment. I was just thankful as I let him come to within about 50 to 60 yards and put a 250 grain Hornady through his lungs. And that was all it took . . . That and about 10 years!!

Well, I have been to my Waterloo and I have returned triumphant. So now my life goes on, but it seems a little empty. Maybe I didn't need to shoot that coyote as much as I needed to just hunt him. We all need goals in life and I can't think of a better one than coyotes with a sixgun. I'm very fortunate to live in the best hunting state in the lower 48. But no matter where you live or what caliber you shoot, you can probably find a few coyotes to try your luck and aim on.

Well, keep 'em clean, and keep shooting!



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the New Frontier at 1000FPS.

Cases miked before and after firing give some interesting results. Cases measured .478" in diameter directly ahead of the web before firing. Here are measured diameters after firing:

Colt SA	.478"
Colt SA	.479"
Colt NF	.484"
Ruger	.483"

This simply means long brass life in my older Colts and short brass life for heavy loadings in the New Frontier and Ruger, as they both allow .005-.006" expansion.

Strangely enough, while the .45 Colt market has always been dominated by the single action, the Colt SA has been dropped from production and unfortunately Ruger no longer catalogs their Blackhawk in .45 Colt. However, the Smith and Wesson Model 25 is readily available and Dan Wesson is considering producing their large frame revolver in both blue and stainless .45's. The old .45 Colt is well ready to enter its third century.



The most popular and probably most useful .45 Colt caliber revolvers are Colt and Ruger. The S & W's thin cylinder walls prohibit loading them to much over factory pressures safely.

Your Story Needed!

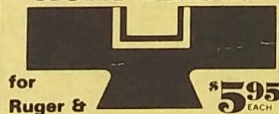
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CAMP FARE

By Bud McDonald, Lakewood, CO

For the first time in five years, our annual Wyoming hunting trip would be in a different area. With high hopes, we decided to make camp a week before the opening day. This would give us enough time to scout around, locate the muley we'd like to have, and get the "lay of the land".

Saturday, before the season, our campsite was located in between two 11,000 foot peaks. A deep mandering 10 foot wide stream cascaded behind our old gray hunting bus as we backed it in and unloaded supplies and gear needed for the up-coming two weeks. Our party likes to eat! We had plenty of grub . . . potatoes, apples, country hams, 25 dozen eggs, two lard cans full of homemade bread, and enough canned veggies to last for months.

No sooner had we gotten relatively settled when out came Ralph's fishing pole, bait, lures and waders, and off he went. Ralph (Steve's Dad) is the fish- ingest sucker this side of a Russian trawler. One time, I saw him MAKE a trout in this dried up . . . that's a long story . . . later. No more than an hour later, we were feasting on our first mess of freshly caught rainbows . . . fried in butter, sprinkled with lemon pepper . . . a meal fit for a king. If you've eaten the pink, firm fleshed native trout from the west, you know that the stocked mushy tasting things can't compare. Once you've had a taste of native rainbow, brookie or browns, you'll crave them all year long until at some point, the trout outweigh the hunting opportunities.

Next day, we all rolled into one truck to look things over. Steve showed us more deer by lunch time than a fellow could photograph in a day. We all picked out a place to hunt, and that was that. Now what? We had 4½ days to goof off before the first day of the season. No problem at all. Plenty of things to do. We finished off the first day with horseshoes, more juicy trout, and by taking turns on the spotting scopes, seeing who could spot the largest buck up on the mountainside.

The next morning, early, Ralph, Art and I took my truck to locate a brookie stream we'd heard about. Forty miles of dirt road, a snow squall and beautiful scenery later, we found the stream. After a pleasant walk up a canyon, we hit brookies. In no time, we each had our limit of 16 brook trout, all in the 8" to 12" range. We would certainly enjoy trout again that night. Later in the day, we all took a ride up to a seldom fished stream where Ron and Ralph tried their luck while Ted, Steve, Art and I looked around. Coming up on top of a rim, a huge basin lay out before us. Steve put the spotting scope on two antelope that were at last three-fourths of a mile away. He then let out a "Holy hell! Look at that dude." When Steve gets excited about an antelope, you'd best believe it's a good one! I got both of 'em on the scope, and let me tell you, that one was a dandy. He was heavy all the way up to the fork. His paddles were wider than a big hand plus. We guessed he'd go 17", no sweat, or I'd eat every bit of sagebrush in that basin. This must be one that Elmer Keith passed up in his youth, 'cause this ole boy was old! We have five witnesses that saw him. Five witnesses who'll

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WRITER'S GUIDE

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tell you he's still there, plus five guys who'll be applying for antelope licenses in that area next year!

Next day was Tuesday. Ralph and Ted went fishing again. I stayed in camp, putting the finishing touches on a "Tom Shippy" shoulder holster I was making for Steve. Art said he wanted to try some blue grouse, so Ron and Art headed up over the hill to some

(Continued On Page 16)

(Continued from Page 15)
 timber high up. Three hours later, they were back with three grouse. They had hit a big flock of 'em. Art had gotten all three . . . two with, of all things, a Sterling .22 automatic, in the head, and one with a rock. Thought he was just lucky until I saw him later take a jack in the head at 35 yards with it (the automatic, not the rock). And those grouse . . . ain't a restaurant in the world can top blue grouse slowly roasted over charcoal in a closed grill. Those were the cleanest bones you have ever seen!

Steve showed up, from guiding 'lope hunters, and we talked him into taking us jack hunting that night. Spotting jacks is legal in Wyoming, but not off any main roads. Steve and I handled the lights, inside, while Ron, Art and Ted tried their luck with .22 Mags on the back. We took a dozen or so out from under their noses with my Ruger Mark I with 4X Leupold, but by and large, those .22 Mags cleaned house. Art especially made so many incredible shots we were quite certain he was pulling 'em out of where the sun don't shine. After 200 rounds, 75% hits, we all agreed that the .22 Mag. would be the gun to have if ya had to live off one rifle. It's a hard-hitting, accurate round.

Next day, I told the others I couldn't last another day without a mess of rabbit. Steve, Ted and Ron took a couple .22 Revolvers out and in no time, were back with eight fat, cleaned cottontails. Art and I, in the meantime, fired up my big smoker (55 gallon drum) with charcoal. Finding no BBQ sauce in camp, we commenced to making a batch of, what we now call Wyoming BBQ Sauce. Ketchup, jalapeno sasa, beer, vinegar, beer, brown sugar, lemon, pepper, and a touch of beer. Two hours later, the elbows and bones flew as we tore into that big platter of BBQ rabbit. Everyone raved over the sauce, saying we should sell it. The rabbit was delicious, (either that, or we were half-starved. (Editor's Note: Maybe three-quarters!))

Each morning we'd have a big breakfast . . . eggs, ham, slab bacon, sourdough flapjacks, sausage gravy and good coffee that only Ralph could produce.

Much to our dismay, Steve had a doe antelope tag he wanted to fill. We all have had some rough experiences eating 'lope, so after much ribbing, Steve took off to guide a few Easterns, but was back that evening with a large dry doe antelope he'd gotten with his Super 14 T/C in .30-30. He'd heard from an old-timer that a dry doe was the best eating, plus to skin it right where ya kill it. That he did. A friend of his also was successful on a big horn sheep and gave him a small mess of sheep meat. We were looking forward to next day which we had set aside as "stay close to camp day and rest". We had big 1" steaks laid out and had the fire going for hours to get the necessary coals. The horseshoes flew all day, not to mention the B.S. We had a few revolver matches, sharpened knives and did just what we pleased. Just before the steaks were to go on, Ted went over to the meat pole and cut a loin out of the 'lope. I put tin foil on the grill which was located over the coals that had double wrapped corn on the cob, and large potatoes among them. I placed two dozen slices of 'lope on the grill, along with slices of the sheep. We all wanted to taste the

sheep, but had second thoughts about the antelope. Ted tried a piece of the 'lope, then another, then another. We all hopped in, tasting it, and declared it delicious. A production line was started from the 'lope to the fire, putting on more 'lope. Corn and potatoes were dragged out of the coals. We looked like a bunch of Indians, sitting 'round the fire, feeding our faces. The sheep was good, but the 'lope was tastier. The big inch steaks were put back in the cooler for another day.

Tomorrow our hunt would begin. We'd had a good week. Months later, the hard work, sweat and sore muscles would be forgotten, but the visions of platters of trout, rabbit, grouse and antelope still linger. Did we have a successful hunt? As far as our party was concerned, we had a wonderful time, even before the hunt began. Good companionship, between friends (old and new) make a hunt. This was one of the finest hunting trips I've been on. The best thing I could wish on all you HHI'ers is that you have a hunt such as this in the near future.



FIRING LINE

Dear Mr. Jones,
 Congratulations for the October issue of THE SIXGUNNER. I have read enthusiastically your report on your Zimbabwe Safari.

Really fantastic!
 Incidentally, I'm trying to duplicate, with available French powders, the loads you used on African games in your .45/70 Handcannon, and I'd be glad to know the muzzle velocities given by both 52-H322-400S and 48-H322-500H. Thank you in advance.

U.S. and French soldiers have endured in Lebanon intolerable casualties. Once again they're facing the same enemy (this time together) — International Communism — probably through Iranians and/or fanatic Muslims.

Everybody here was horrified and angry.
 What will be done? What retaliation carried out?

Is it not inconceivable of sending in Beirut new contingents of Marines and Red Berets to let them be slaughtered by untouchable killers?

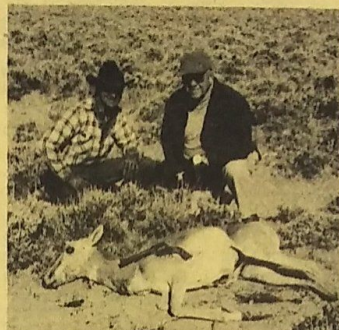
Terrorism is not only a world-wide plague, but also a dangerous weapon in the hands of Moscow strategists.

Do you think, in the United States, that War could be long kept off?

It seems that the coming Euromissiles crisis might be crucial in this matter. Obviously, to overcome it, we'll be relying entirely upon U.S. strength and the courage of your President Reagan.

Yours Cordially,
 Docteur Michel Collin
 Chatillon-en-Bazois, France
 F-58110

After reading Clifford Simonds letter in 'FIRING LINE' in the last issue of THE SIXGUNNER (Oct. 1983), I feel compelled to respond. At first I was stunned. Then I got more than just a little bit upset. I really tried to understand where you're coming from Mr. Simonds. I believe that there can be any number of reasons for aiming at some game and then at the last second decide not to pull the trigger — wrong species, wrong sex, too small, etc. I aimed at that doe just for practice. I'm still not convinced that I was wrong. But, that part of your letter didn't get me going like the next part did. I quote "What if that hoped for buck was another hunter which 'magically appeared,' and for any number of reasons, that gun discharged?????" That statement really turned my crank. Maybe you have trouble with target identification, but I don't. I know the area where I hunt and I know what's behind where I shoot. J.D. said he thought you were 'nit pickin' a bit. I think you were 'nit pickin' a lot. I actually feel a little bit guilty towards the other members of HHI for putting them through this. To them, I apologize. To you Mr. Simonds, come down from your mountain top. It would behoove us both to work together. We are both on the same side you know.
 Larry DeBretto, Virginia, MN



Old friend, Russ Hart with his first handgun antelope.

What an interesting life you have had since I last saw you! I would have sent my membership in sooner, but decided to wait until after my upcoming antelope hunt at Saratoga, Wyoming. I thought that I should prove to myself that I really was a handgun big game hunter. Carbon County is known to have many large herds and at 7:30 a.m. of the first day in Area 50 I had a nice 15-1/2" buck, but I protected my ego by taking it with my Rem 700 Classic in .270 Win. I asked my outfitter and guide, Tim Barkhurst, if he would like to work with me trying to get a 100 yard shot to be taken with my open sighted Ruger, SBH 7-1/2" barrel. He had never worked with a handgunner before and he couldn't wait to get started! I had practiced all summer and I knew that I could keep all of my shots in a 12" circle at 100 yards. Now was the time! Here is my picture, authentication and application. Next year a buck first, wearing a HHI hat. I'll wear the hat!

Editor's Note: Russ is an old friend from over 20 years ago. I remember a couple mulies from Colorado that he took with a 5" SBH back then. Glad to have you with us. JDJ

My recently purchased S/W Mod 27 with 8-3/8 length barrel had to be sent back to the factory. It would not even shoot 12" groups from a 50 yard bench rest. I have now put a 1.5X scope on it and it is only shooting 7-3/8" groups from sandbags at 50 yards. Do S/W Mod 27's usually shoot this bad? What do you advise? I am using Unique at 8.0 grains, Hornady 158 grains J.F.P. and Mag primers by Win. I read how others are shooting 2" and less groups under the conditions mentioned above. Please advise.

Paul J. Rihs

Editor's Note: If it's only capable of 7" groups something is definitely wrong with the rig. It could be the scope, gun, ammo or shooter. Try several other loads including full charge loads. Check the scope for parallax by sandbagging the gun, looking through the scope and moving your head. If the crosswire walks across the target or moves at all the scope should be repaired. If everything checks out, send it back to S & W or get rid of it. This kind of inaccuracy is not unusual and frequently requires more "pistol-smithing" than the gun is worth to correct.

JDJ

I'VE HAD IT WITH REDHAWKS. I've had two — No. 1 had a .431 bore. Shot fair with jacketed bullets, but couldn't get a cast bullet big enough to keep on the paper. No. 2 slugged out at .429 which was right on it — couldn't get it to group well . . . it was a 7-1/2" with Ruger rings and 4X Leupold EER. Best load I could get was still 5-1/2-6" at 100. Cleaning it, it felt tight at the muzzle. Looking through it I could see slight annular rings in the barrel. Sent it back . . . they returned it with 2 targets fired at 15 yards and 25 yards. 15 yard target was 4-1/2", 25 yard was 6". They said it met their standards

at Ruger. Their standards are lower than mine. I sold it. Last comment — I feel the stainless SBH are less accurate than the Chrome-Moly jobs. My last SBH 10-1/2 scoped will shoot 4". My 7-1/2 SBH Blue does 2-1/2" with ease at 100 yards. What is your opinion? Do you have some easy "fixes" or is a custom barrel in order?

Paul Charbonneau, Hattiesburg, MS
 Editor's Note: Frankly, I don't think you can expect much under 5" groups from a revolver at 100 yards. If you do better; consider yourself fortunate — you should be so lucky that the gun, ammo and you will be so lucky to continue to do it for a long time. There are no quick easy fixes to give 2.5" 100 yard revolver groups. JDJ

I am going to spend next summer and fall exploring S.E. AK by kayak. I'm planning on using a SBH for bear protection. What do you think the best handload for this purpose would be? I am also interested in the 44 Keith Express and Paco's thoughts on casting.

Mike Bambauer Olympia, WA
 Editor's Note: The CCI magnum primer, 21.5 grains of 296 and the 320 grain JDJ bullet will do more to a bear than any other 44 load available except by increasing the powder charge on this one. The 44KE is apparently a dead issue. The JDJ line of cast bullets puts the bullet nose as close to the end of the cylinder as possible. This results in as much powder capacity as it is possible to get in the 44 Mag. case. The C & H canular tool will recannularize jacketed bullets to achieve the same thing. The 444 Marlin case is thicker and actually reduces case capacity. It won't stick in the chamber at as low a pressure as 44 Mag. cases do, but any load that sticks 44 cases is too hot for both the case and gun.

Any Auto Mag fanatics out there that need parts or repair — contact Mr. Dan Gibbons, P. O. Box 751, Torrance, CA 90508. He has all parts in stock and does all types of repairs to the AMP.
 Monte Kyser Juneau, AK

Editor's Note: Thanks for thinking of us with this useful information.

Could you please send me that address you gave with respect to purchasing that T/C Contender Patch? My wife accidentally discarded that issue of THE SIXGUNNER. She's on probation because of it.
 Phil Bowers, Clifton, TX

Editor's Note: I sure do hope probation straightens her out and more stern measures prove unnecessary. The T/C Contender patch as well as catalog is available from Tim Pancurak, T/C Arms, Farmington Road, Rochester, NH 03867.

I have a small reloading shop and I'm frequently asked by customers about where to hunt. Here in Louisiana I can give specific information, but the same kind of information might help you. Your state may have management areas that aren't hunted to death. Your local game warden may be able to help you; if not, write your state game and fish commission. Company owned lands are often available to hunters and may well offer good hunting. A little nosing around will often pay off in good hunting. Customer service departments should be able to answer any questions. Private land is often open to the hunter who cares enough to ask the landowners permission. Be careful regarding guided hunts. Investigate for hidden costs carefully. In some areas local newspapers or the Chamber of Commerce can be a big help.
 D. M. Terry

I live a couple miles north of the border in Canada. No handgun hunting allowed here. Are any HHI members in Washington willing to indulge a Canadian member who has 41 and 44 Rugers, ammo to burn and a desire to hunt in Washington? If so, send me a postcard with your phone number.
 Doug Shogren
 P. O. Box 967, Sumas, WA 98295

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