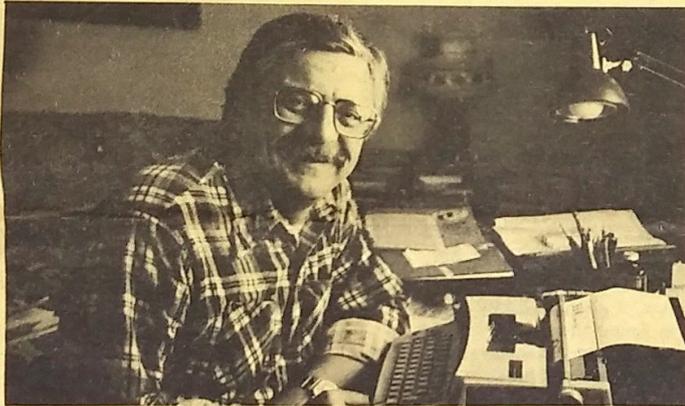




THE SIXGUNNER



MY CORNER

By J. D. Jones

Seems as if Federal and Lyman are always adding something new with Hornady-Pacific right there also. Federal has announced the addition of a 210 grain semi-jacketed hollowpoint load for handgun hunters. It is of straight ogive design and utilizes maximum bearing surface for enhanced long range accuracy. Its M.V. is 1300 F.P.S. (790 F.P.E.) from a 4" vented barrel. That drops to 1130 F.P.S. (495 F.P.E.) at 100 yards. 200 yard velocity is 890 F.P.S. (370 F.P.E.) which is very similar to a .45 ACP 230 RN at the muzzle. No samples as yet, but I've yet to be dissatisfied with any Federal ammo.

Current Lyman 38/357 dies also handle the .357 Maximum cartridge fine. Many other makes do not. Lyman also furnishes seating screws for RN semi-wadcutter and wadcutter bullets with most of their straight wall pistol die sets. Lyman has also added a \$25.00 lead thermometer to the Mould Master XX Furnace at no extra cost. I use a Mould Master XX when I get around to casting and have been satisfied with it. If you want to know more about Lyman products, a letter to Mr. C. Kenneth Ramage, Lyman Products Corp., Rt. 147S, Middlefield, CT 06455 will get you a free 40 page

full color catalog. Ken is one of the most knowledgeable individuals in the country regarding casting bullets and cast bullets. If you have any questions, he is the man to go to, and unlike a lot of experts, he answers his mail. Lyman also has three new single beam scales priced from \$44.95 through \$59.95.

Safari Club International in its upcoming edition of Record Book of Trophy Animals will include symbols indicating how each trophy was taken. Symbols will identify rifle, muzzle loader, bow and handgun trophies. I think this is a positive move on the part of SCI and can only help handgunning and arouse more interest in the HHI Record Book.

Our Rocky Field Editor, Bob Good, was recently the subject of a feature in the *Denver Post*. No, he wasn't caught robbing a bank. Actually, Charlie Meyers wrote about Bob's handgun exploits in the ADVENTURE Section. Both Bob and Charlie did a very nice job. Incidentally, Bob is president of American Sportsman Club and had his own group at Nuanetsi just prior to the HHI group. They tried to leave nothing but skeletons in the sand for us, but were unsuccessful. The HHI group even surpassed their record

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LONG BARRELED DAN WESSONS

By John Taffin

As a dedicated handgunner, I rejoice to see how the world of handgunning has changed. When I started, Ruger had just brought out their beautiful little (as compared to today's Blackhawk's .357, later to be lovingly referred to as the original flat-top; Smith 29's were starting to be advertised, and the only big-bore sixguns available were Colt SA .45's and S&W 1950's in .44 Special and .45 ACP.

Within a few months both Smith and Ruger .44's would be available and our concept of both power and long range sixgunning would change dramatically. Until the late '50's, the best long range handgun available was the Smith & Wesson Model 27, 8-3/8". In fact it was the only long barreled sixgun available, however before the fifties ended we had 8-3/8" Model 29's and 10" Ruger Flat-Tops available in both .357 and .44 Magnum. The long barreled Rugers were not produced in great quantities as they did not sell well, but I feel fortunate to have a 10" .44 Flat-Top. Colt also brought out their Buntline Special 12" .45 at this time, and even though I have a Buntline bar-

rel put away to build up a custom sixgun in the future, the Colt .45 was not in the same league with the Smith and Ruger .44's.

In my early years of sixgunning, Dan Wesson, Abilene, Virginian all were far into the future. The big three were Colt, Smith & Wesson, and Ruger, with a very minor challenge from a short lived Great Western Arms.

All three manufacturers had one thing in common for the most part; the desires of shooters fell on deaf ears. After all it only took Elmer Keith thirty years to get us a real big bore sixgun! Everytime a silhouetter knocks down a turkey or ram, or a sixgunner brings down a deer, we can chalk one more up for Elmer. Except for a handful of handgunners, few really know how right he was until long range sixgunning and handgun hunting became so popular the last ten years. We all owe him a lot.

Along with the thousands of new sixgunners that have discovered both handgun hunting and long range sixgunning has materialized a new type of

(Continued On Page 2)

in the number of animals taken. Even if he did hunt with a bunch of riflemen, let's forgive him and publish his pictures anyway. Nobody's perfect . . . we all make some mistakes.

According to NRA's "Reports", Judy Flickinger, wife of the Mayor of Morton Grove, has acquired a .357 Magnum handgun from Deputy Chief Ron Lanning. Sounds familiar, doesn't it! Now where else was it they took all the guns away from the people — except the bigwigs, police and army???

It's no secret the firearms industry along with many others has been very slow for a while. Proof positive comes from the following release from S & W.

S & W HANDGUN PROMOTION PROVIDES FREE AMMO

Another new Smith & Wesson consumer-benefit program extends to the large frame handgun models most popular among handgun hunters. Handguns were not part of the recent S & W Great Gun Bonanza. It applied only to shotguns.

Handgun hunting is growing in popularity. Ammunition is designed for a variety of purposes so, while the hunter can find what he needs "off the shelf", he needs to be more selective in what he buys. The gun and its ammunition are a system. Smith & Wesson recognizes this and is making a special "system" offer.

When you buy an S & W Model 25, 27 or 57 between September 1 and December 1, 1983, your first 100 rounds of ammunition most suited to hunting with that particular revolver are on the house.

The Model 25 is a large N-frame revolver in .45 Colt for handgun hunters who prefer a lighter recoil but need a heavy hunting load. This revolver is mated with two boxes of Federal's 225-grain semi-wadcutter hollow point, a good deer hunting load.

The Model 27 is the original .357 Magnum revolver. Paired with Federal's 158-grain jacketed hollow point ammunition, it makes a versatile hunting gun.

The Model 57 is the .41 Magnum that many gun writers have said never got the respect it deserves. With Federal's 210-grain, jacketed hollow point ammo, it provides excellent knock-down power for big game hunting with less recoil than other large bore Magnums.

Buy one of these guns during the season and you get two boxes of matching ammunition. And that's a better deal than you might think. Retail value of the .45 Colt ammo is \$41.70, .357 Magnum is \$43.40 and .41 Magnum is \$51.60. With 100 free rounds, you can spend a box to get acquainted with your new gun and still have plenty left for the hunting season.

The consumer is required to provide proof of purchase and the dealer's FFL. S & W verifies the transaction and sends shipping instructions to Federal who ships the free ammo direct to the dealer.

Smith & Wesson is making every effort to convince American sportsmen that the encouraging economic news should extend into the gun business, too. They're giving you more reasons to buy now. The Great Gun Bonanza provides a \$40 cash back certificate on new, currently cataloged S & W shotguns. Now the handgunner is included with this free ammo offer.

See your local dealer for information.

Obviously the M-29 and 629 are selling well enough, they aren't included in the offer — only the real "dogs" on the present market are included in this new wonderful deal. Personally, I've never seen a S & W in .45 Colt or .41 Magnum being used by a hunter and the .357 Magnum is a substandard caliber for most animals larger than varmints. However, if you're going to buy one, now is the time to get a couple of boxes of Federals to go with it.

Ken Howell, former editor of **Handloader Magazine** is offering handloaders the most complete record data form for handloaders I've seen. Each form includes space to record; cartridge, all components (including water capacity of case), gun, its serial number, weather conditions, including barometric pressure, chronograph,

shot-by-shot readings, summaries, energies, group, trajectory, ranges, a grid to trace your group on and many other handy little data collections. In short, if you want to spend more time with records than loading and shooting, you can't go wrong. Twenty-five for Six Bucks. (1107 Willow Cr. Rd., Prescott, AZ 86301).

Back in 1979, Thompson/Center Arms began a collectors series of hunting emblems which feature the animal used on their yearly catalog cover. 4-1/2" in diameter and in full color, these are quality embroidered emblems. A few 1980 emblems (featuring a Cougar) are still available. **This emblem will never be made again.** If you wish one for your collection, send \$1.00 to Thompson/Center Arms, Farmington Road, P.O. Box 2426, Rochester, NH 03867. Specify "Cougar" emblem.

SOAP BOX TIME: The following letter from Sam is important. As far as hunters rights, protection, and conservation are concerned, S.C.I. is No. 1. Help out if you can, please.

I need your help. You and I know that sport hunting is one of the world's most ancient and noble traditions. Its lineage from earliest times is clear and unmistakable; but we are increasingly beset by hostile forces who would destroy this honorable sport by innuendo, distortion, and outright publicly-supported campaigns.

Safari Club International (SCI) is firmly committed, to eliminating these threats and to speaking loudly, clearly, and strongly for the basic concepts underpinning the good and necessary elements of sport hunting. We intend to make clear that a well-managed sport hunting program will encourage and promote the survival of game species and not endanger them.

Although it has been merely 12 years since SCI was formed, we have, nonetheless, racked up an impressive portfolio of victories in the defense of all sportsmen's "Right to Hunt!". For instance, during the last three, short years, we have made tremendous inroads by:

- Virtually, singlehandedly stopping a cynical and dangerous Congressional revision of the Lacey Act which would have turned law-abiding sportsmen into FEDERAL FELONS for any game violation of even the most unintentional or technical nature;

- Successfully pushing for the enactment of several changes in the Endangered Species Act, which not only drastically improved the Act's overall operation as it affects sportsmen, but, for the first time, officially recognized the important role of the sport hunter in wildlife conservation;

- Saving several million acres of prime Alaskan hunting lands which otherwise were to have been arbitrarily declared off limits to sport hunters in addition to those lands already closed;

- Reopening the hunting of several trophy species which for years had been falsely listed as "endangered", as in the celebrated cases of the African leopard, bontebok, lechwe, and white rhino.

- Establishing for the first time laws and regulations recognizing sport hunting as a useful and necessary tool in the conservation of wildlife species.

As a result of these and other victories we have secured, SCI is recognized as THE voice of the hunter in Washington.

However, with increasing influence and prestige comes the attendant responsibility to ensure that our right to hunt is CONTINUOUSLY guarded against all legislative and regulatory threats or challenges being orchestrated by the anti-hunters.

Accordingly, we have come to an important decision.

We have established a Center for Governmental Affairs in Washington, D.C. with a separate financial structure. Sportsmen will now be able to react INSTANTLY to new threats — whether they originate in the Congress, in the line agencies, or in the offices of the anti-hunting lobbyists. Moreover, the Center will serve to increase the visibility of the sportsman in Washington — something which has been sorely needed in our nation's capitol.

With the help of your hunting organization or club, we will continue to win and be assured that our right to hunt is being properly defended. Please join us and a growing list of hunting organizations and clubs in supporting the Center for Governmental Affairs by making a contribution this year.

Your contribution to the Center for Governmental Affairs will be used for one purpose and

one purpose only — defense of our "right to hunt!". There are several crucial battles being waged right now and over the upcoming months. These fights need the sportsman's strong commitment:

- Opening millions of acres of prime hunting lands in Alaska by passing the Alaska National Sport Hunting legislation, the FIRST piece of national legislation devoted SOLELY to sport hunting and our right to hunt;

- Preventing the congressional imposition of FEDERAL NON-HUNTING buffer zones on lands adjacent to National Parks;

- Protecting wetland habitat to ensure that new legislative proposals do not impose unrealistic constraints upon hunting waterfowl;

- Removing the senseless and unrealistic prohibitions against the importation from Canada of lawfully taken marine mammal trophies such as the polar bear;

- Passage of a Federal HUNTER PROTECTION LAW that would impose felony penalties on those parties who would interfere with our hunting activities;

- Helping our native bighorn sheep by pushing for a more practical and rational means of managing the herds of wild horses and burros which are destroying the bighorn's natural habitat.

We are committed to winning every fight that arises. Won't you help? We need the support and involvement of your organization in the Governmental Affairs Center. Please make a contribution today to: SCI Governmental Affairs Center, Suite 700, 2033 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Sincerely,
Sam Borsellino
President

Magnums — (Continued From Page 1)

handgun manufacturer. That is one that listens to shooters. And when one began to listen the rest started to fall in line. We could argue forever whether silhouetting made Dan Wesson or Dan Wesson made Silhouetting (same goes for T.C.), the fact remains that DW's are the winningest revolvers and they have continued to upgrade their product and listen to us, the dedicated six-gunners.

Lest you think I am a PR man for Dan Wesson, my stable of Magnum sixguns includes nine Smiths, nine Rugers and only three Dan Wessons. You see I discovered DW's late, but I have found them to be excellent six-guns. Everyone that comes through has not been perfect, but I do know that everyone I have sent back for customers has come back virtually a new revolver, with most being re-blued and fitted with new stocks. These included some that were pretty well used (abused?).

In less than twenty years, DW has gone from an unappealing .357 that no one wanted, to one of the best looking, and certainly one of the best shooting sixguns available. The record speaks

Dan Wesson .44 Magnum — 10"

BULLET	LOAD	MV	25 Yards 5-SHOT GROUP
NEI Keith	20.0 No. 2400	1391	1"
Saeco 240 Silh.	20.0 No. 2400	1362	1"
Saeco 265 Silh.	22.5 H4227	1422	7/8"
Hornady 240 FMJ	20.0 No. 2400	1288	3/4"
Hornady 240 FMJ	22.5 H4227	1240	5/8"
Hornady 240 FMJ	23.0 WW296	1312	1-1/4"
Hornady 265 FP	23.0 WW 296	1314	1"
SSK 310 JDJ	23.5 WW680	1416	1"

.357 Dan Wesson — 10" VH

BULLET	LOAD	MV	25 Yards 5-SHOT GROUP
RCBS 38-150KT	7.5 UNIQ	1246	1"
Lyman 158156GC	16.0 WW296	1274	1-1/4"
Lyman 158156GC	15.0 No. 2400	1470	1-3/8"
Speer 158 JSP	17.5 WW296	1267	1-1/4"
Speer 180 FMJ	15.5 WW680	1049	7/8"
Hornady 180 FMJ	13.5 WW296	1045	3/4"
RCBS 35-200 FN	*13.0 WW296	1164	1-1/4"
SSK 200.358 JDJ	12.5 H110	1194	1-1/2"

All loads assembled with WW Brass, CCI Magnum Pistol Primers. Load marked * assembled in .38 Special R.P. brass to avoid deep seating of bullet due to cylinder length.

version has always been supplied with an unported barrel only.

The two DW's I have been testing the past few months are both 10" models, the .357 their Model 15VH, or vent heavy barrel, while the .44 10" was ordered with standard barrel to make the silhouette weight limit of 4 pounds for revolver class. Both have the expected excellent DW blue jobs, and both have such good trigger pulls that I have not touched either one.

Both came with an assortment of red, white, and yellow inserts, none of which work well for my eyes. Fortunately, DW now supplies undercut posts in varying heights and widths for those sixguns and my .357 received a long range front sight, and I found a narrower front post for the .44.

My only complaint about the DW design is the grip, it just isn't angled right for my hand. The .357 was equipped with Pachmayr's which help a lot, and although I tried a set of finger groove DW stocks for the .44, I found I had better control with the standard issue walnut stocks.

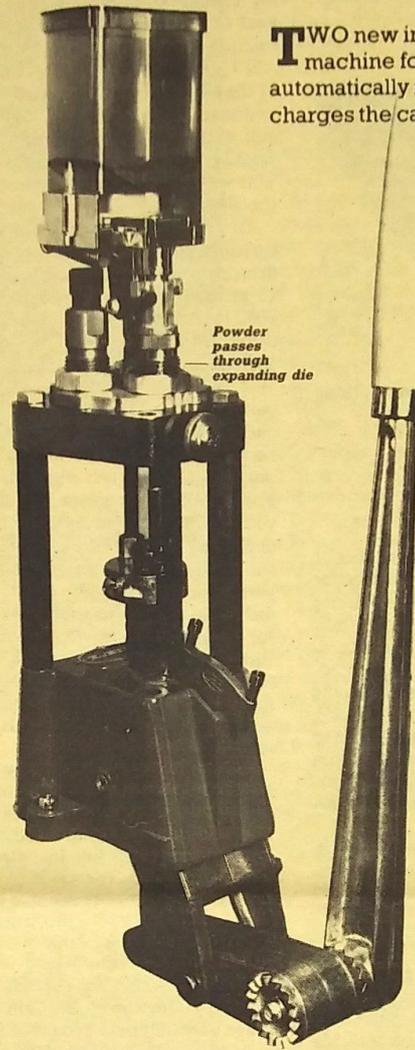
Both of these DW sixguns have been fired on the silhouette course with excellent results. Firing the .44 first, using my favorite silhouette loading of Hornady FMJ 240 over 20 grains of No. 2400, I topped my previous best AAA Revolver score by two targets. Bringing the .357 into play, with the RCBS No. 35-200 FN cast bullet over 13 gr. of WW296 in .38 Special cases, I was able to equal my .44 DW score without using the aid of a spotter. Both of these DW sixguns shoot better than I can see.

The accompanying charts show the astounding accuracy of both the DW .357 and DW .44. Present IMMSA statistics put the DW .44 in first place, the DW .357 in second, and the Ruger .44, third. If shooters take to the .357 maximum those statistics could change. Personally my best scores have been fired with the .357 maximum, an excellent long range cartridge when properly loaded.

Both DW's, .357 and .44, make excellent hunting handguns. Two of my friends shoot .357 DW's with deadly accuracy on Jacks, Gophers, and Badgers. When it comes to the .44 DW it should handle any reasonable hand-load and mine shows excellent accuracy with every load tried in it. The 10", however, is pretty cumbersome for carrying all day, and handgun hunters might better be served by either a 6" or 8" barrel. Interestingly enough, my 10" DW clocks 240's slower than my 10" Ruger, but goes over 60 FPS faster with my 310 grain load. One wonders what Elmer could have done if he had a DW .44 to shoot long range.

DW continues to listen to shooters. The .357 Maximum is now a reality with a longer cylinder than the Ruger plus even more interesting to me DW is now interested in .45 Colt. I hope to have one of these for testing in the future. DW's are now available in .22, .357, .41 Magnum, .44 Magnum, .357 Maximum. All with excellent adjustable sights. What more could anyone ask for? (ED: The D.W. is not available in .45 Colt and at this time no decision has been made to produce it in that caliber. If you would like to express your feelings on the .45 Colt, D.A., D.W. — write Duane Small, Sales Mgr., D.W.A., P. O. Box 168, Union Lake, MI 48085. The large strong D.W. cylinder should be capable of .45 Colt loads developing pressures similar to that of the .44 Magnum.

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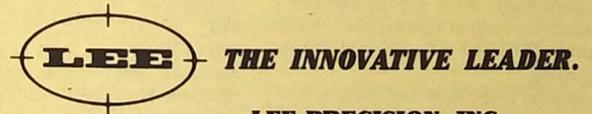
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*Big Max is a registered trademark of Omak Industries.

DOG GONE

By John C. Oswald,
East Sparta, OH

A couple of years ago when out squirrel hunting I had laid down on a fallen tree trunk about noon for a nap. The day had warmed up quite a bit and the wind had picked up a little. A couple hours earlier I had cleaned a groundhog and three squirrels about 100 yards down hill from where I now lay.

I had almost fallen asleep when I heard the leaves rustle from the top of the ridge behind me. I listened without making a move to what I thought was a squirrel coming towards me. The rustling kept getting closer and louder. So loud that I now thought it was a deer. I was completely camouflaged and motionless, so whatever it was hadn't noticed me. I wanted to see what it was and how close it would come. The noise stopped just to my left and out of

my sight. I slowly slipped my left leg off of the tree and started sitting up when I saw it — and it saw me.

It was a large feral dog with pups following the smell of my morning kills carried by the wind. When she saw me her ears went back, the hair on her back stood up, she showed her teeth and came for me right now without making a sound. I pulled my shotgun around as quickly as possible. When she saw it she turned on a dime, 180°, and left with her tail between her legs. I hesitated shooting for a second trying to decide whether to shoot and she was gone over the ridge. I did get two of the slower pups.

When it was all over and I thought what might have happened without my gun, my knees turned to rubber and I had to sit down. Later, I informed the farmer what had happened figuring it was probably a neighbors dog and he would be glad I didn't shoot it, but to my surprise he said I should have shot

them all. He went on to inform me of a sick steer and three calves of his that have been killed by dogs on his farm in the previous two years. Since then I have killed several dogs for him and have always been welcome during hunting season. He will even let me hunt with my handguns now. That's something he wouldn't let me do until those dogs started disappearing. The main reason I'm writing this letter is to alert my fellow handgunners to the danger of roaming dogs. They look like your neighbors dog, but look out. I knew we had a problem in Ohio, but did not worry about it at all until this experience. Until it happens to you, it always happens to the other guy, right? Now, I keep a revolver close whenever afield. Enough about dogs.

I shot a fox squirrel last year with my HHI Sixgun. I was about fifteen yards from him when I shot. The cartridge was the Remington Medium Load .44

(Continued On Page 4)



75 grain Sierra impacted at 100 yards. Performance such as this leaves nothing to be desired.

6MM JDJ

By Elijah Harvey, Hazard, Kentucky

I called SSK early this spring and ordered my second barrel chambered for a JDJ caliber, this one was for the 6MM JDJ. This is a 225 Winchester case necked up. JD said it could push a 75 gr. bullet at 2700 plus with 1/2 inch groups possible. He said he had very little loading data and that I would have to work up some loads. I told him to send the barrel with TSOB base, 3 Bushnell rings, loading dies, and any loading information he had.

I got interested in this caliber after shooting the very accurate .375 JDJ. I loaded several different loads for the .375 JDJ and fired some 3 shot groups. The worst load grouped 1.95 inches, the next three loads went .98, .80, .64, and .48 inches at 100 yards. The .64 and .48 inch groups were the same load. I shot the .64 group and a shooting buddy, Sam Roll shot the .48 inch group. This load was Remington cases, Hornady 220 gr. F.P. 9 gr. IMR 4198, and CCI 250 primers. SSK's data lists 40 gr. max. for this powder. I didn't need magnum primers for 4198, but was out of standard primers at the time. Now this is my standard load. With groups like this I decided any further testing was a waste of time. We used a 4x leupold during the testing.

I couldn't get over the accuracy of the .375 JDJ and started thinking

about a long range varmint caliber. I thought the 6MM would hold up better at long range than the 22's and shoot flatter than the larger calibers, so I called SSK and talked to J.D. He recommended the 6MM for what I wanted, so I told him to send me one. When the barrel arrived, I checked the loading data which was two loads and a note to approach slowly as the loads were from a customer. The loads were: 38 gr. 4350 — 75 gr. — 2700 plus, 37.5 gr. 4831 — 90 gr. — 2600.

The 75 gr. load was the one I was interested in. I necked up the 225 win. case and checked case capacity. It held about 37.8 grains of water. I got my powley computer and entered case capacity and bullet weight to get the recommended powder charge and type of powder. The computer gave 32.6 of IMR 4064 or 4895. The computer only lists information for IMR powders. My PSI calculator estimated pressure at 43,500 PSI. This was only an estimate so I dropped back to 30.5 gr. of IMR 4895 to fireform the cases. New case capacity was 39.6 gr., an increase of 1.8 gr. Back to the computer for a new estimate of 34.0 gr. of IMR 4064 or 4895, velocity 2820, pressure 44,000 PSI. I decided to start with the 75 gr. load J.D. sent to get an idea of case expansion. However, I dropped back to 35.0 gr. of IMR 4350 and worked up to

the 38.0 gr. load. The 38.0 gr. load was too hot for my gun, extraction was sticky and primers slightly flattened. Expansion ring measured .422.

I only fired three rounds of this load so the velocity won't be accurate, but my Oehler 33 indicated 2810 fps. A load of 37.5 gr. of 4350 gave easy extraction and an expansion ring of .4217. Because of the sticky extraction of the 38 gr. load, I felt it would be best to drop back to 37 gr. even though 37.5 grs. extracted easily. Expansion ring for 37 grs. was .4215, velocity 2726 fps. This would be my max expansion ring for all loads.

To me the 6MM JDJ is a varmint cartridge and I don't intend to use it on deer, so I worked up loads for the 60 & 75 gr. Sierra HPs. The 60 gr. will hit 3052 fps and the 75 gr. will do 2795 fps using IMR 4064. With both bullets sighted for 200 yards the 60 gr. drops — 8.14 inches with 551 fp. loss at 300 yards and the 75 gr. drops — 9.05 inches with 645 fp. loss at 300 yards according to the sierra manual. With only about one inch more drop and almost 100 fp. more energy I'll stick with the 75 gr. I've used both Sierra and Speer 75 gr. HP and either bullet will group 3/4 inch for 5 shots at 100 yards (occasionally as small as 1/2 inch), but the Sierra wins hands down for blowing holes in groundhogs. Either seems to kill instantly, but the Sierra 75 gr. HP acts more like a bomb than a bullet. Holes fist size and larger on broadside shots at 100 yards are the rule.

When I started working with the 6MM the weather wouldn't cooperate either high winds or rain every weekend. So, most of my loads weren't accuracy checked, but just fired over my chronograph for velocity checks. The few loads that I was able to shoot for accuracy shot so well I used velocity as a means of picking my favorite load instead of group size.

At first I used a 4x leupold, but the 4x isn't enough magnification for the range potential of the 6MM JDJ. I put a 7x Burris on this barrel and though the extra magnification doesn't make my groups any tighter it helps bring in a distant target or pick a groundhog out of the grass. I'd rather used a 12x leupold converted to 6x long eye relief, but SSK has a 30-40 Ackley Krag barrel that I need. The short 16 inch eye relief of the Burris 7x is useable if you are under 6 feet tall and shoot with your elbows bent, otherwise it will probably be too short.

So far my 6MM JDJ has had about 600 plus rounds through it with some of them being very hot test loads. About 400 of these loads were fired with the 7x Burris. So far it is holding up. If you are looking for a 300 yard varmint cartridge that you don't have to sight 6-10 inches high at 200 yards then the 6MM JDJ is probably what you're looking for.

The following loads should be reduced at least 10 percent and approached slowly. I have no way to precisely check pressure, but these loads are max in my gun!

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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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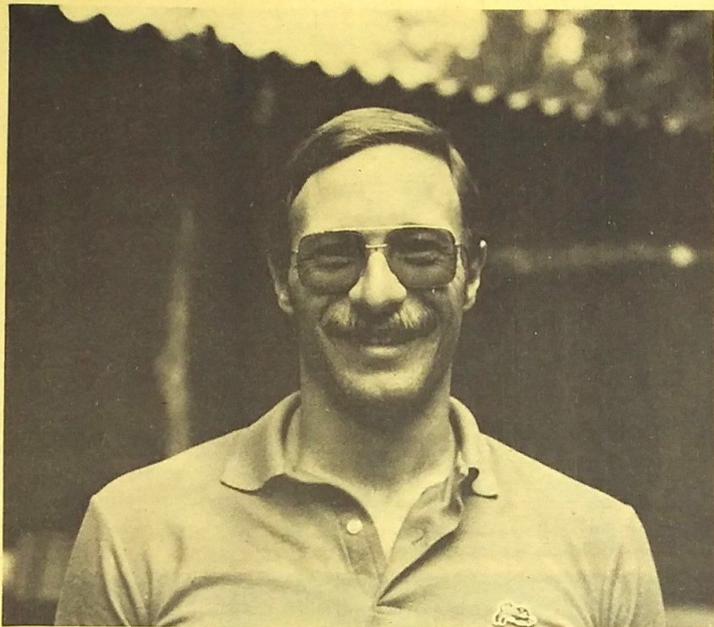
I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

J. D. Jones

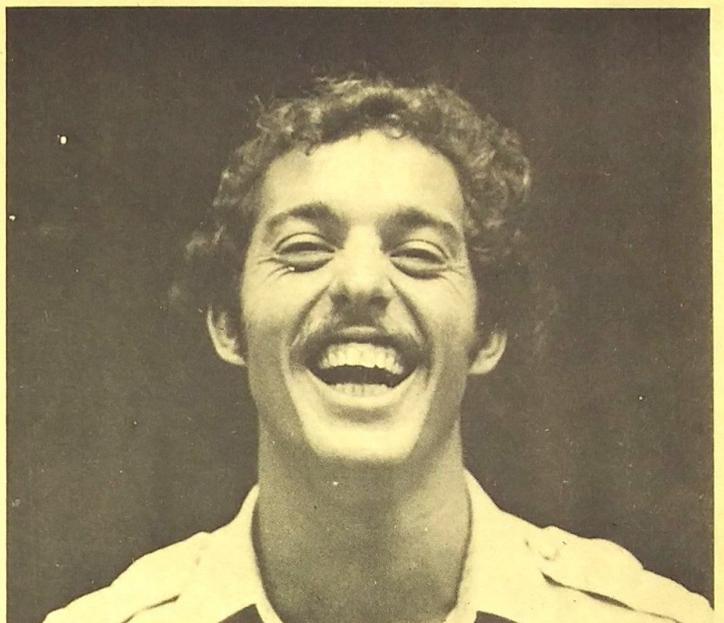
Dog Gone — Continued From Page 3)
 Magnum. It was supposed to be a head shot, but he moved as I fired. The bullet caught him through the rib cage sideways removing all vital organs. The squirrel didn't realize he was dead because he ran down that tree and to another one seven yards away and was six feet up it when he fell dead. I was really surprised he could do that with an empty chest.

I would like a right handed western style holster for my HHI Sixgun. One made to fit it's six inch barrel instead of seven and one half inches like most others that fit otherwise. How about it handgunners, where can I find one? (ED: Buy a 7.5 inch and cut it off.)

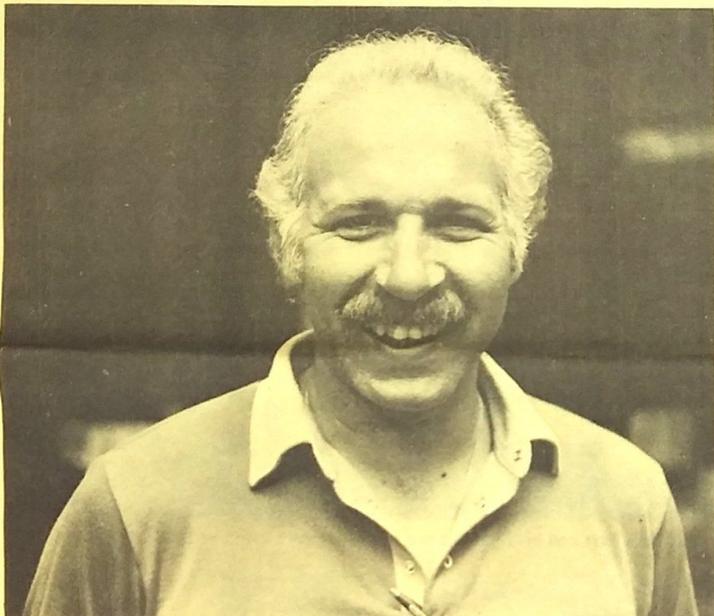
6M JDJ Test Loads					
POWDER		BULLET	VELOCITY	Primer	
Type	Charge				
IMR 4198	27.0	60 Sierra	2920	CCI 200	
IMR 3031	32.0	60 Sierra	2889	CCI 200	
	32.5	60 Sierra	3048	CCI 200	
IMR 4895	34.5	60 Sierra	2955	CCI 200	
IMR 4064	34.5	60 Sierra	2961	CCI 200	
	35.0	60 Sierra	3052	CCI 200	
H-380	36.5	60 Sierra	2821	Rem 9 1/2 m	
IMR 4198	26.0	75 Sierra	2684	CCI 200	
	26.5	75 Sierra	2780	CCI 200	
IMR 3031	30.0	75 Sierra	2643	CCI 200	
	30.5	75 Sierra	2750	CCI 200	
IMR 4895	32.5	75 Sierra	2701	CCI 200	
	33.0	75 Sierra	2753	CCI 200	
H 4895	31.0	75 Sierra	2729	Fed 210	
IMR 4064	33.0	75 Sierra	2744	CCI 200	
	33.5	75 Sierra	2795	CCI 200	
	33.0	75 Sierra	2763	CCI 200	
IMR 4320	37.0	75 Sierra	2726	Rem 9 1/2 m	
IMR 4350	37.0	75 Sierra	2697	Rem 9 1/2 m	
H-380	35.5	75 Sierra	2696	Rem 9 1/2 m	
H-335	30.5	75 Sierra	2696	Rem 9 1/2 m	
H-322	29.5	75 Sierra	2724	Rem 9 1/2 m	
H-414	36.0	75 Sierra	2659	Rem 9 1/2 m	
	36.5	75 Sierra	2694	Rem 9 1/2 m	



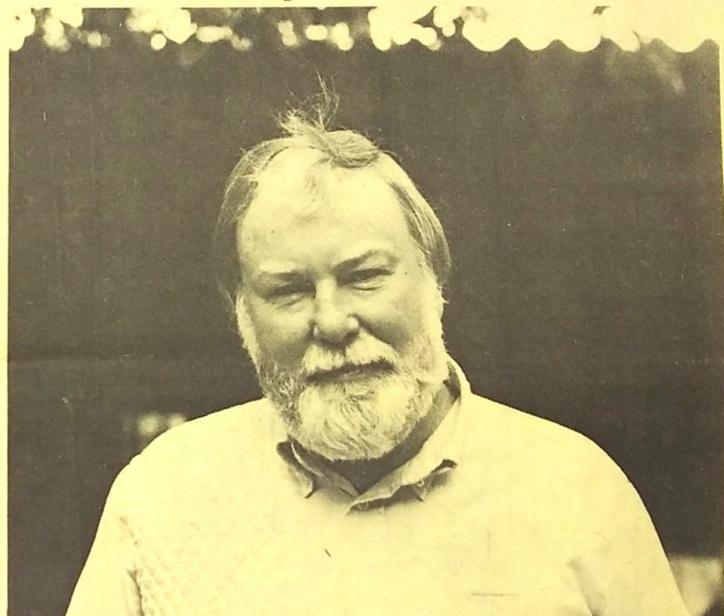
Day 1 — Mark: What are we going to do?



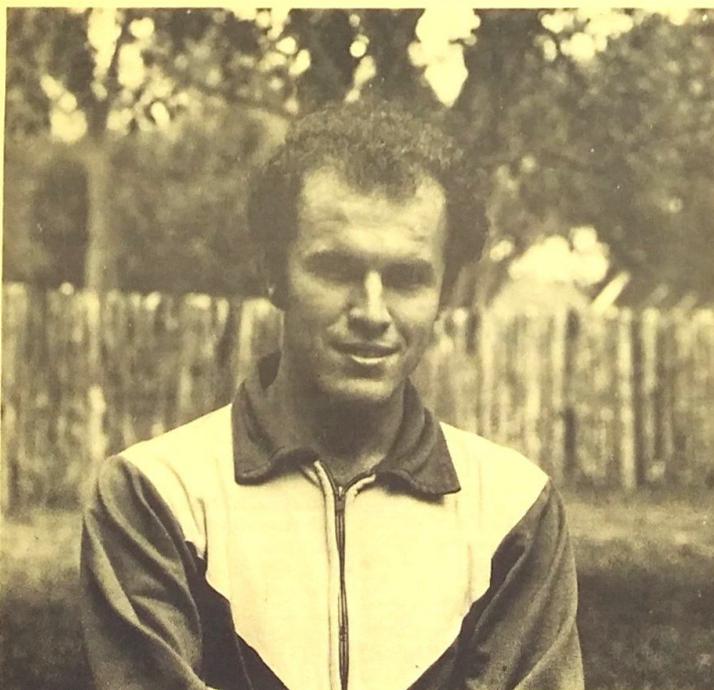
Craig: Fan out and kill them.



Ray: Let's do it!



Larry: I'm ready.



SO WE DID IT!

The plan was simple. John, Larry and I would leave from Pittsburgh, Ray would leave from New Orleans, Karen and Mark from St. Louis. We would all meet in New York for the New York-Johannesburg flight.

I knew we were starting out right when our plane left Pittsburgh two hours late and Ray wasn't waiting for us at the gate in New York.

Mark and Karen showed as planned. A check with Pan Am revealed Ray wasn't scheduled on the NY-J'Burg flight. Since he left from New Orleans a day early to celebrate going on the hunt, I was worried about him. As it turned out, Ray sat in a Pan Am aircraft on the runway in New York for a couple hours while being assured by Pan Am that the NY-J'Burg flight was in radio contact and they wouldn't leave without him.

Ray says he flattened his nose against the glass, tore great scratches in it with his fingernails and yelled "JD, come back, come back" as they pulled our aircraft away from the terminal. To add insult to injury they wouldn't let him aboard while we waited for an hour and a half to take off.

We flew from New York to Monrovia, Liberia for a fuel stop and on to Johannesburg. At J'Burg HHI members Adrian DeVillier, Eddie Dunn, Jimmy Roos and a messenger from Ray awaited us. Ray would join us in the morning via London. Please wait. John had several friends awaiting his arrival. That evening we all had a great time.

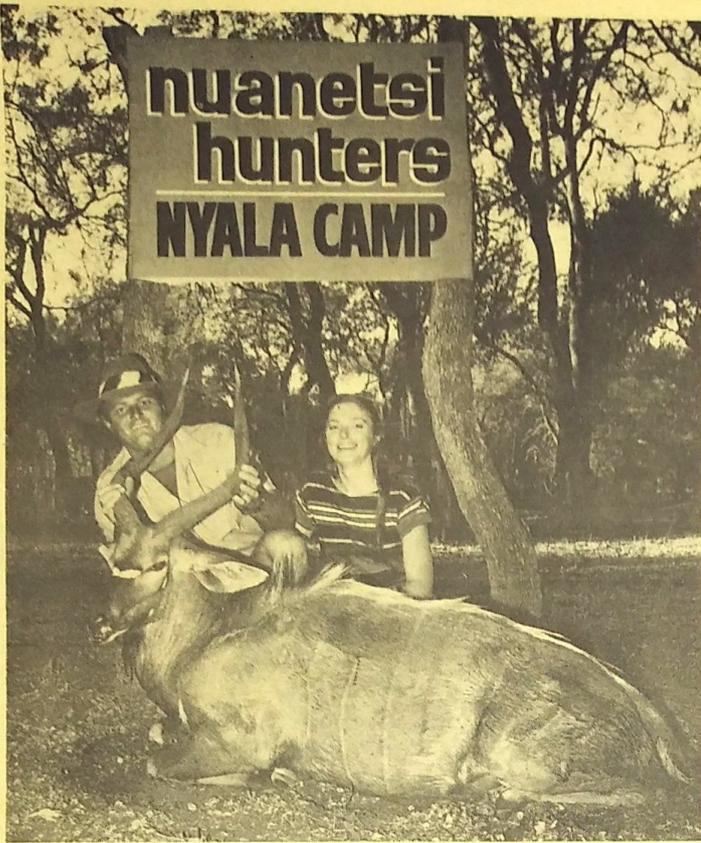
The next morning we departed Rand Airport via a charter flight, one more in body if not spirit. Ray was beat. 'Course we all felt sorry for him and no one gave old C.A. a hard time or anything!

After buzzing the Customs-Immigration office at Beit Bridge, Zimbabwe we landed on a dirt strip and awaited C-I. They dispatched the formalities in a hurry and thirty minutes later we landed at Nuanetsi.

Don Price, our professional hunter, and his professional hunters Craig and Jeff awaited us with three Toyota Land Cruiser trucks. We saw our first game about twenty minutes later.

We were entertained the first evening at Nyala Camp by the local natives performing a dance of welcome for us.

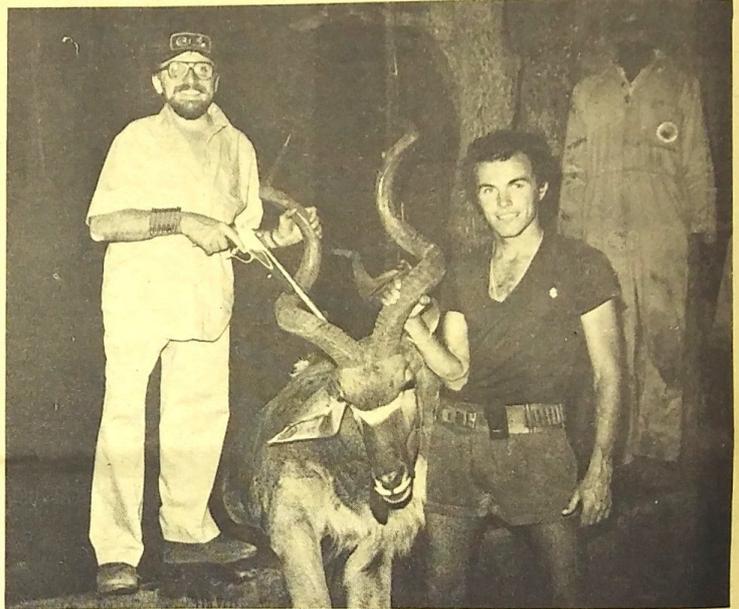
nuanetsi hunters NYALA CAMP



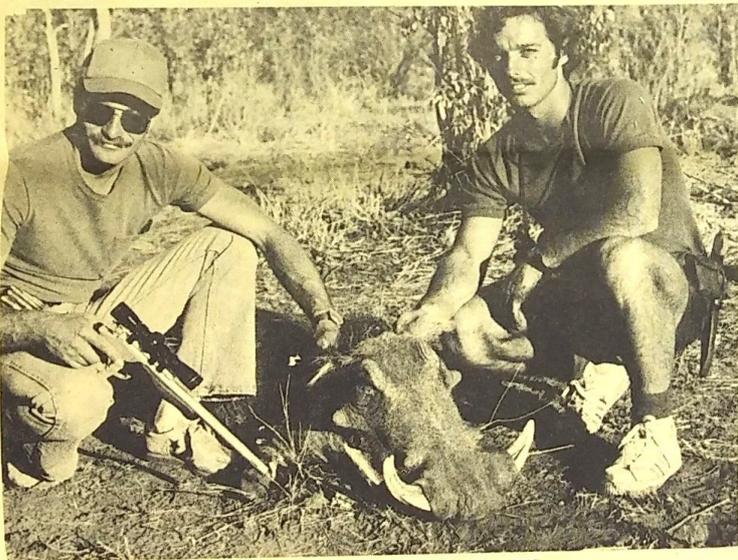
Don and Litty Price with Ray's nyala, one of the most prized trophy animals in the world.



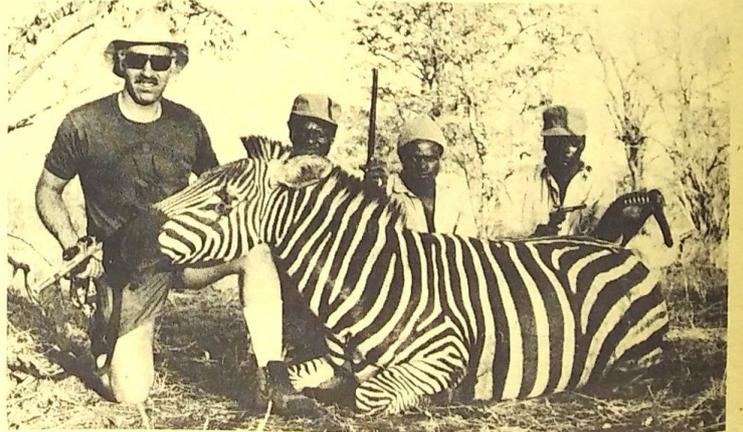
Karen and the first animal ever taken with a T/C 83 rifle. One offhand shot with the .30-06 did it to one record book impala.



John Reinhart and his tight horned kudu. Heavy? Look at Jeff's right arm.



Mark's first warthog taken with the .358.



Ray with his first zebra.

The next day was spent just fooling around, shooting, getting over jet lag and becoming acclimated in general. This is a great way to start rather than just jump right in.

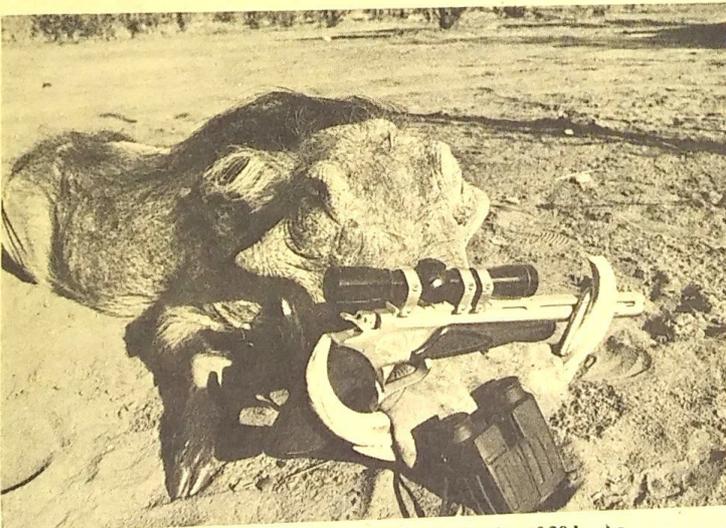
At 5:00 a.m. the next morning, tea, coffee and cookies were served. By 6:00 a.m. we were all in the field.

For the record, my first shot at an animal in Africa was a miss. I tried a jackal at about 100 yards with the .45-70 and saw the bullet impact low and 3-4 feet right. I'm assuming the bullet was deflected by brush, but could have

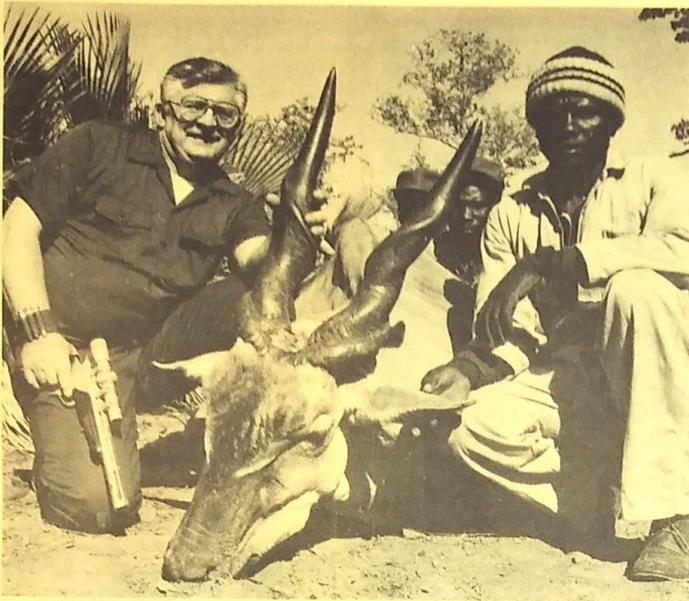
just plain screwed up the shot.

Shortly after that we saw several giraffe, parked the vehicle and began walking through the bush. Very shortly thereafter we heard a small war break out and end. Mark had his waterbuck.

Hunyani and Techu led, looking for tracks. Don followed them with me behind Don. Pete brought up the rear. The ground was barren, covered with tracks and droppings. The bush was thick. Somewhere along the way I picked up the idea we were on the track of kudu. All talking was whispered in mumbo jumbo. I really felt stupid and somewhat left out. After awhile and a



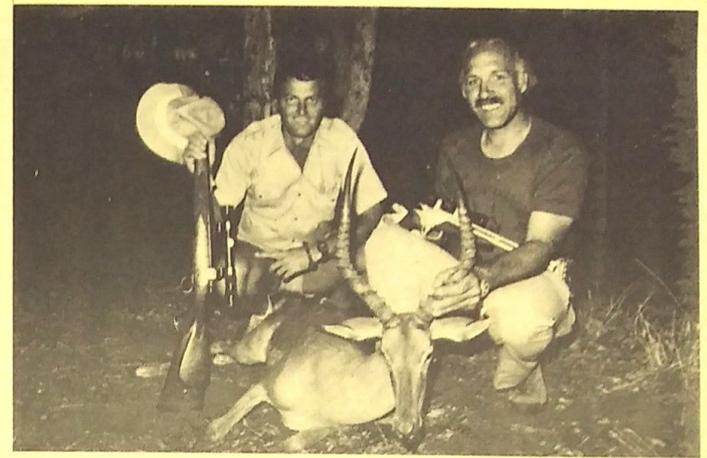
Warthogs like this all over and a trophy fee of 30 bucks.



My first African animal; an eland that easily goes in the record book and weighed about a ton!

couple "thumbs ups" from Don, I could feel the tenseness begin to build. The trackers and Don began walking, bent over at the waist. This helps you see under the bush and an animal isn't as likely to spook if he catches a glimpse of you — only humans walk upright. Techu pointed and froze. I vaguely saw movement to our right and ahead. We moved out suddenly and for 200 yards, it was touch and go to keep up with them. Bent over, trotting, I was soon breathing like a steam engine. Occasional movement on my right told me we were keeping up. Don and the

trackers suddenly dropped to all fours and proceeded as fast as possible. I thought, "What the hell — I've come this far" and started my imitation of a fat crab with a broken back at top speed. Soon my glasses were covered with sweat, and were falling off. Everyone stopped. Don waved me to crawl over him. I flopped down, my legs laid over his. I could see legs at 40 to 50 yards through the bush. Don pointed and mouthed "Shoot". Hell, I knew there were three animals and I could only see two legs. The legs started moving to my left and



Ray ended a missing streak with this nice impala. Don uses Remington .375 H&H as a backup. Note Ray's idea of a hat to keep a cool head.

occasionally became four. At best, I could see 8" to 10" of the lower part of its body. I cocked the .45-70, rolled over on my left side and desperately searched for an opening and a shot. Suddenly the left front leg appeared with a little chest showing above it. The leg swung forward exposing the "pit" area over the heart. I snap-shot it with a 500 grain Hornady S.P. at 1425 F.P.S. All hell broke loose when it went off. The animal jumped, as did the trackers. Everyone ran, leaving me on my belly in the dust. I stumbled to my feet, reloading, and followed. Don said, "Good hit!" when I caught up. The tracks were plain at impact — deeply etched in the bare dirt. The jump — stumble and panicked flight were plain, even to a rookie like me. Fifty yards farther on we found a little blood and Don gave me a thumbs up.

Twenty-five yards farther, the blood stopped. Three hundred yards farther, it joined a herd and I found out I had wounded an eland. After watching the herd, Don spotted an eland with blood on its hip. I said "No way, unless I got some crazy bullet deflection from a limb." But it worried me. Don said it could have rubbed against the one I hit, or it could be from something else entirely.

We stayed on the herd over an hour. Looking — trackers on the track of the animal I hit — they said. I doubted it — thought Don was trying to make me feel good. One animal separated from the herd. Don gave a thumbs up and said "We've got him now". I found it hard to believe. Twenty minutes later Techu found a couple drops of fluid. The brush started opening up a little and our pace quickened. In another twenty minutes we saw him — running away — 100 yards of open land — 30 of brush and another 20 to him. Although I really didn't need prompting Don said, "Shoot". Offhand and fast I torched it off when the crosshairs crossed his X ring.

He lurched heavily as Don and the trackers ran after him. I did my best to keep up, unsuccessfully, and a couple hundred yards past where he was when I hit him the second time, caught up. He was in bad shape, but not too bad to move. I put one into a tree throwing up a great cloud of dust as I tried a broadside shot at the trotting animal. I reloaded, ran to the side and after him twenty yards and shot for his off shoulder. He went down instantly and was dead when we got to him.

A one shot kill it wasn't; but I learned more in that two hours than I would have from a hundred one shot kills.

I was sure I had really screwed up the first shot. Investigation showed he must have been in the process of turning to the right when the shot hit as the bullet entered low, passed a couple inches to the right of the heart and into the opposite front shoulder. It looked like if his body had been straight, the bullet would have had to have penetrated the heart. It did hit the left lung solidly and clipped the right.

The second shot missed the X ring by about 4-5 inches and ended up in the chest. Shot three entered the guts, penetrated about 300 pounds of stomach, liver, lungs, aorta, took out a rib, skidded off the shoulder blade and stopped in the front of the shoulder. Penetration of shot one — about five feet, shots two and three about 6-7 feet. All three bullets recovered. He weighed about a ton, and easily makes the record book.





Hippo (front) sank like a stone when brained by the 500 grain Hornady. The white spot between the eye and ear is entrance.



Mark's first — a record book waterbuck!

O. S. S.

John Musacchio of Ohio Shooters Supply will donate 500 of his cast bullets — your choice of what he makes — to the author of his favorite story in the upcoming issues of the **SIXGUNNER**. Writing's easy. Just write your story the way you would tell it to a buddy. Double space between the lines and send it in. If you have photos send them, too. Don't worry about spelling or punctuation.



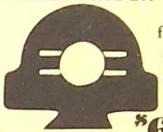
KNIFE CASE

Larry DeBreto's the winner of Wayne Randall's custom knife case for his article in last issue. Congratulations!

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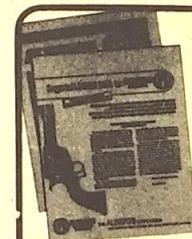
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I cannot stress the importance of placing the first shot in the heart too strongly. These animals are tough and lung shots just don't put them down very fast. Sometimes a hole in a heart that is about three gallon capacity doesn't drop them as fast as you might like either. Penetration is the name of the game. You must have penetration to get into these big animals. Sometimes they don't co-operate and give that simple, standing broadside fifty yard shot.

More likely you have three seconds or less from seeing game before it starts moving. In that time you must get ready for the word from the professional hunter who will normally be the one who decides if you shoot or not. There are few exceptions to this. The hunter-shooter should only use his binoculars if a shot is declined. You simply don't usually have time to use binoculars.

If you have any qualms about shooting at something moving you had better get over them as well as having to shoot something in the rear. Picture book shots do occur. By accident or by planning. If you hunt waterholes by waiting for something to walk in, they can happen. This is the most practical way to hunt using a revolver. John hunted quite a few waterholes and his average shot was 55 yards.

I hunted primarily behind the trackers and by stalking — walking through the bush, woods and reeds near the dry rivers. I would say my average shot was at least 100 yards and offhand with quite a few animals moving.

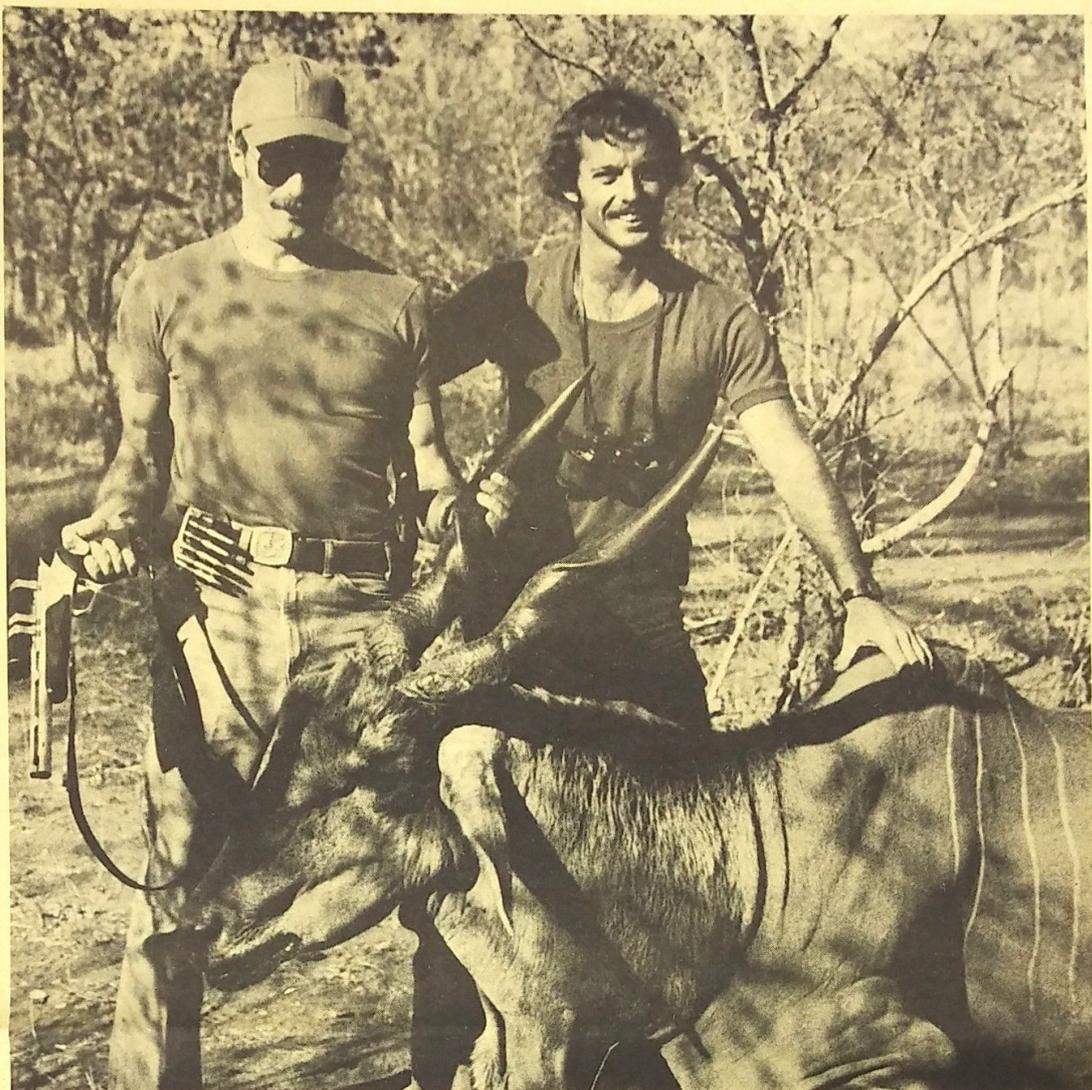
Even though in many areas the bush was very thick, the shots seldom occurred then. More usual was a shot across a clearing and into the bush on the other side of it or in fairly open woods.

All but one of the warthogs I shot were running. Of 38 head of game I harvested on this hunt, all but four knew I was there before the shot.

Hunting behind trackers when you find a track and get on it until you lose it, shoot it or pass on it is a very demanding way to hunt both physically and mentally.

For clean, simple shooting; hunting out of a blind over a waterhole is the way to do it. Even under those conditions a scoped gun is certainly preferred over open sights; particularly as the light is frequently poor when animals water.

Hunting either way you must be an opportunist. If you are walking with an open mind and an opportunity for a



Mark, Craig and a very good eland.



One through the heart with the .375-270 gr. at 65 yards put him down in 10-15 yards. The kudu is an animal comparable to elk.

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This 30" waterbuck is a fine trophy and becoming difficult to obtain in much of Africa.



The HHI hunt was successful. Mark, Larry, John, J. D. and Ray pose with most of their trophies. Larry's about to break into song.

shot occurs you must take it. Although game at Nuanetsi is plentiful and fairly concentrated, due to the drought, if you pass on something there is certainly no guarantee you will be able to get it later.

Nuanetsi is a ranch — there are no game fences or barbed wire. Game is free to roam as it chooses. The ranch is 30 x 100 — miles that is. I'm sure I didn't see a tenth of it.

Unfortunately, we didn't get many photos in from Ray, John and Larry for this issue. We'll publish them when we get them as well as their stories.

A large amount of mail has requested bullet performance on the .45-70, so we'll get into that a little.

I used two loads, 52-H322-400 Speer and 48-H322-500 Hornady S.P. and Solid. Larry used the same loads reduced 2-3 grains. The S.P. usually acts like a solid but not enough that I would trust it on buff or elephant.

I wanted to use the .45-70 because its African use has been limited with the .375 being by far the most popular for African hunting.

Doubtless the .375 is more versatile and a better long range cartridge. The .45-70 is, however, a harder hitter at 100-150 yards. I shot 20 plus animals with it and without exception every hit was visible. Anyone who thinks the .45-70 isn't an extremely effective 150 yard big game cartridge simply doesn't know what's happening in the real world.

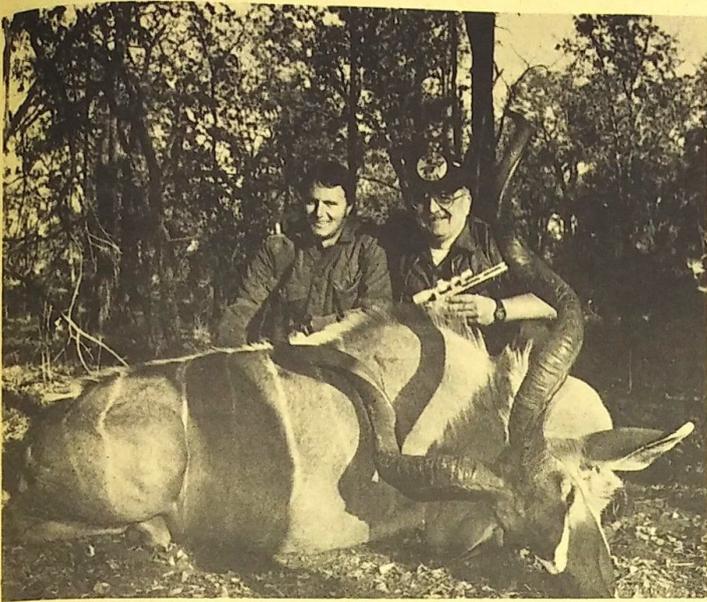
The 400 Speer at 1650 F.P.S. sighted in three inches high at 100 yards is dead on at 150. For all practical purposes ditto for the 500s. On a couple of the little guys — steenbuck and quicker — at impact the 400 Speer blew so much dust and flattened them so fast I wasn't sure what happened till I sorted it out through the dust.

By the same token a 500 Solid or S.P. effectively flattens the little guys without any hide damage. The 400 Speer simply flattens most small (under 500 pound) animals at impact with a good hit. On larger animals or particularly tough for their size ones such as wildebeeste, a lung shot takes quite a while to take effect. Large heart shot animals go down quick with it. I did however find the 400 Speer lacking in penetration on large animals (500 plus) when shoulder bones were hit. The shoulders were totaled but so were the bullets. The 500 Hornady S.P. doesn't expand. That's the way I like it. On big animals you need penetration. The 500 Hornadys give it — about as much as a .458 Mag from what I saw and Don said. Up to seven feet of penetration in eland including the stomach contents.

I hit a buff dead center in the horn with a 500 Solid. The horn was penetrated, the bullet hit the front of the shoulder while going sideways, clipped off two ribs, went through the lung, liver and was recovered from the stomach. Try that with your little high velocity toys and I'll stand back and end the game whenever you've had enough of the buff. That shot visibly rocked him and the next took out his spine but he didn't move between shots. Complete penetration of a hippo's head isn't too shabby either.

African animals bleed little if at all. I feel on all game I would rather the bullet exit. Unfortunately, some of that game is so big it just isn't going to happen.

The .375 in comparison shoots flatter and penetrates just about as well with solids and better with soft points. It also does an excellent job but the larger diameter 45 slug simply shows more visible impact on large game.



First kudu — 130 yard kneeling shot with a 400 gr. Speer at 1650 fps. Dead centered the heart. He was down and dead in 30-40 yards.



Triple A Team — Hunyani, Techu (Mr. T), Pete, Ray (since this is a family publication we'll leave his nickname out), J.D. and Don. Three man tracker teams were normal. Toyota furnished the power.



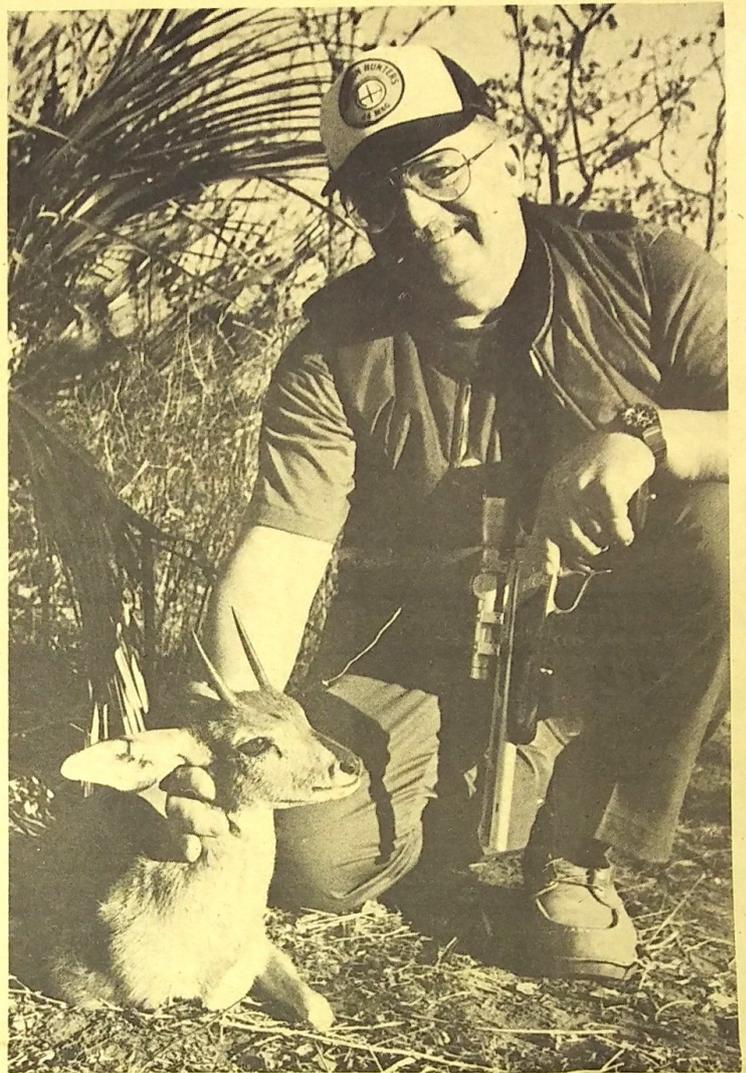
Two shots from the .375 accounted for the bushpig and warthog.

Personally, I like to shoot both of them. I particularly like the simultaneous eruption of dust from the animal and from the dirt behind the animal as he is falling. It's impressive, particularly when the animal is large. The .375 JDJ and .45-70 are the only cartridges that do the job well now. The .411 JDJ and .41 Whammy will when I get them working.

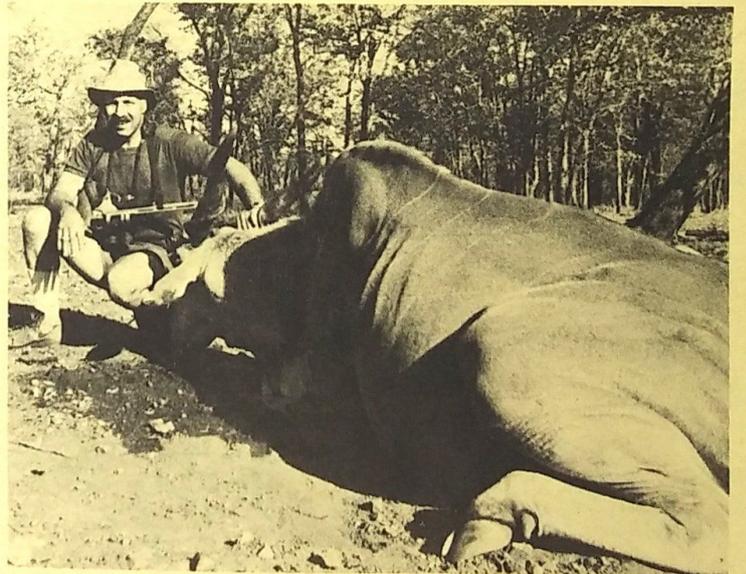
In checking my opinion of "Could I have made the shot with a .44? (revolver — scoped T/C)" I estimated

(using the 320 grain cast bullet) that of the 38 head I harvested I could have taken about six or seven with a revolver and about double that with a scoped T/C. Obviously I would have changed my hunting tactics using a .44.

I'm not impressed by energy figures per se. Maybe we'll get into that in depth sometime. I am impressed by big holes through vital organs and deep penetration. Right now it isn't available in under .375 caliber in handguns.



Duiker can be tough. They don't usually hang around long.

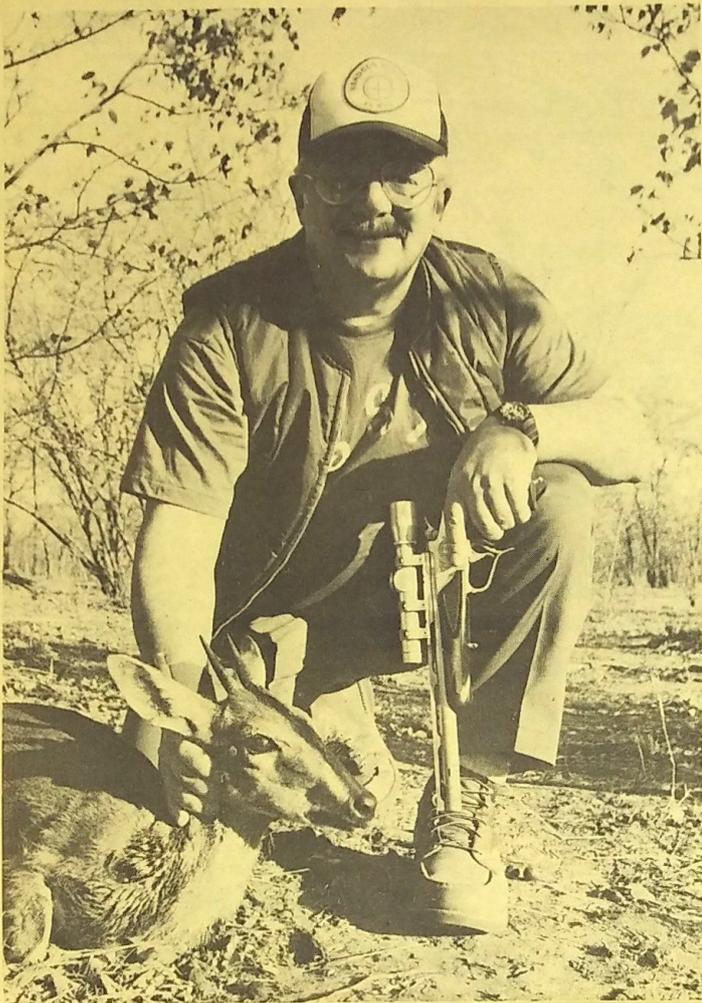


Ray hit his 1900 lb. eland hard on his first shot, reloaded and dropped him in his tracks — at 165 yards!

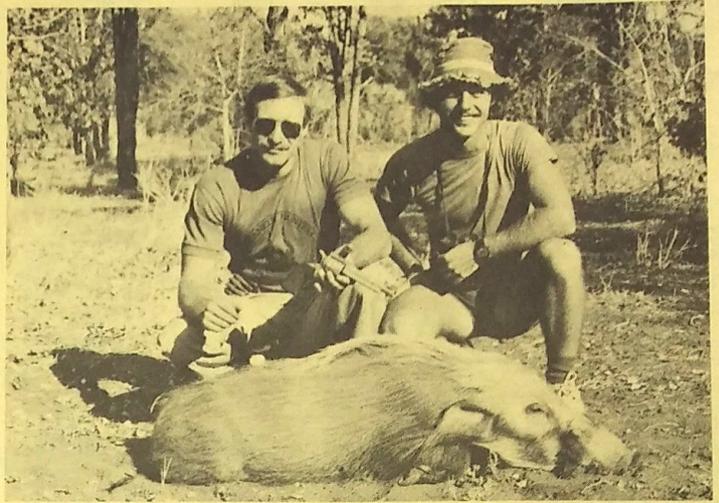
All things considered I don't know how the first HHI Africa Hunt could have been better. About two thirds of the almost 70 animals taken on the HHI Hunt are of record book class. I stayed a couple of weeks longer which accounts for my higher number of animals.

We'll have other stories and comments by everyone on the trip in future issues. Don't forget next year's HHI Hunt. Same time, same place. Now's the time to get started on it.

**YOUR
STORIES
WANTED**



Steenbuck are wary and fast!



Mark took one of the few animals taken with a .44. One 320 grainer handled this bushpig.

NUANETSI . . . A HANDGUNNER'S PARADISE . . . FOR THE PREPARED!

By Bob Good

Even though I had never been to Don Price's Nyala camp before, when I stepped down from the Land Cruiser on our arrival, I had this warm feeling of returning home. It's that kind of place. I have hunted Africa on several occasions before, but never in an area where handguns were legal for anything, but two-legged species. In retrospect, I can say that this was the best safari I have ever had in Africa.

The accommodations were superb, the staff outstanding, the food good, the hunting . . . well, the hunting can only be described as the most memorable I've ever experienced. Hunting here with a rifle would have been too easy. The challenge of the handgun made the hunt.

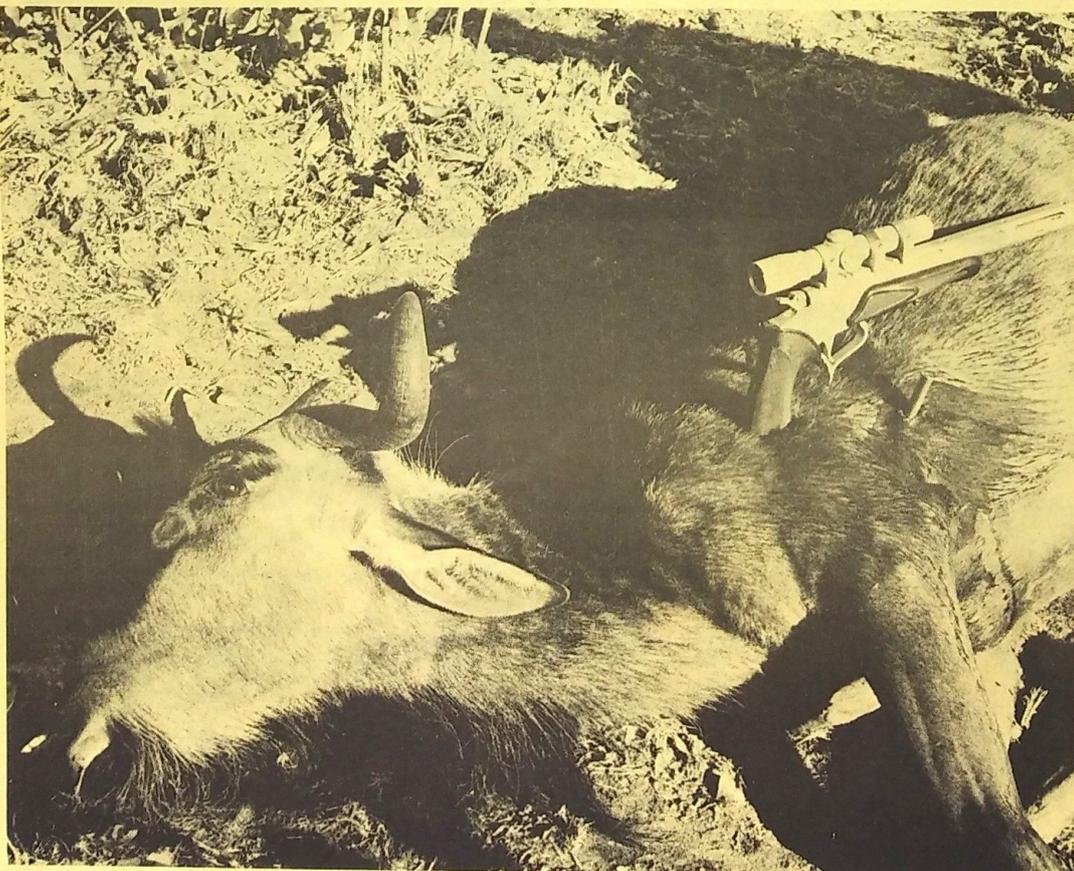
On other hunts I have felt indeed fortunate to finally collect a kudu. Don and I looked over 35 kudu bulls before I dropped a 54-inch record-class trophy that fell to a lucky off-hand 130-yard snap shot just as he prepared to exit the neighborhood. In the days that followed, we saw a few dozen more, including a couple of specimens with horns that spiraled up forever, but I had collected mine and wanted someone else to have a go at the record book.

Game was in abundant supply. Bushbuck, those elusive gems of the riverine tangles were everywhere. I know hunters that have made several excursions to Africa just for bushbuck, and are still waiting to collect the first one. The American Sportsman's Club group which went in just ahead of the HHI hunt went 100 percent on bushbuck, including what appears to be the new number 2 in the book.

Eland, that rambling giant of the savannas, were everywhere, but talk about a handgunner's challenge! A big one weighs in at a ton, and I believe it's all heart. They can be as difficult an animal to drop as an elephant.

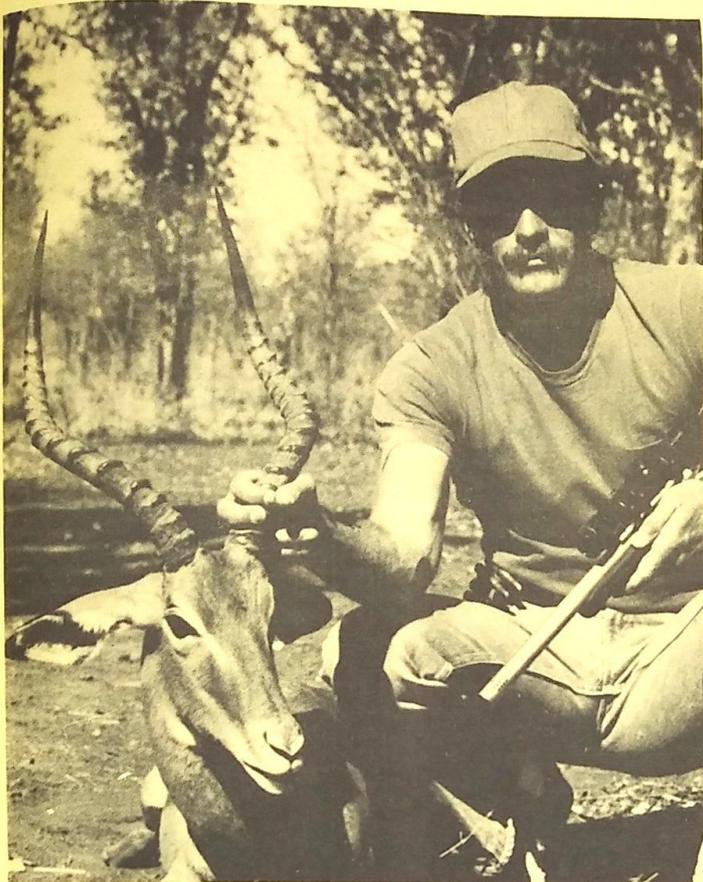
Sable were elusive and difficult, a real handgunner's challenge. Mine came to a sit-down quick shoot-off-the-knees panic shot in the fading twilight after a seven-hour tracking job. No more significant animal will ever grace my trophy room than that elusive bull.

The waterbuck at Nuanetsi are something else. An animal of the heavy reeds and river brush, waterbuck are one of Africa's top trophies. The waterbuck hunt was an adventure in itself, one you'll have to read in greater detail in a future issue.

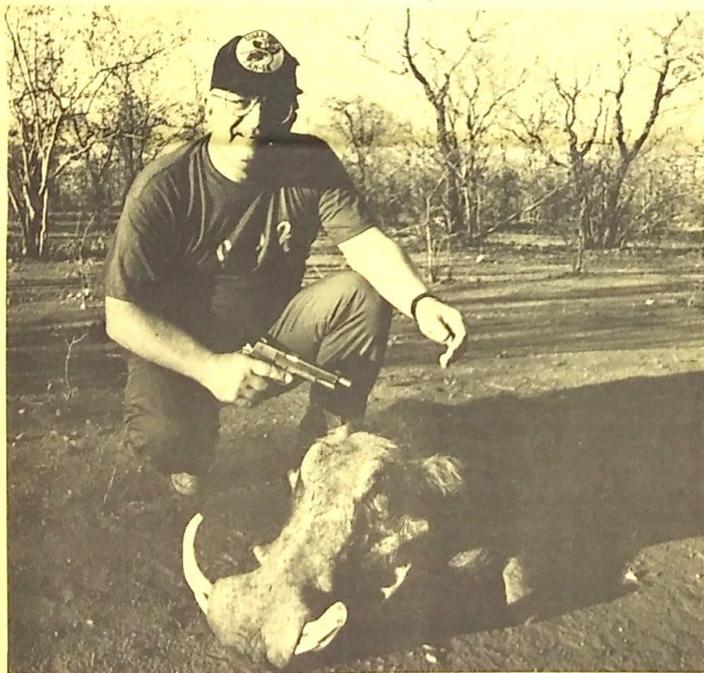


Wildeste are tough. Note the .45-70 cartridge stuck in the entrance hole. Finished him off about a mile from where he took the lung hit.

(Continued On Page 13)



Mark with a very nice impala.



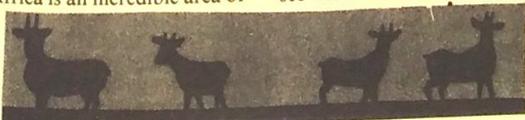
.41 Avenger 185 gr. cast at 1375fps handled this warthog with no problems.

Kongoni, or wildebeest if you prefer, roam the Nuanetsi area in great herds. Bulls are 600 plus pounds of sinew and muscle. They can collect lead like a bullet trap and still lead you on a merry chase.

Zebra, warthog, impala . . . The "cast of thousands" of Africa provide a constant excitement to the terrain, and glimpses of the usually nocturnal civet cat and bushpig were frequent enough that a couple of these graced our bag.

I think Africa is an incredible area of

opportunity for the handgunner, and Don Price's Nuanetsi is the best of it all. But, the multitude of game can be deceiving to the casual thinker. African game is quick, elusive, and tenacious of life. They live with predators in the backyard and play the survival game everyday, very seriously. To be successful with a handgun, you need to make quick decisions, shoot reasonably well, and use a stout cartridge. In future issues we'll take you on a trophy by trophy hunt, and you'll see what we mean.



DON'T ASSUME YOU'VE MISSED

By Bob Koch

I just finished reading Bob Good's "A Deer For Dad". He had shot at a buck, and a buck and a doe ran out, unhurt. Halfway through the interesting story where Bob was making up his mind that he had missed the deer I found myself getting edgy!

I stopped reading for a moment to think about my feelings and to try to analyze what I should have said to Mr. Good, had I been present.

At first I thought, "Well, I probably would have told him that just because there was no blood or hair where the deer jumped the fence, that is no proof of a miss. I'd have had him track the deer further. While most hits bleed at first and slow down later, a few act opposite."

But, that explanation didn't quite satisfy me. Another factor was missing, even though what I had thought about blood and hair is true.

Then it hit me. I remembered an experience my wife once had maybe thirty years ago. The one thing Mr. Good hadn't done was to examine the spot where the deer had stood at the shot. He did it later with good results.

Now, going back the thirty years. We were living in Rangely, Colorado at the time. There were deer everywhere and the limit was two for each license.

Usually we hunted on the weekends, but one morning we decided to go out on a short hunt and return in time for the weekday work, so we stuck the two babies on the back seat of the jeep and started out.

My wife was from the East and had never fired a gun until we came west. A life-long reloader, I had loaded 170 grain cast bullets with 20 grains of 4759 for the 30-06. She had shot tin cans and hillside rocks and was one of those natural shots. I think women aren't so hung-up with macho ego as men and are calmer when shooting. A miss isn't going to forever condemn them to fag alley! Then for hunting, without telling her, I'd load up soft point jacketed bullets with a stiff charge of Hi Vel 2 and reset the sights for 200 yards. This she would shoot should we spot a buck that morning I am telling you about.

I also had a pistol in a holster which was attached to the dashboard. It was accurate, and my wife had shot it often. It was a World War I, 9mm and originally shot small, truncated cone bullets. Besides the stick magazine, in war one, could use a 32 round snail

drum type magazine. I had worked up a good cast bullet load for it. Sometimes I had feeding problems and jams, otherwise I liked it.

We were going slowly when, about two miles from town I spotted a whitetail buck. I pointed and stopped the Jeep. Just then the baby started to bawl. While my wife got out of the vehicle, I quickly found the bottle we had brought along, leaned over the driver's seat and chucked it into the baby's mouth, at the same time telling the 5-year-old to keep it there.

Then as I started to dismount, I saw something I shouldn't have seen. The 30-06 was still in the car! Quickly I averted my gaze to spot the wife. There she was; she had walked to the fence and was aiming that damn pistol at the deer! Her wrists were atop a fence post. I was about to fetch the rifle to her when her shot cracked and the deer dropped, but sprang to his feet again.

She took her time, not half as excited as I was. A second shot and the buck bucked, ran a few steps and stopped. I was yelling now, telling her to keep shooting, but she refused to be hurried. Another shot. The deer took off full speed, then after 50 yards tumbled dead.

As I was dressing the deer and my wife wandered over to the original place the deer had stood. She gave an excited yell and called me over. I couldn't believe my eyes. There in a little hollow lay the exact twin of the deer I had started butchering!

We reconstructed the happening as thus: One buck had been lying down, one standing. When her first shot dropped the first, the second arose in the same spot. As I said, twins in size, antlers, etc., we had naturally thought she had knocked down a buck and he had instantly recovered enough to get up.

Pistol hunting just wasn't done back then. Anyway a 9mm isn't a deer gun. Still excited about the whole happening, I asked why in hell she hadn't used the rifle. Frowning while she thought it over, finally she said I had never specified that a rifle was the only thing to use on deer. I hadn't. I just assumed everyone knew that nobody ever shot pistols at deer. Then she silenced my outburst with, "I don't really see what all the fuss is about. The deer are just as dead aren't they as they could be if shot with a cannon?"

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IS THE .375 JDJ THE ULTIMATE HUNTING CARTRIDGE?

By Bob Good

I remember the very first shot I squeezed off on a big-game animal with my SSK .375 JDJ T/C conversion. It was sent in the general direction of a 400-pound feral hog that was hot-footing across a freshly disked field at about 175 long paces. To say he was moving at a high speed puts it mildly. This particular boar had been giving the rancher fits, running his cattle off from their daily supplemental ration drop, and in general, making a nuisance of himself, rearranging fences and mucking up waterholes. Ranch hands had belted him with everything from shotguns to .30-30's. Except for a noticeable limp and a few battle scars, all the hog had lost from these encounters was a little hide, but in exchange, he had gained one formidable education.

Al Strand and I were on our way to a first-light rendezvous with a pond full of bass when we turned a corner in the pick-up in time to catch the boar just leaving the cattle feeder. He left so fast the dust swirls were coming up yards behind him. Almost without thinking, I grabbed the .375 JDJ from the seat beside me, piled out of the door before Al came to a complete stop, and using a fence post as a pivot, I swung the crosshairs way out front of the black blur and torched one off.

The pig did a skidding somersault, sliding to a stop in a cloud of dust.

I looked back at Al who was looking at the prone pig with his binoculars. Al has seen numbers of free-roaming wild boars killed in South Texas, but he had never seen one bowled over that fast, especially when running that hard. Eventually, Allan dropped the glasses back on their strap, looked at me and said, "Order me one of the guns!" And I did.

To give you a little background, I have probably shot more big game than anyone deserves. I have done it everywhere from the Kalahari desert to the Arctic and several times over. I have probed the innards of enough deceased game, looking for the contributing cause of death to become a certified coroner. I have contributed to those causes myself with more calibers and cartridge designs than I can remember. I have come to some definite conclusions. Ballistics aside, a certain few bullet/cartridge combinations have an inherent capacity to kill, swiftly, under a greater variety of demands, than do all the others.

You can impress yourself with energy tables, ballistic coefficients, penetration tests and cavity examinations of wet Sunday newspapers, but only test after test in the field on living game will tell you whether a cartridge has that certain intangible element, the ability to dispatch game swiftly under a variety of conditions.

Since that first shot with the .375 JDJ, I have used it on a Boone and Crockett-size bison, a 40" Dall ram, seven deer, and 18 various and sundry African animals, from a 40-pound steinbuck to an 1800-pound Livingstone eland. Two of the African species noted for their tenacity of life are the sable and waterbuck. The Rowland Ward record book waterbuck was running at about 80 yards. He expired in another 30 from a single round. The sable was smacked at 120 yards, ran a

hundred with me in hot pursuit, then collected a second round as he topped a rise. He crashed and burned in his tracks.

Larry Kelly's exploits with the .375 JDJ are well documented. Like Larry, I would not hesitate to use it on elephant or rhino-sized game, but it is at its best as a good, all-around North American game cartridge.

On deer, it is devastating, causing instant collapse on most, with a minimum of meat damage. My kills have averaged about 120 yards, but one 7-point was dropped in his tracks at 300 plus. On deer and boar-sized game, I use the 220 grain flat-nose Hornady. Expansion is usually in the neighborhood of 30 to 50 percent, penetration is excellent and weight retention has always been good. Accuracy in my SSK conversion is outstanding, averaging under 1-1/2" at 100 yards with full-charge loads, even with my limited eyesight. We cut clover-leaves often enough to make me suspect the combination will outshoot this shooter considerably.

Recoil? I think naming JD's conversions "hand-cannons" has been a disservice to shooters. And killing elephants and flattening buffalo with one shot conjures up pictures of violent recoil and broken wrist bones. It just ain't so, folks. I'm just an average shooter of average proportions, and I would rather shoot my .375 JDJ any day instead of an out-of-the-box .44 mag of any kind. Recoil is an almost straight-back push of certainly reasonable proportions. Hell, even in my 4 power scope, I see the bullet impact and animal reaction EVERY time. That would be impossible if there was excessive recoil!

In addition, the cartridges are easy to make. One pass through the die, and a .444 Marlin is transformed into a .375 JDJ, no cutting, sawing, filing, etc. I'd rather spend my time shooting than making cases.

Let me put it straight. If you hunt deer-sized game or above, you should shoot a .375 JDJ. No question about it. It is just simply the most efficient cartridge made for a handgunner in terms of accuracy and harvesting proficiency. Besides, J. D. needs the money for his next African trip.



Exotics vs. 6.5

By Mark Hampton,
Summersville, MO

Due to the fact I teach school for a living, I miss out on a lot of fall big game hunting. Unfortunately, I've never been able to miss two weeks of school hunting elk, mule deer, Alaskan game or whatever. But, on the other hand, having three months off in the summer does give one ample opportunity to shoot the rust out of one's barrel. This summer I was fortunate enough to hunt Africa with H.H.I. After our hunt I still had some time and a little money to spend before school started and I wanted to take advantage of it. One of my best hunting buddies, Doyle Pitts, wanted to try his luck on a big Florida hog. I wanted to take movie pictures of this event along with trying for a blackbuck antelope and axis deer.



Mark's axis fell from one shot from the 6.5 MM.

Hunting with Mike Acreman of Lake Wales, Florida, Doyle and I started our first day of hunting looking for hogs. Mike doesn't run dogs like most outfits do, he hunts by driving around in a swamp buggy glassing for the tuskers then making a stalk. This first morning we were accompanied by a young man from Miami, looking for a couple of meat hogs. After driving for a hour or so we spotted 2 pigs weighing fifty or sixty pounds. We jumped out of the buggy and ran in the direction the pigs disappeared when suddenly out of nowhere a big rusty colored boar came running toward us. While Doyle loaded his T/C 44 mag. as quickly as possible I started rolling the movie. As the big hog passed us approximately thirty five yards away, Doyle put a 240 grain slug right behind his shoulder. I could tell by the bright red spot it was all over, but Doyle reloaded and put a finisher in him. The boar weighed a solid two hundred pounds and had 2 1/2 inch tusks protruding his gums. Having captured this entire episode on film, I can't wait to show it to fellow hunters that think hunting with handguns is silly.

Later that same afternoon I told Mike I wanted to shoot J.D.'s 6.5 at a varmint or something before I tried my luck on blackbuck. Since I left my hand-



Doyle made a fine running shot on this boar.

guns in Zimbabwe and hadn't had a chance to replace them, this gun was borrowed from our fearless leader. The first target encountered was a fairly small white bird called a cattle egret. The 6.5 demolished the critter at about thirty yards. The next bird that sat long enough was a hundred yarder and he never knew what hit him. Our third and final fatality was sitting on top of a fence post at over one hundred and thirty yards. After three in a row I was impressed with this wicked little round, but not nearly as much as all those watching.

Our second day found us hunting a ranch that held a small herd of axis and blackbuck. We would be trying to pop

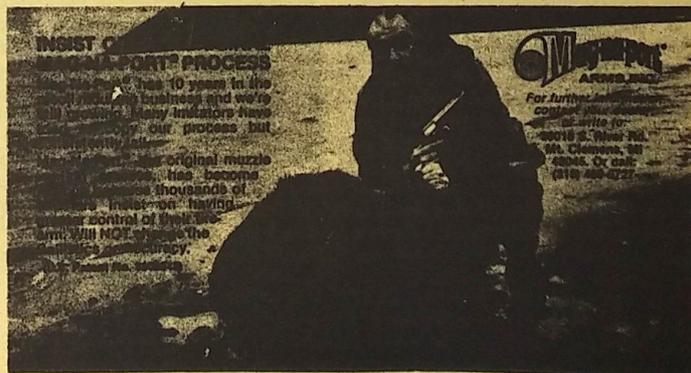
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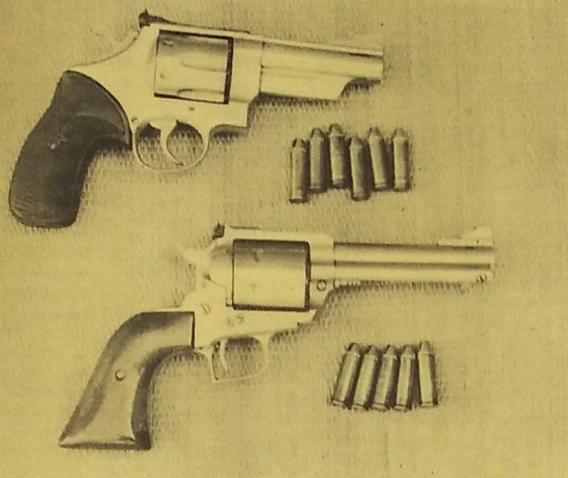
BIG BUCK CONTEST

Thompson/Center will again sponsor first prize in both the Whitetail and Mule Deer divisions of the HHI Big Buck Contest.

The winners will again receive a T/C Contender of their choice wearing a special serial number (HHIW 1983 and HHIM 1983). These fine collectable shooters come directly through Bob Gustafson, President of T/C in accord with his personal views in supporting handgun hunters as well as those of the company.

Rules are as follows. Legally taken with a handgun this hunting year and prior to January 30, 1984. Honor system — no .30-06's or L-78s allowed. Measurements by a qualified SCI-HHI scorer. If you need help finding one, call (614) 264-0176. Current members only — last year had about 20 try to join after they killed their deer. It didn't work.





Both 44's were extensively customized by Mag-Na-Port.

MAIL ORDER MAGNUMS

By John Taffin

By 1957, the .44 magnum was starting to show up on dealer shelves in my area. One of the local shops kept the first 4" S & W Model 29 and charged 50¢ for six shots with it including cartridges. That little monster did buck and roar. At the same time, the first Ruger .44 Blackhawk 6-1/2" appeared and unfortunately, I swapped an all original Colt 1860 Army for it. I still have the Ruger, but I would really like to have that old Colt .44 back.

Touching off the Ruger .44 was a real experience. Every time I pulled the trigger, the hammer came back and hit me on the back of the hand. Up on the wall she went and I went back to shooting my .44 Special 1950 Target S & W. After a while, I decided something had to be done with the Ruger. So the barrel was cut back even with the ejector rod housing, a wide target hammer and trigger were fitted, and to help hold on, the slippery, thin factory stocks were replaced with a much thicker pair made of Coco-Boco.

The unused Ruger became my most used sixgun. Carried in a Lawrence Keith holster, it went everywhere with me. When it wasn't on my hip, it was under the seat of my pick-up. My hunting companions of those days dubbed it the "Boar Buster".

Since they were all rifle shooters only, they viewed the big .44 as being capable of stopping anything on two legs or four, and they always felt comfortable when I had the .44 on my hip. During one year in our area, one fellow had his camping trailer door kicked in and was fatally shot and another was left dead in his tent, so my companions perhaps had good reason to believe the Ruger .44 would protect us.

That old Ruger had a lot of miles on it when I robbed it. Skeeter really caused it! After reading his article on converting Ruger .357's to .44 Special, I had to have one. Starting with an old Model Ruger .357, the cylinder was rechambered to .44 Special and the barrel was reamed and lined to .44. Two problems arose: first, some chemical was constantly leaking from between the liner and barrel; and worse, the twist of the barrel was so slow, any load under 1100 fps would keyhole. A new barrel was the only answer, so the 4-5/8" barrel was stolen from my .44 magnum.

Now I had a beautiful little .44 Special that would shoot, but my

magnum was naked. Finding a 7-1/2" flat-top barrel, the old friend was put back into shooting shape, but it just wasn't the same. I thought many times about having the barrel cut back, but time passed too quickly as it usually does, and the job was put off.

One of the problems was that a Super Blackhawk .44 7-1/2" also looked like a perfect candidate for the nose job, so I just continued to procrastinate. The short barrels were forgotten as I started carrying a 10" flat-top .44 in a Goerg shoulder holster, later retiring that valuable Ruger and replacing it with a custom Super Blackhawk with a 10" Douglas barrel. All this was before Ruger saw the limit and returned the long barreled .44's to production.

The 7-1/2" Super Blackhawk continued to languish unused mostly as every time I fired it, that square-backed trigger guard slapped me. Thinking of Mag-Na-Porting it, that, too, passed with time.

Another .44 Magnum I had that didn't get a whole lot of use was a 4" Model 29. Adding Pachmayrs helped greatly and it started to be used more and more. While visiting J. D., he showed me a custom 629 by Mag-Na-Port with a rounded butt that took K-Frame Pachmayr grips. It felt good! So I started looking for an N-Frame to round butt.

Earlier this summer, I picked up a much used 4" 29 that needed help. After a couple of weeks of hem-hawing, it was finally decided to send both the newly acquired Model 29 and my 7-1/2" old Model Ruger Super Blackhawk off to Larry Kelly at Mag-Na-Port. Along with both sixguns went instructions to Mag-Na-Port both, round butt the 29, and cut the barrel of the Super back even with the ejector rod housing.

A week after sending them off, Larry called me to point out one problem. Cutting the barrel and round butting both required refinishing . . . what did I want to do? After some discussion, it was decided to go with an S. S. Metalife finish which is a hard chrome process that gives a satiny stainless look. Telling him at the time that red inserts were not for my eyes, he suggested the new C-More Conversion.

This latest Mag-Na-Port sight innovation consists of milling off the ramp sight, E.D.M.ing a pocket into the sight base, and drilling a hole

through the sides of the ramp base to hold the C-More Sight in place. The sight blades themselves appear to be nylon and are available in ramp or patridge style and each conversion comes with extra sight blades in five colors: Fluorescent Orange, Hot Pink, Yellow, Green, and Blue. The two six-guns came through with Orange on the M29 and Yellow on the Ruger.

After one more conversation with Larry Kelly, both actions were tuned and they were shipped back to me. What had started as a minor project turned into a major face-lifting for each sixgun and I'm very well pleased with both.

The Model 29 went through four major changes. When it was sent to Mag-Na-Port, the wide trigger and hammer had already been replaced by a standard hammer and a narrow smooth trigger; the finish was changed from blue to S. S. Metalife, the butt was changed from large N-Frame Square Butt to the much smaller Round Butt K-Frame and fitted with Pachmayr grips; and lastly, the red ramp insert was replaced by a Fluorescent Orange front sight.

What a pleasant surprise when I fired the "new" 29. The heavy recoil was virtually gone. The combination of Mag-Na-Porting and Round-Butting did an unbelievable job of taming the .44. There is no biting or stinging of the palm, and the .44 Magnum feels more like a factory .45 Colt. My wife, also, who cares little for recoil, pronounced the 29 "pleasant". It is amazing what a change has been made. Now I need to come up with a compact holster to carry this gentled down magnum on my pants belt.

The Super also came through with a flawless finish, and though I'm not a prophet, I predict this sixgun will take the place of my old favorite 4-5/8" .44 flat-top. Carrying well in a holster I made for the flat-top, shooting it is also a much more pleasant experience. With the Mag-Na-Porting and cut back barrel, I no longer get slapped by the trigger guard, and recoil seems about like my Colt SA .45 4-3/4 with 260 grain bullets at 1000 FPS. Not light, but nothing to get excited about.



Square to round butt, Mag-Na-Port turns the 4" 29 into an entirely different behaving gun.

Is Mag-Na-Porting worth it? My experience with it on hard recoiling, T.C.'s such as the .430 JDJ, .444 Schafer, and the .45-70 give a definite "yes" to this question. This is my first experience with the process on sixguns and I would say it accomplishes even more on .44 magnum revolvers. Three people have told me that they weren't sold on Mag-Na-Porting. Upon questioning them, all three had one thing in common: They all applied the process to heavy frame .357's. Basically, they took a sixgun of low recoil in the first place, and then claimed no difference. On a test

machine, I'm sure recoil reduction would show up, but the recoil reducing properties really come into play on the big bores. I'm sold on it!

All the work performed by Mag-Na-Port on my pair of .44's show both excellent care and attention to detail. In the April issue of THE SIX-GUNNER, E. C. Coombe took me to task for not mentioning who did the gunsmithing on the M28 .44 Special. I'm hesitant because some of the work by that particular gunsmith showed a lack of attention to some minor items. Call me, E. C., and we'll talk about it! (208-375-6981). I have no such hesitation about recommending Mag-Na-Port. Larry Kelly enjoys the advantage of a spotless reputation. From what I've seen of his company's work, he deserves it!

Custom 'smithing by Mag-Na-Port is not cheap . . . Quality rarely is! But as J. D. says on his Handcannon flyer, "Hay is always cheaper after it goes through the horse." Larry Kelly only peddles fresh hay!

(Continued From Page 14)

the largest buck of each specie. To make a long story short, after hunting all day long, we finally managed to make a successful stalk on the axis buck and one shot through the neck at 101 yards was all that was required. The blackbuck was also shot in the neck from a distance of 92 steps. He did a backflip and fell stone dead. Both fell to a 120 grain spear at a muzzle velocity of 2400 F.P.S.

Perhaps the 6.5 J.D.J. is capable of missing, but you couldn't prove it by me. I guess I got all the misses out of my system in Zimbabwe. There's only one thing worse than missing a leopard, and that's missing two of them, which I did.

On our third and last day of the hunt Doyle was after a good corsican ram. After an hour stalk we got within eighty yards of a nice herd of sheep. In this herd of a dozen there was this one ram that looked like he possessed a full curl or better. Again using the T/C 44 mag. Doyle placed the big Remington slug right in the smoke house. The ram stumbled 5 or 6 feet and fell graveyard dead.

Exotic hunting can be a lot of fun. It can be a pushover or it can be a good hunt. Whatever you want to make of it, let your conscience be your guide. The trophies we took are not super trophies, but we can be proud of them. For those of you interested in hunting exotics I'd advise you to look and read all material available. Know what you're looking for and tell your guide your specifications for a trophy you'll be proud of. I'm looking forward to hearing about the H.H.I. hunt in Texas. Good Luck and good hand-gunning.

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At long last! Just what you've been asking for! One size fits all. HHI logo in color on white background. Caps in four basic colors: red, yellow, green or black. \$8.00 Prepaid. (Price includes \$2.00+ for shipping costs). Please give second color choice. Quite a few in stock for immediate shipment. HHI, P.O. Box .357 MAG, Bloomingdale, OH 43910.

(Continued From Page 13)

So, Mr. Good, I never would have explored the spot where the deer was first shot at. Hell, I saw the buck fall, get up, run away. But, from that day, I've always checked the shooting scene, and though it never happened again (two dead deer), I recently heard of an even stranger happening.

Up in Montana a fellow shot an arrow through a deer and killed the one behind. The first ran and fell. He never knew of the second until his friend found it while searching for the lost arrow. I would have thought an arrow wouldn't go through a deer. But, recently my son-in-law shot an arrow through a bear, so I guess it can happen.

FIRING LINE

I would like to see some in-depth articles on casting bullets. Don't know a thing about it so would like to learn from the beginning; equipment, temperatures, metals, everything. Get Taffin and Kelly and all the others to write some good ones. Am sending you my renewal on one condition — it can be applied to my life membership when you come up with a package. Alan Jaeger

What is your opinion of the .35 Rem. in the T/C for whitetail deer? David Altizer

ED: Add more powder and a bigger bullet — it's called the .358 JDJ. Seriously, I'd expect it to do quite well with a 180 Speer and relatively heavy loads. JDJ



Enclosed find a picture of two nice bucks (6 and 8 point) I got in Texas last year opening day. They were together and I took them both with Remington 240 gr. HP factory at 50 and 35 yards with the scoped Redhawk. Bob Taylor

Enclosed is my renewal fee. It sounds like your African trip was a big success. That's right! Also, a belated congratulations on being selected the Outstanding American Handgunner. You've deserved it for years and would have won it sooner, obviously, except for your involvement in OAHA. The Redhawk Grandmaster you won looks like a real jewel. It's price puts it out of my class and its weight would probably put it out of consideration as a carrying pistol. I still like the looks of it. I traded for a Redhawk last spring, but the trigger pull makes it far more difficult for offhand shooting than the two Dan Wesson .44s I've acquired and worked over. Oh, I shot a small buck antelope with my 8" stainless .44 DW on August 13th (early season for muzzleloaders and straight walled pistol cartridges). I stepped off 89 long steps, but would guess it closer to 72-75 yards across a small draw. Had to crawl through a lot of cactus and sagebrush to get that close. Tom Shippy

I am enclosing my membership renewal and thought I would drop you a note to let you know I really enjoy the stories in the SIXGUNNER. Paco Kelly's story on the 30 Ruger in the June SIXGUNNER had a special meaning. I carried an old model in 30 carbine for many years as dog medicine around my flock of sheep. It was also great for groundhogs. Keep up the good work!! Blair E. Heavlin

Thanks for sending my August '83 renewal by first class mail. But, hey, this is just another example of the consideration of a handgun hunter. I'll be ordering the back issues I missed soon. Has anybody had experience with the Burris-variable pistol scope? I am wanting to put one on a 10 inch .41 mag. T/C barrel and wondered about their durability. The combination would be used for deer and coyote under 150 yards. My first deer with a handgun was taken in my native South Dakota in the Black Hills. I used a S & W Model 29 6 1/2" barrel. The load I used was 22 grains of 2400 under a Sierra 180 gr. JHC at about thirty yards. On a small whitetail, the bullet broke the spine, but shed its jacket. I now lean towards the heavier bullets and save the

lighter ones for varmints. Keep up the good work. My only complaint would have to be that the SIXGUNNER is only bi-monthly. Brian Blase ED: My personal experience and feedback from customers with Burris scopes on heavy recoiling handguns is less than satisfactory. I personally can't see any use for a variable power pistol scope.

I read with interest your comments on my boar hunt. It is hard to walk out on a hunt when you have a deposit down and reservations at a motel. I can't afford to do that and I'm sure most others couldn't either. Notice I did not recommend this to other members. Wayne Randall.

ED: Perhaps I was somewhat hasty in my comments in your article, but that behavior by any guide is unacceptable. First, its a very poor way to treat a client. Second, if he knew anything about hog hunting he should be experienced with handgun hunters as my informal surveys of preserve owners range from 10 to 25% handgun hunters and a slightly larger number of bowhunters. Third, from my experience, the hunter is in much more jeopardy of getting a lousy hunt than the preserve is of not getting paid. You pay if you hit the animal whether he is recovered or not. Four, the hunter is paying the bill — within reason, the hunt should cater to him. I could go on and on about this from personal experience as well as that of hundreds of acquaintances and members. If I offended you I'm sorry and apologize. I did live in East Tennessee for eight years and will personally recommend only Telico Junction Hunting Preserve, Hog Hollow Road, Englewood, TN 37329. (615) 887-7819 JDJ

I have been hunting with a handgun since 1970 and shooting big bore since 1975, and feel joining HHI would be a profitable venture — enclosed my check for \$15.00. I have a question if someone would be so kind to answer. How can the leading in the forcing cone of a revolver be efficiently removed? I have a real problem with my .45 SA Colt, even with RN bullets. Thanks a million! Robert F. Goetz ED: Forcing cone leading can be due to several things. First, if it is due to the forcing cone being rough it can be recut or polished. Bullets could be the problem as could chamber alignment and chamber mouth diameter. Any decent pistolsmith should be able to track it down. JDJ

Just read Paco's article in August SIXGUNNER and see he's offered an article on in-depth use of cast bullets. Let's have it. If you guys got together on a what's available and how to use it article, it would be worth the price of a years membership alone. (Don't take that to heart though, if you can help it.) Even if you hogged the whole issue, I don't think anyone would complain.

I have been brainwashed by the jacketed manufacturers, just as I'm sure a large percentage of our membership has. Think of all the dollars we could save on this one article. Why should the bullet manufacturers have it? I could always use more primers and more powder. To do more shooting, of course. Don't let Paco back out J.D. We have this written word that he would do the article if he got enough response. Well, here's one handgunner who is RESPONDING. Don Lester. ED: You heard it Paco! Stop chasing those dope fiends long enough to do it.

I've been experimenting lately with the B-Square clamp-on mounts for the Dan Wesson vent ribber revolvers and have some information to pass on to anyone else who might be thinking of using them. The mounts seem to be well made and relatively sturdy, but there are a few drawbacks. First, when removing and replacing the mounts it's relatively difficult to get the same or even a relatively close zero again. Secondly, on the .357 and .44 it seems to take a few shots for them to actually "settle" into place. Third, the mounts shift after about 30 to 50 rounds of heavier loads in the .44. The mounts seem to be quite adequate on the .22 and .357 Dan Wessons, but continued use on the .44 it appears will only damage the mounts and if they're left on long enough might even damage the vent rib by slightly bowing it. The moral of the story is that the B-Square mounts are going to be used on the .357 and .22 for NRA Hunter's Pistol Silhouette and hunting, but I won't use them on the .44 again. I'm going to write to B-Square to inform them about this. In the light of the foregoing information, I'm starting to look at other scope mounts for my D.W. .44. I'd like to find a mount that would not affect barrel interchangeability (Buehler's doesn't), but that would also allow the use of the iron sights without going through major gyrations. Could the T'SOB mount be adapted to the Dan Wesson to make that possible? My problem is that I'm cheap and trying to avoid buying another barrel assembly for use as a scoped shroud. I also don't have any use for the two extra barrel tubes that I'd get in the deal. I don't even use the ported tube I have now. Any help you could give me would be greatly appreciated. John Wilson

ED: The T'SOB mount fastens to the D.W. shroud with three screws. An eight inch D.W. vent rib shroud only retails for \$95.93. It isn't

necessary to buy the barrels. There isn't enough room to "gutter" the T'SOB base to use the iron sights without removing the base on the D.W. revolver. "No drill — no gunsmithing" mounts for .44s have historically had many durability problems. Sorry, but my best answer is to scope a T/C and use iron sights on the D.W. JDJ

Could you send me some loading data for the .44 mag; cast as well as jacketed loads, powder, primer, brass, etc.? Also, could you please advise me the price of those NEI moulds and weight of the cast bullets? I use 2400 powder now 22.0 — 2400 under a 250 lead or 240 jacket bullet. I am wondering if 296 would be more efficient? Thank you for taking time to consider my questions. Frank Koscak

ED: I get quite a few letters like this and simply don't have the time to answer general questions on subjects extremely well covered in almost all loading manuals. Lyman covers both cast and jacketed bullet loads. 296 gives higher velocity than 2400 at less pressure in many applications. The definition of "efficiency" is another whole subject. NEI answers inquiries from 2516 Wyoming St., El Paso, TX 79903. I'm not trying to discourage questions or F.L. letters, but rather trying to get those not covered in basic references. JDJ

I find that the Colt Combat Commander with hard nosed slugs does the job using a .38 Super. A shoulder or gullet-wishbone does it all on deer and elk. Of course, I wouldn't advise it on any bear, that's why they make rifles. I've dropped all of them with a .270 cal. but, the big Kodiaks require at least a .338 Mag. rifle. Moose will drop with a 30-06, but you might run into a bear that requires more quick stopping power. The Weatherby 340 will put everything down. Don Walker

Enclosed please find a check for \$15.00 for my renewal. I look forward to reading THE SIXGUNNER each time it comes. I do a lot of handgun shooting, but mostly at steel. For the fellow hunters that are looking for more power from their Ruger Old Army black powder handguns, they can try the following load: 454-252 S.W.C. from a Lee mold. I use a Lyman sizer with a 424 top punch. Just size the bottom half of the bullet so you can get it started into the cylinder. The rest of the bullet should shave lead for proper fit. I use the bullet over 25-26 grs. of 3F powder and it shoots very well. I can't remember the first time I read about the load, but it really will do the job. Robert B. Malizia

I have really enjoyed each issue of the SIXGUNNER I have received. I can't wait to read about the African hunt. I hope that you will include a lot of information on the performance of your 45-70. I plan on purchasing a 45-70 SSK Handcannon this fall and take it on an Alaska hunt sometime the year after. I would like to have some idea of the performance on this gun. I would also like to know if you had any accuracy work done to your gun and if so what and by whom. Lastly, do you know what the velocity of a 500 gr. 45-70 bullet at 100 yards is when moderately charged? I am concerned that the velocity will drop off dramatically.

ED: There have been lots of letters requesting bullet performance information. I'll do what I can and maybe the others can, too. I don't recommend any so called "accuracy work" unless the gun needs it. Then Verne Jenke is the only one I will recommend. We have numerous reports from customers of SSK barrels shooting under one inch groups with 375 JDJ and 45-70 just dropping the barrel on any frame. I expect 1.5" 100 yard groups from them. I start the 500 grain Hornady at 1425fps from a 12.5" barrel. It loses about 200 fps in traveling 100 yards. I got about six feet of penetration in an eland at about 150 yards. JDJ

Out of curiosity have you ever heard of Hatcher's scale of relative stopping power? It utilizes weight, velocity and bore sectional area to calculate relative stopping power. I noticed this concept in an article which explained that a .45 ACP bullet could stop a man better than the .357 magnum when the .357 magnum actually has more energy foot pounds. It seems that relative stopping power coincides with reality more than energy-foot pounds. In any case I applied the equation to various calibers offered by SSK in the

Handcannon with some interesting results. For instance, using Winchester's ammo guide and assuming a 14% reduction in velocity when using a fourteen inch barrel the relative stopping power for the 45-70 at 100 yards was 68.11 for a 300 gr. bullet. By comparison a 300 gr. .375 H&H magnum bullet fired from a rifle has a relative stopping power of 68.05. The only calibers which exceeded those of the 45-70 Handcannon for relative stopping power were .45-70 rifle, .444 Marlin rifle and, of course, the .458 Winchester magnum. The .445 Marlin SSK Handcannon was equivalent to the 45-70 Handcannon. In your experience with your gun do you think that this information represents reality? Randall Keef

ED: No. It's pure stupidity to believe a 300 grain .45-70 factory load fired from a pistol is equal to a 300 grain .375 fired from a rifle. I do not subscribe to any of the various "formulas" for "stopping power" and "minimum energy requirements" are meaningless to me. I've done and seen a lot more good work done with knives — and arrows — and forget energy figures with these weapons. "Energy transfer" is banded about by all sorts of people who don't shoot many things. Try this — take any bullet — put it in a vise and expand it to double its caliber. How much energy did it take to expand the bullet? How much did the bullet absorb and how much did the vice absorb? Then do some objective thinking. Energy figures just don't mean anything to me. I've seen 20,000 F.P.E. in the butt that wasn't nearly as effective as a knife in the heart or a .22 L.R. in the brain. You effectively kill by either destroying the brain or its ability to function. A bullet through it destroys it. Depriving it of oxygen by interrupting the function of the heart or lungs prevents its functioning. That includes loss of blood from any wound anywhere. In short, the bigger the hole through vital organs, the faster the kill. JDJ

Upon becoming a member of HHI, and receiving editions of "The Sixgunner", I welcomed the policy you have of encouraging members to submit their handgunning experiences for publication, and have myself been contemplating on submitting some of my experiences.

However, I must advise you of my negative feelings towards some of the phrases used in your publication which promote poor taste towards the sport of handgunning. Some of the material published suggests unsafe and unethical practices. I feel you should be a little more selective on your editing.

To point out one example: In Vol. 4/Issue VI, Aug-83, The article entitled "Whitetail" by Larry DeBreto, Virginia, MN. At one point in the article he stated, "Not 20 minutes later a big doe magically appeared off to my left along the side of a small ridge. Just for practice and on the hope that a buck would be right behind, I drew, cocked, and aimed." I assume he is referring to aiming at the doe, which he was not intending to shoot.

I hope this man is never hunting in the same vicinity as myself . . . What if that hoped for buck was another hunter which "magically appeared", and for any number of reasons, that gun discharged?????

I am a member of N.R.A., a Hunter Safety Instructor, and a policeman. I also reload, and do 99% of my hunting with a handgun. Let's promote handgun shooting with ethics and safety so as not to give the anti-gunners more fuel for their fire. We DO NOT NEED the kind of "PR" that could be derived from a sentence such as the one referred to above. Our Hunter Safety course teaches one not to point a gun at anything you do not intend to shoot, and not to put the safety "off" (in this case cock the hammer) until you're ready to fire, and when you're ready to fire, be sure of your target and what's beyond it.

I hope your editing and selection of material will become better influenced towards good taste and safety to promote our sport in the eyes of the younger generation and those who have not yet tried it. Clifford Simonds

ED: I think you're 'nit pickin' a bit. We'll leave it up to the readers to make up their own minds. I'm curious — have you ever written this kind of letter to the cop combat oriented magazines that teach and preach "self-defense"?

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