



# THE SIXGUNNER



## MY CORNER

By J. D. Jones

Seems as if summer has come upon us with the usual decrease in material coming in from both members and manufacturers. Happens every year. Everyone gets busy with vacations and enjoying themselves before settling down to the grind for another year.

HHI Africa was a success if you can call four elephants, three cape buffalo, a lion and the usual bag of plains game a successful trip. Ray Guarisco became the first man to my knowledge to take an elephant with the 45-70 Contender; maybe the first to do it with the 45-70. I've never heard of anyone else using the 45-70 on an elephant. Mark Hampton got the lion with a 375 JDJ. Mike Mitchell used the 45-70 on plains game very effectively and took a once in a lifetime trophy. Aside from being charged by an elephant, my hunt was uneventful but certainly terrific from the standpoint of testing some experimental ammo and the 6.5 JDJ.

Ray lung shot an elephant with the 375 JDJ using the 300 grain Hornady solid and found the bullet imbedded in the hide on the far side when they skinned it. Bob Good told me the same story about his elephant . . . that's a lot of penetration! The 375-300 solid entered the trunk of the elephant that charged me about a foot below the eyes

and ended up in the neck 10" to 12" behind the skull. So much for the doubters that the 375 would take an elephant on a frontal shot. Mark dropped his elephant instantly with a frontal brain shot that I hope to have captured with the camera.

Three cape buffalo were taken without any trouble with the 375. That's not to say the next one won't give trouble. Anything that size not brained has the potential of giving trouble. Mine, for example, was an old Dugga Boy that took the 300 solid in the throat from directly ahead. It penetrated the heart and stopped in the stomach. He ran 85 steps and dropped. I shot from about 40 yards so if he had taken a notion to do it, he could have gotten to me and had 45 yards worth of time left to get even before he died. Sometimes they will go 200 to 300 yards with a hole through the heart.

I've been using the 6.5 JDJ (225 Winchester case blown out to maximum case capacity and opened to 6.5) for at least five or six years and have reports of over 80 antelope and deer kills with it. It is one of those cartridges that in practice works far better than its paper ballistics would indicate. In the case of the 6.5, I figure

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The short and long of it. Charlie rightly feels that a man should pick the right gun for the job he expects it to do.

## REVOLVER BARRELS

By Charles Able, Carlsbad, NM

Much has been written about barrel length concerning the advantages and disadvantages of different lengths.

It seems to me that most of us fall in one of three groups. Those who like them long, those who like them short, or those who like them both. I would have to put myself in the last of the three groups.

The advantage of a long barrel on a handgun seems to be accuracy (which

is probably due to a longer sight radius) and velocity. I will agree being able to hit what we are shooting at is what the sport is all about. It is a well known fact that some men like Keith, can do good work with short barrels.

Most of the shooting I have done over the last 25 years with handguns was with barrels 7-1/2" to 10" long. The old 7-1/2" Ruger Super Black-

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it's due to the majority of 6.5 bullets being designed for rifles that only gave the velocity the 6.5 pistol now is getting. The 120-130 grain bullets almost always exit a deer. Muzzle velocity is around 2400 FPS and sighted in 3" high at 100, it seems dead on at about 250. Mark and I tried it out on Hartebeeste and White Tailed Gnu at long range and found it did exceptionally well on those large animals. The Hartebeeste weighs about 450 pounds and two were dropped in their tracks at 269 and 279 paces respectively. Not bad for a little 125 grain bullet even if it is long for its diameter. We did recover some bullets from the 6.5 at last and will give a full report on it later.

All in all, Africa gives more experiences for the buck and time than is possible anywhere else in the world. Some of the hunting is very easy; some is brutally hard. In Africa, it can change from one to the other in an instant. The element of danger is always present in hunting dangerous game. Yesterday, I heard of an elephant hunter being killed by an elephant. I can assure you that my experience of being charged by an elephant will go down in my scrapbook as being one of my most exciting moments. The stalking to within a few short yards of dangerous game such as buffalo and elephant is an experience like none other in hunting. Taking their photo and getting back out undetected is very interesting also but just isn't in the same class as actually taking the animal.

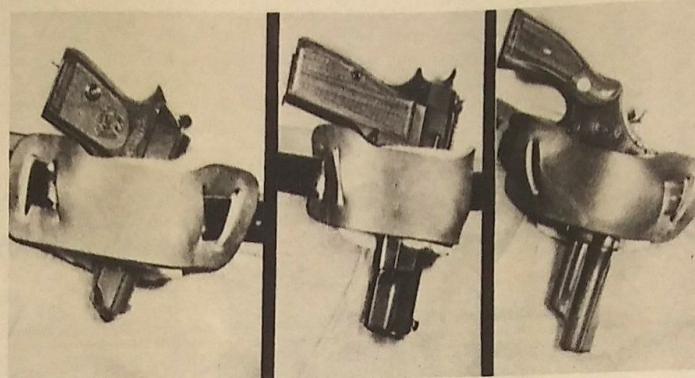


#### Hornady's 32s.

Not too much in the way of new product information has come in, but Hornady has announced a 71 grain FMJRN (.311" dia.) intended for the .32 ACP but probably usable in almost any of the 32s. In addition, there is an 85 grain JHP (.312" dia.) intended for the 32 H & R Magnum guns. I would assume the expansion characteristics of this bullet to be similar to that of similar 38 caliber bullets. It will probably take an impact velocity in flesh of 1000 FPS or so to give any kind of reliable expansion. Some 30 caliber shooters will appreciate Hornadys new 150 grain boat tail soft point. This may be a good one for the 30 caliber T/Cs for long range shooting where expansion is needed.

Federal is now in production of the 7-30 Waters cartridge for the 94 Winchester. This is basically a 30-30 necked to 7MM pushing a 120 grain bullet at 2700 FPS. I feel certain the case is of the thick 375 Winchester variety rather than the thin 30-30 type. Since the round is intended for lever guns, the bullet is a blunt hollow point. It sheds velocity fast. At 100 yards, its down to 2300. I'm not sure of the pressure yet, but assume it will be in the 52,000 CUP area of the 375 which may be a bit hot to put into the T/C. Time will tell. We know from experience the plain variety 30-30 case won't stand high pressures without giving separations. This may be a good case to make 30 and 357 Herrett cases from as well as the 7 Intl. Rimmed.

TABLET Marketing (2554 Lincoln Blvd., No., 555, Marina Del Ray, CA



TABLET'S adjustable holster.

90291) has a new adjustable holster that fits just about any handgun. It's adjustable with a lambskin inner lining. It converts to left hand use and can also be worn in the small of the back. It's a simple rig and sells for \$22. Specify black or brown. It should be handy to use with those guns we all have that aren't used enough to warrant an expensive holster of their own.

Lyman came through with a new Turbo case cleaner. This is a liquid case cleaner for those really cruddy cases. Turbo charger is an additive for tumbling media that rejuvenates it after its dirty enough to lose a considerable amount of its effectiveness. Also from Lyman is a set of weights that will allow the reloader to check and adjust his scale to a known weight. The set contains 10 weights packed in a plastic box with recessed foam insert and forceps for handling and weights without contaminating them. Suggested retail is \$19.95 and at that price, everyone should have a set and use them.



Lyman's weight set.

CHARTER ARMS (430 Sniffens Lane, Stratford, CT 06497) has a continuous product development on a large scale for a small company. Charter is the first out with a six shot double action revolver chambered for the 32 H & R Mag. I've received one for testing in a four inch with adjustable sights but haven't had a chance to shoot it yet. The 32 Mag chambering is also available in the Undercover two inch gun. Charter has now been around 20 years and I seem to just take them for granted. Every once in a while, I look over the product line and find something I didn't realize was there. The stainless Pathfinder in 22 LR and 22 Mag is a particularly nice little trail, small game or plinking gun. You can get a catalog for the asking from the above address.

Ruger's press release for the 32 Mag calls it a hard hitting small game,

varmint and target load. Others visualize it as a pretty good self-defense load. Guess it could be considered as worthwhile in all of the above categories. It certainly shoots well in the six inch H & R but it feels under-loaded — at least many of us have been exceeding its published ballistics with cast bullets in various 32 S & W long chambered revolvers for many years. The 32 has a lot to recommend it in addition to it being a just plain fun gun. Now that Alberts and Hornady have good bullets available and a variety of guns are coming on stream, I suspect the velocities will go up in handloads by a couple of hundred feet per second. Sales are reported to be quite good by more than one manufacturer.

Frontier has announced three new pistol cartridges in their line up. First is a 9MM 124 grain FMJRN. Next are 140 grain JHPs in 38 Special and 357 Mag.

TICO International Inc. (POB 2668, San Francisco, CA 94126) introduced a new product called "Quiet Please". This is a newly patented hearing protector of the earplug variety that is said to allow air to circulate through the plug and avoid that plugged up feeling while providing safe sound levels during shooting. Write for technical information. This one works by twice scattering and twice merging incoming sound waves through two plates of sinuated aluminum separated by two sheets of polyester fiber. They said it; I just copied it.

#### REVOLVER (Continued From Page 1)

hawk was my most used gun. I was so glad to get my first guns it didn't make any difference how long the barrels were — I was happy with them.

While I was learning to shoot with the 7-1/2" on weekends and reading about Keith and his 4" 29 on weekdays, I thought that if I was ever going to amount to anything with a handgun, I would need to get one of those 4" M-29s.

I guess I thought if I had the same kind of gun as he did that some of that good shooting ability would rub off on me. After a lot of work and a long wait, I had my 4" Model 29.

The first thing I found out was that I couldn't hit my hat with it. In those days I could keep my 7-1/2" down to about 3" at 25 yards shooting off-hand. I was lucky if I could keep the 4" in 8 to 10 inches at the same distance. The little 4" gun was hurting my hand. Even with light loads, I found out I could not shoot it nearly as well as the 7-1/2" guns. Stubbornly I kept using the 4" M-29, but as time went on, I found the 6-1/2", 8-3/8 and old 7-1/2 gave better groups and produced more game for me. I finally got rid of the 4"

and stayed with the longer barrels for years. Later, while living in Alaska, I saw a Ruger that was cut down to 4-5/8". I surely did like the way it looked and the way it felt in my hand. I knew that if I was going to live with myself that I would have to get one like it. I knew that the recoil of the S.A. Ruger would be a lot easier to live with than that of the D.A. M-29.

After getting a short Ruger and doing a lot of shooting with it, I found that I could shoot it pretty well up to 50 yards. Even with full loads it did not hurt my hand at all. I thought it kicked like hell and it jumped a lot, but there was no discomfort to my hand.

A number of years and other guns have passed and I'll still take the 4-5/8" Ruger as my short barreled. 44. It's light and handy. When I'm not on a hunting trip, I usually pack the short Ruger. However, if I know that I will be doing long range shooting most of the time I want a bit more barrel out front.

I learned the hard way about taking just one gun on a hunting trip. Now I usually take a 7-1/2" or 10" as my main hunting gun and the short gun as a back-up. Most of the time I'll end up using both guns. For general deer hunting, I like the 7-1/2" length best.

The handgun is hard to master. I think if a man is just starting out to use a handgun, he would be better off using 6-1/2" to 10" barrels until he learned to shoot them well. I'm sure he would progress faster than with short barreled guns. I don't think the short barrels are less accurate, they are just a lot harder to shoot due to their size.

Two months before deer season last year, I sent SSK a 10" Ruger 44 with a bull barrel to have the T'SOB Full Length Vent Rib scope base put on it. As it turned out, this is one of my best rigs for hunting. It will shoot 2-1/2" to 3-1/2" groups at 100 yards. I got this gun back just days before going on my deer hunting trip. I sighted it in and used it for the hunt. Harvested one doe. As good as this gun is, it is not the gun that I would use if I was taking my son down to the river to do some fishing.

The answer to the short vs. long barrel question is simple. Fit the gun to the task.

## PRIMERS

J. D. Jones  
%The Sixgunner  
P. O. Box 357 Mag  
Bloomingdale, OH 43910

Dear Mr. Jones:

We are extremely proud of our safety record in the reloading tool business, and we are most anxious to keep it that way. As you may have noted, we have placed ads in all of the shooting publications that we normally advertise in, explaining the importance of using only CCI or Winchester brand primers in the Lee Auto Prime. In addition, we have placed this warning in the instructions and our catalog. I think your readers would be interested in the reasons for this warning so they will not think there is any motive except user safety.

Years back, before introduction of the Auto Prime, we tested the tool by detonating trays full of primers. This was done inside a corrugated cardboard box. Because we thought all primers were equal, we tested only two

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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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PRIMERS . . . (Continued)

brands as they were the only ones available locally, CCI Magnum and Winchester. The results were always the same. There would not even be a dent inside the box from the resulting explosion.

Over the years, we heard of four Auto Prime tools exploding while in use. On each occasion, the user only wanted a new tool as there were no injuries.

A couple of months ago, a user reported that he went to the hospital because his Auto Prime exploded. I was somewhat dubious and requested that he send some of the primers he used.

The experiment was set up as before inside a cardboard box sitting on my workbench in our model shop. The tool was angled at 45 degrees and clamped to a stand. A primed case in the shell holder and a second primer under the one in the case. With 100 primers in the tray, the handle was taped down and the case was heated with a propane torch. We left the room to wait for it to "cook off" and it sounded like a real explosion. Parts of the tool not only completely penetrated the box, but smashed through the plastic covering of the four foot recessed ceiling light fixture.

We then set about testing all brands and types of primers and found only CCI and Winchester primers are safe to use in the Lee Auto Prime.

We video taped the tests. When playing the tape, we could see the slow progressive burn of CCI and Winchester primers. The cover would pop off and fall harmlessly to the bottom.

Other brands of primers exploded in one big flash. The cover and tray would become shrapnel and penetrate various parts of the box.

It is my sincere desire to inform all reloaders of this rare but real danger. It is foolish to expose yourself to the risk. I will only use CCI or Winchester primers for my personal reloading when using the Auto Prime or Auto

Prime II.

The only brands of primers that we have tested are CCI, Winchester, Remington, Federal, and Alcan. If other manufacturers would like us to test their primers in our tool, we would be happy to do so.

You may quote any or all of this letter in your magazine or writings.

Very truly yours,  
Lee Precision Inc.  
Richard Lee, President

## THERAPY

By Bud McDonald

I work 'with' computers. Programming a check book balancer on your home PC might be fun, but try knocking out software, for 20,000 plus employees, including payroll, inventory, accounting, engineering, geographic stats, etc., etc. . . . day in and day out. You come home at the end of the day brain weary. Brain weary doesn't necessarily mean it slows either. One's muscles may be well rested, but the ole brain is racing 1,000 MPH with millions of tidbits of info. over a day's toil.

It's been like this all Winter. Day in and day out, six or seven days a week, sometimes even all night sessions to meet a deadline. I needed a break!!!

When Steve Hockman, (HHI member) called from Wyoming, telling me the 'dogs, gophers, jacks and rock chucks were out in full force . . . it just pushed me over the edge!!! Four and one-half hours of steady driving found me in a creek crossing with water running through the cab of my truck. Steve had told me it was two-wheel drive all the way (in his big F250 maybe, but not for my little F150.) Climbing out on the hood, reaching down locking the hubs had me in front of Steve's Summer quarters in quick order. It's a very nice three bedroom abode which also doubles as the Fall hunting camp. This is the place where several lucky HHI'ers will spend three days this Fall, antelope hunting. Half the night was spent B.S.ing with my ole boyhood friend about past, present and future hunts, guns, women, and good times.

Next morning, a crisp one as only Wyoming can deliver, a warming fire was built in the small stove with good coffee perking. It was as if this was all I had ever known. All thoughts of automation were forgotten. All I could think of at the moment was how I wanted my eggs!!!

Sitting on the front porch, after a hardy breakfast, with my Ruger Mark I W/4X Leupold, taking occasional pot shots at gophers, glassing the rim for antelope, elk and mulies . . . Steve asked, "What would ya like to do this morning?" "I'm doing it," says I.

Had this powerful taste for a mess of fresh trout. Tell Steve about it. Thinking trout would make for a good dinner, so we grabbed our poles and walked up to the lake (about 100 yards). 20 minutes later, we had two 17" rainbows, having thrown back over a dozen 10" to 15". I wanted to keep 'em but Steve said to throw 'em back 'til we caught one we wanted to eat. . . . This is better 'n having a fish market next door!

Having cleaned the fish, we were again out on the porch with 22 handguns, popping any gopher dumb enough to poke his head up within 50 yards. On occasion, I could hit one at

close to 100 yards with the little Ruger, but if ya don't use hollow points, they don't stay 'dead' for long. Steve has this ole Hawes 22 sixshooter he uses with bird shot to bust pack rats (in the house and out). I picked it up . . . loaded it with Federal Spitfires and knocked over four gophers in quick succession while answering the call of nature. Telling Steve about it . . . he gets a grin on his face. "Here you are with a couple grand in handgun hardware and what do you end up using?" "A \$35.00 Hawes," replied Steve. I guess I've been reading too much John Taffin . . . them ole single actions with fixed sights are still the ultimate challenge in handguns!!

My first 'serious' session came with me using a TC 256 10" W/5X Burreis on those little gophers, while Steve sat on the porch and laughed. That 256 is a tack driver but a gopher or pickett pin is a little target at 100 yards. Something like 1-1/2" by 5" tall, if he's standing. They don't stand, sit still or do anything for long. . . . always on the move. Ya got to shoot quick, which makes for many misses. The .256 is a nifty little number, no recoil, but the noise is fierce. The .223 will do anything the .256 can do and more. The 226 JDJ, 6MM JDJ, 6.5 JDJ or 30 Herrett even more so, but hell, Taffin has his 44 Specials, J. D. has his 45/70, I've got my .256! I hit my share, but missed a bunch. That's what handgunning is all about.

Steve listens patiently to me as I explain how I've busted countless thousands of 'dogs, gophers and jacks, but not one rock chuck!! "We'll see about that," says Steve. Forging 'my' crossing (in a 4x4 this time) we ease up to a combination junk yard, abandoned ranch quarters and scattered corrals. Steve mentions he's seen a lot of rock chucks in this area. I unlimber my XP100 in 7MM08. We spot a chuck at 250 yards sunning on a post. Perfect!!! I get a super rest on a pile of fence posts. The Burreis 7X shows him very clearly . . . everything in perfect order . . . solid rest, clear shot picture. Five shots later, he's still there. We can't tell where I'm hitting. Don't even know if the bullets are coming out of the barrel. I lined it in at 50 yards but didn't have the opportunity to try a longer shot. We sneaked closer — me with my 357 Herrett this time. We get within 100 yards . . . piece of cake . . . big chuck sittin' on a board pile. I'm using a 158 grain cast bullet that shaved lead as I was seatin' the bullet, but thought they would be OK at this range. Wrong again!! Four shots later . . . still no chuck. Damn bullet hits all over. We get to within 25 yards of where I law saw the chuck, by sneakin' behind a corral fence. Spot a small chuck . . . put crosshairs on his midsection . . . jerk trigger . . . got 'chuck fever' by now . . . blow hole in board above chuck. Damn!! Steve hands me a rock . . . "Here, try this," he says. Chuck pops up out of a hole at 15 yards, should use .45, but put crosshairs 2" under chin, squeeze trigger and my first rock chuck flies to pieces. Whew . . . Didn't know rock chucks were so hard to kill, I said. Steve thinks maybe I'd better use a double barrel shotgun on chucks from now on.

I found out why my 7MM08 didn't connect. Two inches to the right of where the chuck was on post, there's a nice little group of 7MM holes in a board. I finished off the 'bad' Herrett rounds in a mound of dirt.

Next day, after lining in the XP and

Herrett, not to mention an excellent meal of baked trout in hot coals, we headed out for prairie dogs. On the way, we stopped many times to roll gophers with that \$35.00 Hawes and my .45 Long Colt 4-5/8" Ruger. I use a load of 16.0 grain of MP5744 behind a cast Lee 200 grain RN Bullet. It's pleasant to shoot one handed, if needed, and it's very accurate. Mainly due to SSK light trigger spring, heavy strut spring w/o rear sight and fluorescent red front sight. Everytime I shoot it, I could just kick myself for not having gotten one years ago. Would like to thank Paco Kelly, personally, for talking me into one through his articles. I could just ramble on about it, and you've read it before, so let's just say go get ya a short barreled, light frame 45 Long Colt . . . You'll not be sorry aaaaaaatall. Steve has never been turned on by large bore wheelguns, but when he hit his first gopher with that big 45, he was hooked. The only way I could get it away from him was to promise to put one away for him, if I could locate one.

Arriving at a small 'dog town, we spotted 'dogs from 50 yards on out to well, just on out there as far as ya could see. A grouping of a dozen or so were pretty close so Steve says we'll drive a little ways off to make it 'sporting'. After a while, I told him to check the mileage so's I could tell how far they were if I ever hit one. Getting the hint, he stopped and I set up the XP.

Only having 60 rounds of 7MM08 with me proved the gun was up to the occasion. A hit was rewarded with pieces of dog flung all over. The '08 is a flat shootin' number needing little hold over. The 'dogs were well splattered over that hillside when the ammo gave out.

A test load I'd worked in my 357 Herrett proved itself also, although at 300 yards, the bullet drop was substantial. The cast bullet, Lyman's 358311 RN weighed an average of 174 grains on top of my load of 29.0 grain MP5744. These were loaded correctly in a belled case and good tight crimp. The 'dogs just sort of slumped when hit with it. It's pleasant enough to shoot all day if the 'hogs hold out.

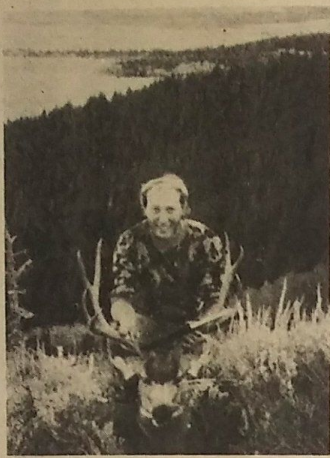
Driving back to camp, we spotted several jacks, but one in particular held our attention due to its size. I quickly dispatched it with the Herrett at 125 yards from the truck window. It was a Boone 'N Crockett jack if I've ever seen one. The size of a medium dog!!! Holding it up to my chin, it still dragged the ground! Took several pictures in case I ran across anybody from Missouri.

Three days of this was rough to take. I'd forgotten what a computer was. My head was clear as a bell. Some of the things I'd been struggling with now seemed trivial and simple solutions to many were made on my way home.

In a stressful job? Get out for a few days . . . bust a few varmints . . . feast on fresh fish . . . BS with your best friend. Best therapy in the West!!!

## HHI TEXAS

We can accommodate quite a few hunters on this trip and have a half a dozen vacancies to fill. This should be a real fun trip with lots of game and a very large ranch to hunt on. We will limit the number to no more than a dozen so if you are interested, get your deposit in. Questions — Call 614-264-0176.



Bill took this almost record book Buck at 80 yards with a T/C.

## Mule Deer Hunt

By William Kachenko, Westland, MI

After the stalk, we came to the spot where we should have been able to see the bucks. I stepped up on a large boulder to be able to see over a rock outcropping. Just 80 yards beyond it were two of the three bucks. For the second time this afternoon, I could feel the excitement starting to rise and threaten to become buck fever. I thought I was visibly shaking, and with the guide overlooking, I talked to myself to "get it together". I stopped the shaking that might have ruined everything. I had waited too long for the moment to blow it now.

It had started the previous season, when my wife and I were hunting antelope and deer in Wyoming. We arrived in Wyoming the day deer season opened in that area, and we saw some bucks that looked like they would fill the back of my pick up truck with their antlers.

Living in Michigan and never hunting deer in the West, I had never seen bucks with such huge racks! Pictures in magazines don't do the real thing justice.

During the 1982 season, we hunted antelope in an area that J. D. recommended for the first four days of our two-week hunt. We went on this trip with the intention of hunting public land and not paying any trespassing fees. During these four days, we were frequently seeing a few mule deer bucks on private property, but couldn't obtain permission to hunt them. I bagged a 14-5/8" buck pronghorn with my T/C 12-1/2". .358 JDJ at about 200 yards. The load was 45.0 grains H-322, Speer 250 gr. S.P. (I will write up that story later).

After finishing our antelope hunt, we decided to take a day to sight-see some of the State. A heavy snowstorm struck that night, stranding us in a motel for a couple of nights and closing off half of the state for those days. As I don't own a 4-wheel drive, this left us up the proverbial "creek without a paddle".

We hunted a few days along the creek bottoms and foothills in the prairie, but didn't see any horns on deer at all. Couldn't get back in too far, since we had no 4-wheel drive, and I couldn't see dragging one of those huge deer very far, so we left for home with unfilled tags in 1982. We resolved to plan better for next year.

A few months later, talking to J. D. on the phone about some ideas about wildcat chambering and finalizing

plans for another .358 J.D.J. T/C barrel, I mentioned I was going back to Wyoming to hunt antelope and deer again. I told him I was looking for a guide for deer only. J. D. mentioned an outfitter by the name of Joe Stumpke. While we were hunting the previous year, we stopped in a sporting goods store in Saratoga, Wyoming that had just about all of the game animals in North America on its walls. Joe was out guiding hunters at the time, but his wife proved to be very friendly and helpful to our hunt. . . . Small world, isn't it?

To make a long story short, I booked a deer hunt with Joe over the phone soon after that. Then I almost ruined my hunt by applying incorrectly on the license applications which the Wyoming Fish & Game Department sent back to me, and the deadline was the next day! Fortunately, the good people at Wyoming Fish & Game decided to accept our applications after several phone calls.

During the Spring of '83, I received my re-chambered T/C barrel from .35 Remington to .358 JDJ with T/SOB full-length vent rib scope mount and hard chromed this after cutting to 13" and re-crowning. During the weeks that followed, I worked up loads using the Speer 250 grain spire point bullet. Several times off the bench at 100 yards, the barrel would shoot under 1" with the average groups at about 1-1/2". Most of my now-forgotten rifles didn't shoot this good! I tried IMR-4198, IMR-4064, IMR-4895, H-4985 and H-322 all produced good results with H-4985 at 45.0 grains proving best. This load on two consecutive times shot center to center, five shot groups of .405" and .945". Over my Oehler 33, these loads measured 1927 and 1972 F.P.S. I tried SSK 200 grain cast bullets from pure linotype metal and pure lino with 20% re-salvaged bullets, sized to .358" diameter. No matter what I tried, I couldn't get these to fly in my barrel. I tried different loads, seating depths, crimps, diameter and lubes, all to no avail. A friend had an RCBS 200 grain F.N. and we tried the bullet. After some lengthy work-up loads, we found a load of 45.0 grain H-322 that would shoot under 1" at 100 yards most of the time. Rechecking the SSK bullet again, we found that 41.0 grain IMR-4198 would shoot best at about 1", but that we always had one flyer from a five shot group. To me, this is the most enjoyable part of the hunt, working up loads for accuracy and performance.

Finally the time for my hunt was at hand. After meeting Joe in person and introducing him to the other hunters, we packed our gear into the vehicle and made a wild 4-wheel drive ride to our camp, which was two large wall-type tents set up in the timber on a steep mountainside. It's really amazing where you can pitch a tent! We arrived the afternoon before opening day so we had plenty of time to get our gear ready and swap hunting tales (lies?) and adventures. After a super dinner cooked by Joe's wife, Pat, we turned in early since we were getting up at 3 A.M. After breakfast, we had a fairly long 4-wheel drive ride, so we left early so we could beat any other hunters to this area.

On foot now, we made a "short" climb that would make anybody scream "Uncle"! Joe took me to a spot overlooking a valley and mountain-side. When daylight arrived, it was a scene out of Michigan's deer season

hunters everywhere! We saw a couple of dozen deer that morning, but nothing big enough to suit me. We saw four bucks being shot by other hunters, but they were just meat animals. Two hunters in our group bagged their bucks that morning. One was a 5-point, western count, and the other was a 4x2. This hunter who shot the 4x2 was arrested by a County Deputy Sheriff who also owned land near by. Seems Dave, the hunter, forgot his license and couldn't tag his buck. Joe took care of this after talking with the conservation officer. On the way to meet the conservation officer, Joe broke the front axle on his 4-wheel drive Chevy Suburban. To top this, the same hunter, Dave, got himself lost that night, without the proper clothing, no compass, no matches, and without any type of survival gear. The weather turned bitterly cold and it was snowing. Eventually Dave walked out, down to the prairie, but we knew nothing about him for about 36 hours. It just wasn't a very good day for poor Joe—or Dave.

The afternoon that Dave disappeared, Joe and I hunted the ridge-tops, glassing the meadows and timber, looking for Mr. Big. This area looked to be prime elk country. About a half an hour later, we came to another small ridge that stuck out, off the main ridge. Joe took a rifle hunter and placed him there, to watch for deer. On his way back to me, he pushed out a domestic lamb, and as we continued along this ridge, we jumped a small band of sheep ahead of us. As we were a long way from the prairie and ranches (10,000 feet elevation), I thought this was strange and mentioned this to Joe, who said that these sheep free-range and didn't have enough sense to go down, and probably would die during the winter. Thoughts of lamb chops floated through my head.

About an hour had passed since we had started our afternoon hunt and I was beginning to think I'd never get my chance. Soon, we came to a clearing where we stopped again to glass. Six hundred yards along the ridge was another open hillside, of which Joe was studying through his Bushnell spotting scope. Motions me over and asking if any of these bucks were big enough, I nodded a quick reply.

Side by side were two nice bucks. One was lying on the ground looking our way, and the other buck was standing, looking the other way. The one lying down had wider but lower antlers than the other buck had. Joe looked again through his spotting scope and found yet another buck bedded down on the edge of the timber. This one was non-typical, since he had a mess of points sticking every which way near the top of his skull, and they appeared to be bleached white. Then he had the usual antlers coming from the top of this mess. I told Joe that I would like a closer look at this bone-headed buck, but they all looked very good to me.

As we went back over the top of the other side of the ridge and began walking towards our quarry, my excitement started to hit over-drive. Too long a wait and now here I was, starting to get buck fever! Forcing myself to calm down, I continued along behind Joe. Always behind Joe, I started to think this guy never got tired. Being a flat-lander myself, these mountains were very steep in places, and I couldn't seem to get enough air. The oxygen is quite rare up this high.

The scenery is really beautiful and worth the price of admission, alone. We finally started back over the ridge top with Joe now far ahead of me. I couldn't seem to keep up with him, even with my adrenaline pumping. I knew I had to slow down my breathing in order to be able to make the shot. Watching for loose rocks, I didn't want to spoil the stalk now. I caught up with Joe (only because he stopped). We stood on top of a boulder and peeked over a rock wall, glassing the two bucks at 80 yards. After a short wait that seemed like hours, Joe backed down slowly and whispered that he could see only the two bucks together, and couldn't see any way of being able to get to a spot where we could see Mr. Bone-head. He was my first choice, but the others might be big enough. Joe said there were dead pine limbs covering part of the vitals of the bucks. I asked Joe how big a target I had to shoot at, and he told me to look for myself and to decide.

I set my T/C down on a rock to climb up on a ledge to look over the rock wall at the deer. That was a big mistake! As I looked the deer over through my Bushnell Custom Compacts, I saw an opening to shoot through. Asking Joe to hand me my T/C, I turned to receive it and am spotted by the standing buck that walked quickly just a few steps into the timber and out of my sight. Bringing the T/C up into the fire control path now, cocking the hammer as the other buck stood up and took one jump into the timber and safety . . . no time for a sure shot! I couldn't believe it! I thought I had it made, only to blotch it up. I let the hammer down and climbed down, not wanting to look Joe in the eye. Suddenly, Joe tells me not to move. He says a buck had stepped behind the pine tree to our side in the open meadow. I looked and saw a doe that was bedded down in the open, looking the other way. Thinking to myself 'She's been there all along, and could have spooked the entire stalk had she seen us.' Watching the pine now and not seeing the buck, I sit down and rest the T/C on my knee, aiming at the pine. Joe whispered to me, asking if I had re-cocked the T/C? Muttering yes, I now see the buck step from behind the tree. He is feeding. Now I checked his antlers for size — Super — Big enough! Besides, I'm so excited now that I would probably shoot anything. Automatic pilot set now. Crosshairs set, I held slightly low at the steep, down hill angle. Squeeze. Boom! The T/C came up in recoil, and I saw the buck drop. Reloading my T/C and cocking the hammer, I aimed, waited for the buck to try to get up. Faintly hearing Joe say "Good shot", then he got up and climbed down to the buck, with me right behind him. I noticed that my legs seemed to be shaking and feeling mighty weak. The buck was right in front of me, and it was still alive, with both front shoulders busted. All I could seem to see were horns everywhere. I calmed down very quickly since I knew I had to put him out of his misery. I asked Joe for his Redhawk and shot him behind the shoulder, point blank. (Hornady 240 HP, 25.0 gr., H-110. The bullet lodged under the hide on the off-side in a perfect mushroom.) After it was all over, Joe looked at the buck's antlers and said, "If I'd seen that one of the points was missing, I wouldn't have let you shoot!" I laughed, thinking he was kidding.

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# THE .45 COLT "MAGNUMIZED"

By Mike Mitchell, Munhall, PA

The six point buck was walking slowly toward me. He stopped 20 yards away, and I fired. I knew the shot was not exactly where I wanted it to be. I wasn't concentrating enough on the sights. At the shot, his front legs buckled and he started to trot off to my left. I cocked the pistol and lined up on his chest. He slowed, and at 35 yards, he stopped. I centered on his chest and fired. This was a good shot. He made two half leaps and collapsed. When I reached him, he was dead . . . a nice six-point.

This ended the 1982 Pennsylvania antlered deer season for me. The fact I got the buck wasn't unique — the pistol was. It was a John Linebaugh conversion of a Seville to a .45 Colt capable of firing truly magnum loads.

Let me step back now and explain how this pistol came about. In the December, 1981 issue of SIX-GUNNER, John Linebaugh had an article concerning single-action revolvers and work with the .45 Colt cartridge. I wrote John to learn more about what he felt the .45 Colt Ruger could do. Based on the web and cylinder wall thickness of Ruger's .45 compared to the Super Blackhawk, he felt the .45 could handle loads generating pressures in the low 30,000 P.S.I. range. He recommended some loads which I tried and liked. When I fitted a Super grip frame to my 7½" .45, I liked the loads even better.

John's experience has shown him the .45 Colt case is as strong as the .44 Magnum's. (Editor's Note: Definitely not factual!) For those who are used to hearing the contrary, check Ray Meketa's article in "Handloader" #48, and Bob Hagel's in #81. (Editor's Note: Many .45 Colt cases are strong. This also varies very widely. A blanket statement simply cannot be factually made.)

At about this time, I received the latest NEI mold catalog (2516 Wyoming, El Paso, Texas 79903) and found a Keith style heavy-weight .45 mold listed, #310451. I immediately sent for one, cast a batch that weighed 315 grains and shipped them to John to try. He felt it was the first practical heavy .45 bullet he had used, because it had the shoulders. Not long after this, Paco Kelly's article on the .45 and these bullets appeared in the August 1982 issue of SIXGUNNER.

While corresponding with John, I was becoming more interested in what he found could be done with the .45 in a single action with oversize cylinders. These cylinders had a wall thickness equal to the .44 Magnum, making them safe to fire 40,000 P.S.I. loads. With such a revolver, John felt that loads using bullets of 250-260 grains could be loaded to 1700 F.P.S. and the 315 grain NEI to 1500 F.P.S. The combination of more speed and a larger diameter bullet (see Elmer Keith's comments on bullet diameter and killing power) would make these .45's as much as 50% more powerful than factory .44 Magnum loads.

John was able to locate a United Sporting Arms Seville, now sadly out of production. He replaced the cylinder with an oversized one, added a 7½" slow-twist barrel and shipped it to me in October. A slow-twist barrel was used because John has found more can be done with a .45 set up this way, both in power and accuracy.

The gun is a beauty. He left the cylinder and barrel "in the white" to give it a more distinctive look. He was afraid if it was blued, it would be mistaken for a Super Blackhawk. The barrel does not protrude through the frame, due to a longer cylinder. The cylinder gap is 2 thousands of an inch. This cuts down pressure loss and boosts speed. The fitting is superb, with virtually no cylinder play. I immediately took it to the range, trying seven different loads with NEI bullets #310451 and #260451. All were accurate, staying under 6" at 100 yards from the bench. In fact, two of the first four 5-shot groups I fired standing at 100 yards stayed in 6"!

The heaviest loads fired with the 260 and 315 grain NEI bullets to recoil less than the .44 Magnum load of 24 grains W.W. 680 behind J. D.'s 315 grain cast bullet. A side-by-side comparison showed this was certainly true. I was no longer finding my trigger finger rapped by the trigger guard at each shot, as happened with the .44. The only thing I didn't like about the new .45 was the grips. I replaced the factory Seville grips with Pachmayr's, which are on all my Rugers.

With the Pennsylvania deer season less than a month away, I decided to use the new .45 with the 315 grain cast bullet. This would do until my chronograph arrived and I could see what was happening. John had tried this load before shipping and got just under 1400 F.P.S. with it.

The start of the 1982 Pennsylvania antlered deer season found our usual gang of five at our camp in Crawford County. I am the only one who uses a pistol. We all hunt primarily from permanent tree stands. When we arrived, the weather promised to be good. The season always opens the Monday after Thanksgiving. On the Friday preceding, we had snow and by Saturday, 3" were on the ground, and the temperature was around freezing.

It began raining on Sunday, and by Monday morning, the snow was gone and the temperature was in the 40's. As daylight came (late, due to the heavy cloud cover), it was obvious that things would be slow. The hunters I saw walking were continually using the same path behind me. By 11:00 a.m., I had seen only two does, when a series of shots came from the direction of a field a quarter of a mile in front of me. Ten minutes later, I saw a buck coming toward me from that direction, walking fast. The cover was thick around my stand, and I couldn't manage to get lined up on him as he passed through a couple of small openings. There was one more opening he would pass broadside through, at about 35 yards, before moving away.

The sights were on him the moment he entered the opening. Instead of concentrating on the sights, the thought that held my attention was "He is moving faster than you thought! You must shoot fast." And you all know what happens when you consciously pull the trigger . . . A miss! As he ran away, after passing behind the downed trees, I fired two more shots. All three missed. The second shot hit a 4" poplar, passing through the tree, plowing a foot long furrow in the ground, and coming to rest on the leaves 10 feet beyond. It

weighed 290 grains.

Tuesday was totally uneventful, with 10 hours in the stand, and no deer sighted. The weather on Wednesday was warmer, and the skies cleared. About 9:00 a.m., a hunter climbed into a tree 100 yards to my left, and it appeared his partner was going to walk around. Shortly before 11:00 a.m., six shots rang out in rapid succession from the direction of the stander. These were followed by yells of, "I got him!" As I relaxed from my ready position, I saw a deer walking toward me through the brush from the direction of the shots. My first reaction was, "This is a doe that was with the buck." As it broke into the open at about 30 yards, I saw it was a buck. You already know what happened.

One kill does not prove much, although I was impressed by the effect of the center lung shot. It is imperative under conditions of no snow and a lot of hunters around, that deer go down as soon as possible. Both bullets exited the buck showing no evidence of expansion. The first entered at the back of the ribs, passed under the spine and out the far side without hitting anything vital.

Now that my Tepeco Chronograph has arrived, I am including a list of some loads I have tested. Please note these have proven safe in MY pistols. If you wish to use them, start below and be careful. I cannot be responsible for what happens to you or your gun. I give these only as a guide to what I have found to be safe for me.

If you are looking for a single-action with more power than the .44 Magnum, with the same size and with less recoil, contact John Linebaugh at P.O. Box 1263, Cody, Wyoming 82414. His phone number is (307) 587-6608. How good do I really think this gun is? I am the owner of HHI

Ruger #30, slightly used. I will sell it for \$500. If you're interested, call me at (412) 234-1086 weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

## LOADS TESTED

(Temperatures: 35° to 40°)

.45 L.C. Magnum (7½ Linebaugh, CCI 530 primers, Remington .45 L.C. cases.

315 NEI cast (sized .452)  
1150 FPS  
1325 FPS  
1360 FPS  
1425 FPS

260 NEI cast (sized .452)  
1420 FPS  
1480 FPS  
1550 FPS  
1640 FPS

(Editor's Note: I deleted the powder charges as they are substantial and excessive for many .45 Colt revolvers. I The above velocities can be matched in the same bullet weights by .44 Magnum revolvers. The smaller diameter bullet in the same weight, velocity, nose shape and hardness will have a flatter trajectory, retain its velocity longer and penetrate further than the larger diameter. The greater diameter will make slightly larger holes. The NEI .45-315 grain bullet generally gives good results. Metal can be added to the outer wall of a cylinder — but it cannot be added to the web between chambers. Cylinders in general are correctly designed to bulge before blowing assuming a "reasonable overload". Making a cylinder "stronger" usually increases its likelihood of going all at once — fragmenting into many pieces. The problem is extremely complex.)



Charlie is a custom knifemaker and does his own polishing and ivory work on the grips.

## REDHAWK vs. S & W M-29

By Charles Able, Carlsbad, NM

I know you are thinking this is another article about how the Redhawk worked, or how big it is. You are right, in part. I have some things that I would like to comment on about each of the guns. First of all, I am not going to tell you how long, how big, or how the guns are made. Secondly, I will put my cards on the table by saying that I do not like S & W's Model 29.

Before you start getting upset with me, I would like to say that everyone has the right to his or her opinion and I

did not come up with mine overnight. I have had three used and four new M-29s. The first one cost me \$170 and the last one was \$450. I have never gotten my money's worth out of one yet. Of the seven I have had, only one was any good after two years of shooting, and at that time, it, too, started to give me trouble. I lost a lot of money trying to keep the S & W's going. I do think the S & W's are the best looking 44s ever made. However, looks are not any help when you are

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# THE HIT MAN — PART III

by Larry C. Rogers, M.D. No. 48

Little did I think three years ago that I would be writing Part 3, Part I, an overview of several years of groundhog hunting with wheel guns and the discovery of the .375 JDJ, seemed impossible to surpass in terms of action, kills, and excitement. Then 1982 sneaked up and gave me 203 kills, 33 with handguns. Wow! I thought. How can I top that! My opinion of the .375 JDJ was set and unmoveable. The performance of my wheel guns was just as predictable and deadly than ever. I thought this was the apex of my hand gun hunting of groundhogs. What more could I do? So I set a goal of 50 handgun hits for 1983.

Could the groundhog population sustain two successive 200 plus kills three years in a row? Could I continue my successful hit and run tactics? Well, hold on to your drawers, boys. I have one Wild and Crazy story to tell. And after I thought I had told them all, 1983 was phenomenal. My yearly total again exceeded 200 — 211 to be exact. My goal of 50 handgun hits was shattered. I managed to fill the contracts on 111 'hogs with my handguns. That's 52% of the total. Heck, the action was so good this year that I hung up my rifles in mid-July.

My eight year total is now 1045. During this time I have filled contracts on 223 unfortunate souls with my pieces. It's funny how priorities change from year to year. Realistic goals now seem to be 200 handgun 'hogs in one year and a total of 1000 handgunned 'hogs.

I'm certain the reaction of many of you is, "Sure, ol' boy, shoot those 'hogs just like Dirty Harry. Who you kiddin', ACE!" That's been the reaction of everyone I've told my stories to this year. In fact, that was my reaction to some of the stories like mine in *The Sixgunner*. That is, until I actually did it myself.

What made the difference? 33 kills one year; 111 the next. The answer has several parts. A new gun, new shooting positions, and a multitude of handgun rests. This has been, undoubtedly, the most fun year I've ever had for developing new shooting skills and pure pleasure in shooting. Let's review my calibers used as in the past and I'll try to show you the ways of my success.

**.38 Special, 9mm** No kills were recorded with my S&W Model 15 or my Browning Hi-Power. I was planning a Maine bear hunt, so I stuck with the big boomers all year.

**.45 ACP** I only burned one hog with my Mark IV. I used my standard load of 7.0 gr. Unique under a 185 gr. Sierra JHC. As usual it took two hits to stop him. I'm just jinxed with this round. It would be one of my top choices for social encounters, but I still can't explain its poor performance on 'hogs. C'est la vie!

**.357 Magnum** As I mentioned already, the little boomers didn't get much action. I only used my six inch Python to take two 'hogs. One was taken with my old standard of 16.5 gr. WW 296 under a Sierra 150 gr. JHC. The other 'hog was taken with a new load. My private bullet maker started producing some beautiful 160 gr. hard cast SWCs. They shoot as good as they look. 16.1 gr. WW 296 seems to be the most accurate with this bullet. Performance is wicked. The flat nose produces exceptional shocking power and cuts a wide wound channel.

My only kill with this bullet was in stantaneous and dramatic. This bullet may put my Python in the above marginal category for performance on deer. I'll find out next year.

**.44 Magnum** This caliber was my choice for my bear hunt, so I spent more time with my favorite wheel guns. Temptation was resisted again this year. HHI six gun No. 3 still remains sealed and unfired.

I decided in early 1983 that I needed a battery of scoped handguns — light, medium, and heavy. My Redhawk was chosen as the middle part of my battery. I ordered a Weaver Mount system, a 3X T/C scope, and a trigger spring kit for it. The mount and scope looked good on the gun. The spring kit was installed after much effort from my meager gunsmithing skills. The trigger pull was reduced to 3-1/2 lbs. Trigger overtravel was still at the point of ridiculousness. This as finally solved by gluing a piece of pencil eraser to the trigger guard just the right thickness to allow the trigger to break, but eliminating further movement. It ain't pretty, but it works. Offhand accuracy has increased dramatically.

My friend, Frand, and I, shot two cylinders full of 180 gr. Sierra JHCs over 25.5 gr. WW 296. Those twelve rounds cut one ragged two inch hole at 100 yards. So much for an accuracy load. I feel very lucky to own this gun. I proceeded to burn 12 'hogs with this load. All were one shot stoppers. All 'hogs died within several minutes even on abdominal hits. This Sierra Bullet seems to be very fragile. I saw multiple jacket fragments on the ground around all the kills. I have never seen this with their 240 gr. bullets.

My Redhawk has definitely settled in as my medium power scoped gun. This would have been heresy years ago. Liking Larry Kelley's Stalker setup of Super Blackhawk, scope, swivels, and sling, I set up my Redhawk the same way. Ah, for a name. Oh, yes. In view of the still tenuous trigger pull, that's easy. **THE BALKER.**

My four inch S&W M29 never saw any action this year. I still can't shoot it very well for some reason, so I tend not to pick it up when I hunt. My other two .44s, a 5 inch Super Blackhawk and an 8 inch M29 saw a lot of action. These two guns were my only planned weapons for my Maine bear hunt. I wanted to be totally familiar with them.

I was fortunate enough to waste eleven 'hogs with my M29. None of the shots were fancy. All were offhand from 15 to 45 yards. All were one shot kills as I have come to expect from this gun and its favored load of 23.5 gr. WW 296 under a 240 lead SWC. I have shot about 70 groundhogs with this load plus three deer. Accuracy is excellent and dependable one shot kills are almost to the point of being boring.

The 5 inch Super Blackhawk accounted for 10 contracts this year. I have grown to depend on this gun as much as my M29. It seems to shoot where ever I point it. I keep pushing myself when I shoot this gun to find my limits. Apparently I haven't reached it yet. Two kills this year serve as good examples. Both kills were taken using my usual walk and stalk method around the edge of prime groundhog fields. I caught sight of one 'hog sitting on a large dead branch on the top of a pile of limbs. He was looking right at me and I had no place to

hide. I slowly drew my Ruger and put the sights dead on his chin. I don't like straight on shots. Not enough room for my usual errors. The recoil of my gun interfered with my view of the 'hog as I shot. I slowly stepped 72 paces to the limbs, looking for signs of the 'hog. I couldn't see anything at first, but closer inspection of the pile showed Mr. 'Hog to be lying in the middle of it. I pulled him out to inspect the damage. There was one neat hole below his chin with an exit hole in his skull. No muss, no fuss.

Kill No. 2 came under similar circumstances. I jumped a 'hog in a field and he ran to his hole under an oak tree. The 'hog stopped at the entrance and looked at me. By then the Ruger was out, cocked, and locked on target. I noticed a large root in front of the 'hog. I knew it was now or never. I aimed at the root, figuring I'd shoot either under or over it. The hole seemed to explode at the shot. Dust, dirt, and wood flew everywhere. Forty paces later showed one hole in the root, lots of splinters, and one dead hog behind the root. The root was 2" in diameter. I've killed several 'hogs now by shooting through roots, limbs, and boards. I liked the surprised look on their faces. It drives me crazy!

**.375 JDJ** This gun brings out the sadism in me. Every time I shoot it and it hurts me, I want to shoot it more. It's always that little extended piece of the trigger guard that gets me. Somebody ought to invent a better mousetrap or whatever. The ol' T/C had burned 30 'hogs in two summers. It was my number 2 'hog getter, only behind my 8" M29. I was determined to change that in 1983. I wanted to see what this gun would really do. I found out.

Problem No. 1 to conquer was how to shoot the sucker at long range in the field. I had originally used my knees as partial support. This just wasn't steady for any serious long range work. I was rudely introduced to the art of long range groundhog shooting by a friend with a .221 Fireball. I noticed Mac was carrying some small, funny looking bags. I figured they were sandbags. I kept my mouth shut and was given a clinic in groundhog shooting that day. I managed to burn one 'hog at 75 yards which I thought was great. Mac, however, took five 'hogs from 100 to 175 yards. All of his shots were prone, placing the bags on rocks, stumps, or whatever to provide elevation. That made sense to me, especially since I was embarrassed so badly.

Thus, started the great sandbag caper of 1983. I immediately set my wife to work making several sizes of bags. Mistake No. 1 was making the bags too large. I initially had two 8" bags sewn together and filled with sand. Those suckers were so heavy that I needed a wagon to haul them around. Then I got the bright idea of dumping out the sand and filling it with styrofoam peanuts. Now the bags were so light that they almost floated away. Even worse was shooting off them. The styrofoam gave, then bounced back when I shot with the net result being hits about six inches too high at 100 yards. So much for bright ideas.

I got a little smarter next. I had Faye to make two three by four inch bags joined together. I then proceeded to stuff them with cotton. This worked a little better. I didn't have the barrel flip unless I shot off a very hard surface. I was able to take a few 'hogs this way. Another problem surfaced at that time. Shooting off a fence post

was a necessity, but difficult position to master. Just resting the foreend of the T/C did not provide side to side stability. The only way I could shoot off a fence post was to push the T/C forward until the trigger guard rested against something — my finger, the post, or a sandbag. Choice No. 1 hurt. No. 2 caused the shots to go too high. No. 3 was just right.

The cotton filled bags had a little bounce like the styrofoam, so I reached another solution. Sand was too heavy. Cotton was too light. Why not a combination of both. Thus was born the basic hybrid Sotton bag. This time I had a winner. One end of the bag was 4x4" and the other end was 2x4". They are joined by a narrow isthmus. The bag was lightweight and easy to carry on my belt loop by a small hook. The bag can be placed at a right angle on a fence post with the forearm of my T/C on the top bag and the trigger guard pushed into the bottom bag for stability. Keep your right arm straight and lean your body into the post. This is one steady position.

This method of shooting created some fantastic 'hog shooting in 1983. The ol' .375 did a number of 32 'hogs this year. My previous long shot of 97 paces was destroyed. I barely missed several 'hogs from 100 yards to my longest of 166 yards. This one was off a fence post as described above.

Several shots are worth recalling. One shot is an example of how not to shoot a T/C. I saw a 'hog one day about 100 yards in the middle of a field. He was walking, so it was shoot or forget it. I dropped on my behind and rested the butt and trigger guard of the T/C on my bent knee. A slow squeeze resulted in one dead 'hog at 105 paces. It also resulted in one big, painful, swollen knee cap. That damn little crook on the trigger guard puts most can openers to shame.

Another .375 JDJ kill ranks as one of my most memorable kills ever. One favorite spot of mine consists of several fields scattered over a 2 mile area. Between the fields is hilly pasture land that is loaded with groundhog dens. There is a nice road around the area. So each time I hunt it, I take two trips around the entire property. This walk and stalk method accounted for 70-80 'hogs on this one farm this year.

One 'hog den was across a ravine from a small 300 yard diameter field. I had seen and shot at two 'hogs in this den several times this year. It was 125-150 yards and the only way I could shoot was to sit on the ground, place my bags over a wooden fence, and rest my elbows on my knees. This is not a very stable or accurate position, especially with a 3X scope.

Mr. and Mrs. 'Hog were lucky so far. I had missed them three times. Each shot stirred up a cloud of dust like a mortar round so I couldn't see the results until things calmed down. Each miss lowered my confidence a little more. I even tried my scoped Redhawk once to no avail. A large root at the den's entrance looked like a Thompson SMG had been turned loose on it. And I'm sure the 'Hog family had plenty of toothpicks.

The eventful day was overcast and dreary. I approached the fence with reluctance, getting fed up with my misses. After a few minutes a 'hog appeared. He fed around the den without knowledge of me. I waited. I had all day for a miss. Suddenly a brother decided to join 'Hog No. 1. This

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## "AVENGER" STRIKES

By Dave Huggins, CA

It was a clear, warm morning in April, tax day — the 15th to be exact, when George Lichty, Mark Fellows, and myself rose and donned our camo for our first handgun safari. Safari seems an appropriate description since our quarry would be exotic mountain rams, on the game preserve of the Sacramento Gun Club in Jackson, California. Jackson is a small town with a rather flamboyant past of the Gold Rush Era centering mainly around the many brothels the town was noted for.

I was eager to try out my new pistol and cartridge on live game, and this was the perfect opportunity to test the 41-Avenger kit. For those who have not yet seen this kit, it is designed to be installed on a 1911 Colt 45 A.C.P. frame. It comes with a custom barrel, link, link pin and a bushing, heavy duty recoil, mainspring and firing pin spring, and, of course, a set of Pacific reloading dies, since the cartridge isn't commercially available.

The case is easily formed by running .451 Detonics mag brass through the full length sizing die, then loading like any other cartridge. 45 A.C.P. cases also work for lighter loads.

My work at the shooting range had left me very impressed, I consistently shot groups of 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 inches at fifty yards, and believe me, I don't shoot iron sights any better. The pistol itself was built by me, and it sports match grade parts, and fitting throughout. I also bought my kit oversized, so I could give it a custom fit, but this is not a job for the novice. SSK offers a drop-in kit in 5-to-6 inch lengths, or will custom fit it for you at a reasonable cost. I would like to mention here that throughout my building and testing process I spoke several times to J.D. on the phone, almost to the point of being a pest, yet he always had the time to give me advice from his own experience. I don't think I've ever spoken to a more conscientious and informed handgunner.

After looking over the loading data that came with the kit, I decided to concentrate my efforts for the moment, on Blue Dot powder and using J.D.'s own design 185 gr. R.N. bullet. I wasn't disappointed. Using an Oheler chronograph my load of 11.8 gr. of Blue Dot powder, at approximately 15 feet from the muzzle, produced an average velocity of 1330 F.P.S., with an extreme velocity spread of only 25 F.P.S., and a standard deviation of 9 F.P.S. This is, by the way, achieved using regular large pistol primers. I believe even better velocity could be achieved using either large pistol Magnum, or large rifle primers and careful load development. All loads tried indicated the gun was very consistent, with all groups using either the 185 gr. cast, or Sierra's 210 gr. F.M.C. staying under 3 inches at 50 yards. It did seem that the barrel broke-in after the first hundred rounds or so, and groups got better. I think this should be considered standard for any gun. They should also be kept judiciously clean during the break-in period.

Perhaps one of the most impressive things about this new cartridge, is its flat trajectories. Sighted-in to point of aim at 25 yards on paper, I then went down to the silhouette range, and surprise!, it hit point of aim at 50 yards, and still hit point of aim at 100 yards! Now, that's pretty exciting! You can

use the same hold on game, at any reasonable handgun range, from point blank to beyond 100 yards without having to compensate with hold over or hold under. Think what that can do for your freezer!

Well, as they say, the proof is in the pudding, so with plenty of confidence from my work at the shooting range, and with 3 clips loaded with the best load of 11.8 gr. of Blue Dot driving my 185 gr. C.B., my friends and I met our guide, Andy Penn at Mel's Diner in Jackson.

Andy led us to the ranch where we would hunt. Incidentally, we would be the first handgunners to try our luck. Andy informed us right away that rams are tough, all out of proportion to their size, and it takes a potent round for a clean kill. We would soon discover he was right. As he inspected my friend's guns, one an XP in 7mm B.R., and one T.C. Contender in 30 Herrett; I felt a little like the pipsqueak of the crowd. Our guide was obviously doubtful that I had enough gun, but my faith in the round would soon be well proven.

Having won the coin toss I would get the first shot, which really means a chance to be the day's first hero or first fool. Looking through the binoculars, we spotted a herd of sheep grazing on the slope opposite us. Being that it contained at least two trophy size animals, we began our stalk. Circling the base of the hill we climbed up from the back side and hoped to crest the hill just above them. Our guide knew his stuff, as I crawled to the top of the hill there was a good ram only 50 yards away, grazing in the grass. From my position, with the ram's head down and facing directly at me, I could only see the top of his shoulders. I positioned my gun and waited for a shot. I hoped he might take a couple of steps up the hill and turn broadside, but no such luck. One of the rams further back in the bunch caught sight of me, and let out a grunt. My animal immediately lifted his head and looked directly at me trying to figure out if I was danger or just another bush. I decided it was now or never and centered the sights on the only thing I had a clear shot at, the neck. The roar of my Avenger broke the quiet, and like watching an old movie where the buffalo collapses in his own tracks from the impact of a bullet out of a Sharps rifle, so did my ram. The bullet hit him squarely in the neck, it traveled back through the breast bone and into the chest taking out the heart and lungs. He hit the ground dead and the exuberant holler of "Allright!" from our guide told me this was not a common sight. Fortunately, the terrain was fairly bushy and wooded which allowed stalking to within handgun range.

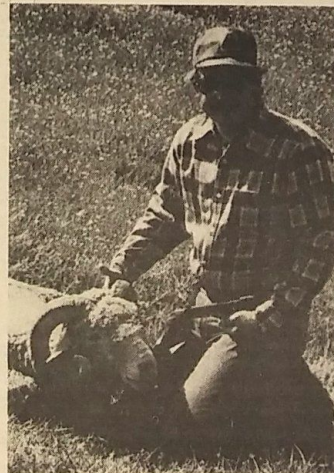
The ram was a big one and our guide had him field dressed almost before the back slapping and picture taking was over, then we moved on for our next shot. It took quite a bit of walking before we spotted another good ram. This time they spotted us, and it would be 160 yards or nothing. They were bedded down in the shade, beneath a tree, and were about to move when Mark decided to try a shot with his 30 Herrett. The broadside shot hit the ram in the neck and rolled him onto his back. We thought we had gone two for two, but as we shook hands and congratulated each other, the ram decided he wasn't through. It proved our guide was right about being tough to kill. The ram moved off around the hill, and our guide advised us to let him bleed out a little before trying to hunt

him down. Spying a ram with an enormous set of horns around the hill behind us, we decided to go for our third animal. Again, bedded down in the shade, George stalked to within 60 yards, and one bullet from his 7mm B.R. ended the struggle. Being the only animal we shot from below, the bullet entered low on the chest and probably would have gone clear through except for hitting the spine. The impact shattered both bullet and bone. With the heavily jacketed 7mm bullets it is almost essential to strike bone in order to get expansion at handgun velocities. My 41 caliber Avenger has no such worries, expansion or not, that 41 inch slug delivers a great deal of shock to the target, as was evident when we gutted and caped my animal. The bullet being of hard alloy, was deformed, but did not mushroom like a rifle bullet would have done, nor was it necessary. After field dressing the second animal, it was time to track down our wounded quarry. It wasn't long before the blood trail dried up.

Had we been in open country we would surely have lost the game, but since this was a ranch, with fenced boundaries, it was only a matter of time. The wounded ram had gone to the furthest corner of the ranch, and was in a deep ravine when we found him. One more shot from the 30 Herrett just behind the shoulder, and he was finished. Now came the hardest part of the entire trip — carrying that ram up and out of the ravine. The terrain was steep and the footing slippery, but we finally made it to the top.

Our guide took the heads and capes to be mounted, and we took the meat to our local butcher. My ram minus the head and cape, gutted and skinned, still weighed 110 pounds. Mark's weighed 99 pounds, and George's with the enormous horns weighed only 80 pounds. As it turns out, my ram was the biggest one ever taken at the ranch, and I did it all with my Avenger.

There are new magnum autos turning-up built around the 45 design, all of which I've seen cost \$600.00 plus and do not offer any better performance than does the Avenger. Personally, I can't see why anybody would buy one, when the Avenger offers everything you could ask for and more. Get one for your auto — you won't be sorry! As for me, our guide Andy tells me he has a hunt in Montana for Whitetail. The cover is so thick most shots are at 50 yards. As the song says "This boy's goin' soon as he gets the fare." and rack up another notch on the ole Avenger!



Dave took his ram with a single shot from the Avenger.

## BACK TOGETHER AGAIN

By Wayne Randall,  
Lake City, MN

More than a decade ago my brother Bill, friend Dave and I used to spend every Saturday hunting. We would leave at 7 a.m. and usually return about 5 p.m. These ten hours were all spent hunting. We probably covered two to three miles and thought it was a slow day if we didn't bag at least ten squirrels. One special day we got ten squirrels, two grouse, four mallards, and one raccoon. Needless to say, this was a red letter day that is still talked about. During one season we got a total of 200 squirrels by actual count. I became very sick of cleaning and eating squirrels.

Since this fantastic season, it seems we have never gotten back together for opening day. Between college, jobs, and marriage we just never made it for the opener. This year was to be different. My brother drove the 80 miles to my house the night before. Dave who lives only a mile away cleared off his business calendar and was all set for our reunion squirrel opener.

Dave pulled in the yard just at first light. This year it was handguns only. Bill carried a S&W .22 autoloader. I had my S&W .357 with light loads, and Dave came prepared. He had a S&W .22 revolver with a RSB .44 as a back up in case of a charge by a wounded squirrel!

The sun was just coming up as we hit the woods. Slowly moving through the woods, we searched for squirrels. Shortly a shot rang out below me. Then another. And another! Two more! I wondered if Bill had wounded one or was being a true sportsman and was simply firing warning shots to make the squirrel surrender. Easier to clean that way. As I mosed on down towards the sound of the shots, I half expected to see a furry creature on its hind legs with his paws above his head. Instead I found Bill who pointed to a clump of briars that contained a dead squirrel. Or so he claimed. I was elected to be the retriever. I found the beast down, but not out, so I put a shot down through its neck to end the excitement. An autopsy of the body revealed one .22 hole through the hind legs. Seeing a chance to rub it in, I did. Next time I told him to aim for the other end. Not as much good eating to be wasted up there. Off we went again. Another squirrel was spotted, but hid in the leafy tree tops. Fifteen minutes of searching with binoculars produced nothing. This one would have to wait for a future hunt.

Bill had to leave, so Dave and I continued the hunt. I took the lead as we headed up an old logging trail. Suddenly a squirrel appeared on a blown down tree. Drawing my .357 I shot and was rewarded by the sight of the squirrel sailing off the log. Upon retrieving the squirrel I made a horrible discovery! The beast had been facing me and had taken the slug square in the chest. The bullet passed the entire length of its body and exited through the hind leg. How was I to explain this shot to Bill? May I could clean this squirrel quickly before Bill noticed. A deer trail appeared and Dave took over the lead. Suddenly Dave stopped and drew his .44. He had spotted a large fox squirrel and was taking careful aim. At the blast of the .44 the animal was off and running. Dave cursed and I made a

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Lone Wolf Gonzualles (looking an awful lot like John Bianchi) stands on guard at the Bianchi Museum.

## THIS & THAT

By John Taffin

### I. THE .45-70

#### THE LONG & SHORT OF IT!

For a long time now I've had the desire to own a high quality .45-70 rifle, preferably an 1886 Winchester or a Sharps replica. Locally we have a .45-70 group that holds matches once a month and I've even toyed with the idea of buying a Ruger Single Shot Rifle just to shoot in the matches. But, every time I get a few bucks together, I buy another handgun, and the rifle idea goes by the wayside. Recently, however, I called the leader of the .45-70 group and told him I would like to shoot in one of their matches. He gave me all the information and said I would be most welcome. When I explained to him that I did not have a rifle, only a Thompson/Center .45-70, he hesitated, but said it would probably be alright and to come to the next match.

On match day, I showed up early, and as I watched various shooters practice, I knew I would do alright. As match time approached, I took the far end bench, laid my "little" SSK-TC .45-70 on the bench, and paid my entry fee. A few other competitors came over to look at whatever it was I intended to shoot, and also gave me a lot of sympathy for having to put up with such a handicap, while I tried to keep a straight face.

The rules were explained: A six bull target at 100 yards, the upper left was

for all the practice needed, then one shot was to be put in each of the other five bulls for score. Ten minutes would be allowed total time for practice and counting shots. I fired my first practice shot, cut the 9 ring, then fired my five counting shots in about two minutes. And then sat back to eat my lunch. About this time, the spotter of the shooter next to me swung his spotting scope over to my targets, and I heard a very audible "I don't believe it!" All of my shots but one were in the black, and the one bad shot was a pulled low shot that went into the 7-ring. As it turned out, I took third place and could have very easily have taken first or second. A lot of eyes were opened up as to the capabilities of handguns versus rifles.

But now I have a serious problem. If I was to shoot in the .45-70 matches, my wife decided it would only be proper that I have a .45-70 rifle. So she bought me a .45-70 Sporter on a Siamese Mauser action. It's a beautiful rifle, but will I ever be able to shoot it as well as my SSK .45-70?

### II. TRIP TO TEMECULA

Earlier this year, I found myself planning a trip to the Los Angeles area to visit my daughter and her husband, and since I would have some free time while there, I began to look for some side trips. I knew the Bianchi Gun-leather Plant and also the Bianchi

Historical Museum were in Temecula, California, but where was Temecula? I looked over the map but I couldn't find it anywhere. Finally someone was found who knew where it was, only 100 miles from my daughter's place. I wrote Bianchi and arrangements were made to visit both the plant and museum, and I must say they rolled out the red carpet for me.

Everyone of course knows that Bianchi is the largest maker of handgun leather in the world, and the most impressive thing about the plant is the organization and cleanliness of the entire facility. In addition to leather, Bianchi is also now offering a line of nylon holsters and belts. Particularly impressive to me as a leather-worker myself was the high quality of the leather that was being used, and only from the prime part of the hide.

I was able to meet with John Bianchi in his office which contains some of the most beautiful engraved handguns and leather outfits in the world, and then visited The Frontier Historical Center. If you are ever anywhere near this museum, don't miss it. With over 1,000 handguns and 60 wax figures as well as many artifacts, it is a mecca for the western historical buff. John Wayne's belt and holster, his famous large loop lever carbine, Paladin's "Have Gun, Will Travel" outfit, Leo Carillo's saddle, the Colt used by Wallace Beery are just some of the items from filmland that can be found. The Duke himself guards the entrance in a magnificent 10 foot bronze statue.

Historical figures captured in wax include Pancho Villa, Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday, and my particular favorite, "Lone Wolf" Gonzualles, a Texas Ranger of bygone days who is displayed with his matched Colt .45's and Model A Ford. All in all, a grand experience, my trip to Temecula.

### III. NEW CUSTOM GRIPMAKER

When I have a quality handgun, I like to dress it up with grips that are both functional and beautiful. It is hard to find both qualities in one set of grips. However, Bear Hug Grips, (P.O. Box 9664, Colorado Springs, CO 80909) is now providing grips that do both — that is providing comfort and also dressing up the handgun. Last month I received a pair of "Skeeter Skelton" style stocks of Indian Rosewood that went on my S & W .357 Model 27 8-3/8". I had been looking for a pair of stocks for a long time for this particular sixgun but nothing seemed just right. The Bear Hug Grips are perfect for this Smith. I liked them so well that I immediately ordered two more pair, Fancy Walnut for my Model 19 .357 4" and another pair of Rosewood stocks for my 4" .44 Model 29 that is being engraved by fellow HHI member, Jim Riggs of Texas. When I informed "Deacon" Deason of Bear Hug on my order form that the Rosewood stocks that were being ordered would go on an engraved sixgun, he called me and said he had been saving a piece of Rosewood for just the right occasion and that he would use it to make my grips. They arrived this week and they are as he said — a very fancy piece of wood, flame grained Brazilian Rosewood. Gorgeous! If you are in the market for a set of stocks for your sixgun or automatic, contact Deacon and let him know what you would like. Prices run from \$20.00 for plain walnut stocks for the Government Model Colt to \$65.00 for finger groove models of fancy woods for Colt, Ruger, or S & W

sixguns. Woods offered are Walnut, Fancy Walnut, Cherry, Birdseye Maple, Cordia, Purpleheart, Bloodwood, Kingswood, Morodilla, Zebra wood, Rosewood, and when available, Ebony. Grips can also be fancied up even further with initials in black or ivory colors.

I now have three pairs of Bear Hug Grips and am getting ready to order pair numbers four and five, one of which will be a fancy pair with my initials for my .45 Colt Commander. Workmanship is excellent as well as service as stocks come through in three to four weeks. Delivery time should lengthen however as more shooters discover Bear Hug.

### IV. HEAVYWEIGHT BULLET UPDATE

J. D. started it all with his line of bullets, especially the SSK 320 gr. 44 bullet. This particular bullet has proven itself both as a long range projectile and game getter and can be driven at 1400 fps from a 10" Ruger. I like it! Lately I have been experimenting with other heavyweights in .357, .44, and .45 that other HHI members may find to their liking.

In .357 Magnum, I have been using the RCBS 35-200FN GC with excellent results in both sixguns and TC's and also in the Ruger .357 Maximum. This bullet was originally designed for the .35 Remington, but really comes into its own in handguns. With a gas check, one wide grease groove and an overall length off .900", it is very accurate, to say the least. I use it over 13 gr. WW296 in .38 Special cases for use in my 10" DW or 8-3/8" S & W for 1150 fps. Use of Special cases allow crimping in the crimp groove rather than over the front shoulder as required when using Magnum cases. This same bullet over 19 gr. WW296 is a match winner when used in Maximum cases in the Ruger .357 Maximum, going 1500 fps. For use in the 10" TC .357 Magnum, I have also won many matches using this bullet and 17.7 gr. WW680 for 1550 fps.

A new bullet that I have been having good luck with is the new heavyweight .357 offering from Lyman, a 200 gr. Keith GC #358627. This is being used over 12.5 gr. H110 in .357 Magnum cases for 1225 fps in long barreled .357's, and over 19 gr. WW296 in Maximum cases for 1525 fps. Both of these bullet designs also make excellent varmint bullets for sixgunners. Lyman has now changed their design to have two crimping grooves ala their famous Thompson GC for use in revolvers with various cylinder lengths.

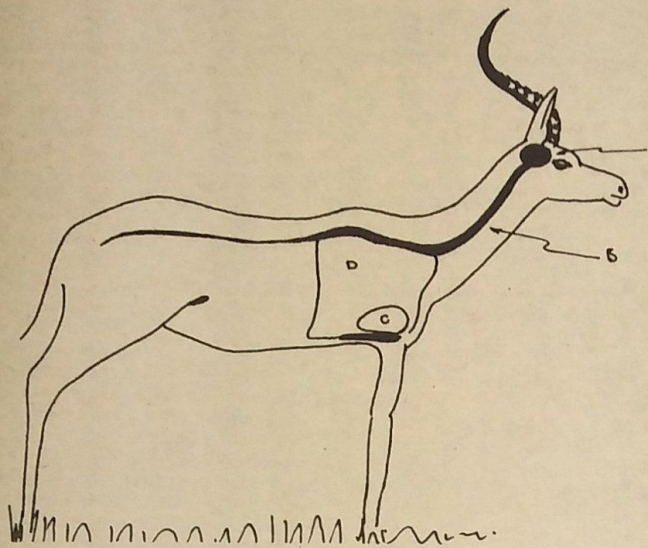
NEI is now offering a .44 Heavyweight Keith Bullet #295429 GC. This design goes 295 grs. and is a true Keith design with three equal size bands and one large grease groove. I have been using this bullet in my 10" Ruger with excellent results and the following loads have been used:

- 19.0 gr. #2400 for 1330 pfs.
- 21.0 gr. H4227 for 1215 fps.
- 21.5 gr. WW296 for 1250 fps.
- 23.5 gr. WW680 for 1250 pfs.

Friend Jim Taylor, fellow HHI member of Oracle, Arizona put me onto an excellent .45 Heavyweight bullet, that being the Lyman #457191 that at 300 grs. was originally designed as a lightweight for the .45-70. They can be sized to .452" and used as a Heavyweight bullet in the .45 Colt Ruger Blackhawk. Jim's favorite loading of this bullet is 18.5 gr. of #2400 and rifle primers. I was just over

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## HAND GUN HUNTING IS EASY

By Dr. Adrian De Villiers

A bold statement perhaps, but I feel that anyone with average ability and above average perseverance can become a good and successful hand gun hunter in a very short time. How does one go about this metamorphosis? One can obviously not just pick up a hand gun and go hunting! So where do you start?

Personally, I feel that one should start with a good hand gun of reputable make and large enough caliber — don't fall into the trap many before you have fallen into. Don't start off too small. Many people feel that they will be quite happy hunting rabbits and dassies with a .22 caliber handgun, very soon they will want to start on duiker or springbok, now they are no longer adequately equipped. Even though farmers in the Karoo may shoot springbok with a .22 caliber rifle, I feel that a poorly placed shot with this small caliber has resulted in many a wounded animal which to me is not acceptable. A handgun hunter in particular should always use "enough gun". How does one go about this? Simple! When you have decided what you want to shoot and what your size limit is, decide on a caliber which you feel will be adequate (if you are unsure ask someone for advice). Now for safety sake go one caliber higher. eg. if you feel that you can comfortably take an impala at 30 meters with a .38 special, go one caliber higher and use a .357 magnum. You are not doing this for yourself, you are doing this for the animal you are hunting. You owe it that respect since you are taking its life. Talking about taking a life, never, and I mean "never" be disappointed with an animal you have shot, you have no right to take a life and then be disappointed that its horns are too short or its pelt is not the right colour. Treat your quarry with the respect it deserves.

Now that you have chosen your caliber you must decide on a barrel length — personally I don't believe that a barrel length of under 4" is acceptable for hand gun hunting. (I use a 4" .44 magnum to hunt with fairly regularly for a number of reasons, but I do restrict myself to a distance of 30 meters and the gun is highly tuned and specially customized. I also use carefully worked up hand loads which are ex-

remely accurate up to this range.)

Personally, I would recommend a barrel length of up to 7½". I do not think there is an advantage of going up to 10½" as it makes the gun cumbersome and uncomfortable to carry in a holster. A 6½" or 7½" barrel is perfectly good enough.

### AMMUNITION

The handloader is at an advantage with respect to hunting ammunition as he can develop loads to suit the gun and the conditions under which he is going to be exposed. Perhaps even more important is the fact that reloaded ammunition can cost as little as 15% of factory bought ammunition.

The handloaders should examine the various types of heads available to him and decide which one will suit his requirements best. Personally, I feel that for the .38 special, .357, .41 and .44 magnum the cast Semi-Wad-Cutter (SWC) takes a lot of beating. It is cheap, because the SWC has a sharp edge around the rim it punches out a clean hole when it enters causing the animal to bleed freely. This helps tracking it, it also prevents the wound sealing off or closing up after the bullet has past through. This is why I would not use a FULL METAL JACKET (FMJ) bullet since the entry wound can close up completely and no blood can escape. I would also never use a hollow point bullet because if it hits a bone it may mushroom to such a degree that it stops before causing damage to the vital areas. (I have seen a .44 Magnum Factory hollowpoint from a 6" .44 S&W revolver stop dead after hitting a bone in an Impala's shoulder, although the animal was knocked down, it quickly recovered and ran away being killed only a few days later whereupon the extent of the damage caused could be seen, but no vital areas had been hit). If a SWC cast bullet had been used in this instance the impala probably would never have stood up again. If you can only get factory ammunition try and use SWC heads or flat point copper jacketed heads. If you are forced to use hollowpoints, try and avoid large bones by going for lung shots. If you are a hand loader stick to SWC cast bullets — this applies to all handguns up the .44 magnum class — when dealing with the new breed of single shot handguns with rifle type ac-

curacy and velocities, one must revert to the copper jacketed bullets. Some of my handguns eg. the 308 or 358 J.D.J. can reach velocities of up to 2600 ft./sec. At these high velocities lead alloy bullets are unacceptable and cast bullets apart from their other weaknesses would tend to disintegrate on impact, if hitting a bone for example.

Single shot pistols require the use of copper jacketed rifle bullets, the faster the head is expected to travel and the more it is expected to penetrate the harder it should be.

The energy a bullet head possesses can be worked from Einstein's formula  $E = mc^2$  where m is the mass of the bullet and c is the velocity of the bullet head. A slight increase in the speed of the bullet will greatly increase the effective bullet energy where as a small increase in the mass of the bullet will only result in a small increase of the bullet energy. If the bullet mass remains the same and the velocity of the bullet is doubled the energy which the bullet possesses will be quadrupled. If you use a light bullet at extremely high speeds and the bullet has too much energy it may explode on impact with a bone. If this is a problem one must increase the mass of the head and slow it down so that it will penetrate better. Some hunters feel that they want to impart as much of the bullet's energy to the animal they are shooting and since the energy cannot be destroyed the only way of imparting all the energy of the bullet head to the animal being shot is to be sure that the bullet stops completely within the animal, the problem with this is that you cannot be sure whether the bullet has stopped before or after penetrating a vital spot eg heart or lungs. Personally, I recommend a bullet powder combination that can fully penetrate the animal under normal circumstances. In this way you will know for certain that if you have hit the animal broad side on the shoulder that the bullet will definitely pass through the lungs or heart and may even penetrate both shoulders.

Under these circumstances there will be no doubt that your animal will be found dead very close to where it was standing at the time of impact. Furthermore, if the animal has two holes in him your chances of a strong blood spoor to follow are twice as good.

The new breed of single shot handguns designed for hunting and silhouette shooting such as the Thompson contender (T.C.) and the Remington XP 100 have changed the whole sport of handgunning considerably. I feel that no handgun hunter should be without one or more of these guns. They are extremely accurate, reliable and chambered for a number of rifle cartridges and handgun cartridges. SSK industries in America make a number of barrels for the T.C. in even larger calibers such as the 50-70 and my favorite for big and dangerous game the .375 JDJ which is based on a necked down .444 marlin case — it can propel a 235 gr. .375 head at 2200 ft./sec.

Now that you have chosen yourself a handgun and decided on which bullet head and weight to use you must now work out the most accurate load for this gun/bullet combination. These are two popular ways of doing this:

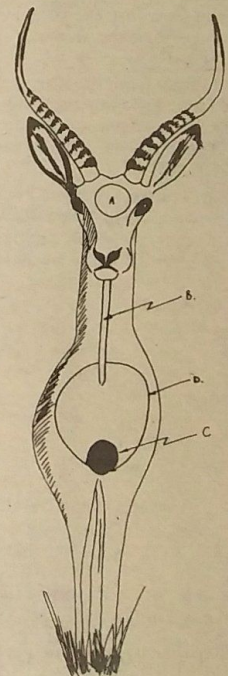
A. Some handgunners will load a number of rounds with various charges of powder between the minimum and the maximum recommended in the reloading manuals. These rounds are then fired over a chronograph and the

powder charge which gives the most consistent velocity is chosen for hunting, the idea being that the load with the most consistent velocity should result in the tightest groups.

B. Those of you without a chronograph should load up various loads varying from the minimum to the maximum recommended in the reloading manual and load six of each with a specific amount of powder. Now take as many targets as you have powder variations and using a sandbag or bench rest very carefully fire 6 shots at each target. Now select the most accurate load by the target with the tightest group, load up a few hundred rounds of these accurate loads. (Be sure to crimp each case to the same degree as this will ensure similar pressures and therefore similar muzzle velocities.) Not all the cylinders in a revolver are exactly the same, some align slightly better and some are ever so slightly tighter so that bullets fired from one or more chambers may be slightly more accurate than others fired from different chambers in the same gun. For the fanatic therefore you can mark each cylinder with a wax pencil and using each chamber fire at 6 separate targets. If you find that the gun has a chamber which is slightly more accurate than the others this chamber can be marked and your first shot when hunting can be taken from this chamber. Personally, I feel that this degree of fanaticism is not necessary.

The next step is to practice and practice some more, the aim of the practice should be to improve your accuracy and allow you to place your shots exactly where you want them. Accuracy means different things to different people, as far as I am concerned you should be able to consistently hit a circle with a diameter of 12 cms. — if you can do this you are ready to go hunting, but you ask yourself "He has not even mentioned at what distance you must place your shots inside this 12 cm. diameter circle". The answer is simple, if you can do this up to 30 meters your distance limit when hunting is 30 meters. If you can only do this up to 10 meters, your limits is 10 meters. If your

(Continued On Page 10)



**HANDGUN** (Continued From Page 9)  
distance limit is 10 meters and you are inexperienced in the bush and inexperienced as a hunter then I would recommend that you would fit a pistol scope to improve your range.

Handgun scopes are now freely available in most big centers in South Africa. A handgun scope allows absolute accuracy once the scope has been accurately sighted. I feel that a scope is essential particularly when longer shots are required.

With the use of a handgun scope you can probably double or even triple your maximum range. Handgun scopes and their mounts receive a severe hammering with the heavy recoil of modern day big bore handguns. Make sure that the mounts and the screws are tight — use "lok-tight" on all screws and base plates should be epoxied for added strength.

Handgunning by virtue of the nature of the sport will require you at some stage to shoot from an unconventional position or even at unusual angles or possibly even using your weak hand. You may also be required to shoot up a steep slope or out of a tree. It is essential therefore that you know exactly where your point of impact is and how it will change by varying your position or the angle at which you are shooting. This should be worked out, before it happens in the bush, not after. Before you go hunting practice estimating distances and then pace them out. This way you will not be tempted to shoot when the animal you are hunting is too far away. Often in the excitement of a hunt you are tempted to shoot significantly longer distances than you have voluntarily limited yourself to. Try not to fall into this trap and remember a wounded trophy may be on your conscience for a very long time and tomorrow is always another day. Whenever you are in doubt, try and get closer to your animal.

#### **WHERE TO AIM**

The novice handgunner should start off by shooting small antelope or pigs (be careful of wounded warthogs and especially bush pigs, they can be dangerous).

##### **A. The Brain**

A handgun hunter should avoid the brain shot as a slightly misplaced shot could result in a lost eye or shattered jaw without killing the animal.

##### **B. THE SPINE**

A good target from the side, but not from the front. The impala looks very narrow from the front — it is in real life too! The neck is a difficult target.

##### **C. THE HEART**

The heart is a good target, but note how low down it lies in the chest. When shooting from the side you will have to shoot through the shoulder which will damage at least one of them and possibly even both.

##### **D. THE LUNGS**

The best target — not easy to misplace a shot, a definite kill zone, it is also the largest area.

When shooting from the front try and avoid hitting the thigh as you could then lose a large amount of meat.

Lung shots are recommended for the beginner and for the experienced hunter, the advantage being that very little tissue and meat damage occur and the animal usually dies very quickly, just remember that it is not unusual for an animal shot through the lungs to run for a 100 or 200 meters before dying. A further advantage of a lung shot is that the bullet usually passes clean

through and there are two holes from which the animal can bleed. The animal shot in the lungs bleeds classically with pink frothy blood. If your tracking ability is poor, go back to the spot where you last saw your animal and start looking in ever enlarging circles. If you do not find the animal mark the spot where you saw it last or the spot where you last saw a blood spoor and return to camp for help.

The lungs offer a large target and can be very easily hit by aiming at the middle of the chest just behind the edge of the front leg. The heart is another of my favorite targets, it is, however, a bit more tricky. Most people think that the heart is in the center of the chest, this is in fact not so. When looking at an antelope from the side the heart is lying very low down against the breast plate or sternum. To hit the heart from the side you need to go through the top of the foreleg bone, or just behind the elbow. Do not think that the heart shot will drop the animal where it stands, it may also run for 200 to 300 yards before being found dead.

A neck shot is still acceptable with a handgun, but is more tricky still. The hunter must know where the spine and great vessels lie in the neck. The commonest error with neck shots is aiming too high particularly animals with a mane such as a kudu or a zebra.

Furthermore, the bony spine on the back of the vertebrae in the neck reach down almost to the middle of the animal's neck especially closer towards the animal's chest, the actual spinal canal may lie nearly in the middle of the neck lower down. A neck shot placed slightly too high will pass above the spinal cord and through the thick muscles of the neck which may bleed profusely initially, but then stop bleeding completely. If you have fired a shot which you feel is too high you must track the animal extremely carefully and hope for a second shot.

#### **GUN LEATHER**

Handguns without scopes can be safely carried in a holster. Holsters should have open ends so that any sand or twigs which drop into them can fall through. Otherwise these particles form an abrasive medium and the inner tip of the holster which will remove all the bluing off the gun. With respect to scoped handguns I feel that because of the importance of being sure that the scope is true at all times you should carry it in your hand in the bush. In a holster it is very likely to be banged around. I also feel that with all the preparation that goes into a handgun hunt one must treat the gun and scope with the utmost care from the time that it has been sighted in since any deviation of the scope or loosening of the scope may result in a disastrous hunt. If possible one should try and have at least one test shot before you go into the bush on arriving at your hunting destination, then you can be sure that your scope is set correctly. Every now and again no matter how careful you are you are going to give your handgun an accidental jolt. You may knock it on a tree or fence post or even on the side of a jeep or you may go through a pot hole with the jeep with your gun on the seat next to you. If this happens check the site before you shoot again.

#### **IN THE BUSH**

Most handgun hunters have had experience with rifle hunting and then moved over to handgun hunting because of the challenge. Obviously tracking and hunting skills will have to be modified to suit the new limitations.

If you are starting out from scratch as a handgun hunter without any previous tracking or hunting skills, I would recommend that you use a tracker until you are confident that you can adequately track a wounded animal. Furthermore a complete novice will suffer from "Buck fever" or as it is known in Afrikaans "Bok koors". Buck fever usually hits you when you are about to kill for the first time or even a second and third time depending on the situation. At the prospect of actually killing an animal which you have not previously done your body suddenly releases adrenalin which makes your heart start banging in your chest and you may even feel slightly short of breath. As you are aiming you suddenly start shaking as if you are shivering, with a severe bout of Buck fever there is no way that you can shoot accurately particularly with a handgun. You should then put your gun down, take deep breaths and try tensing and relaxing all your muscles simultaneously. This helps mop up the extra adrenalin. Breathe in and out a few times, then take good deep breaths and try again. If you are still shaking start all over again, put the gun down, take deep breaths in and out, start tensing your muscles etc. I get a mild version of Buck fever almost every time I go out handgun hunting since I have worked myself up into a state prior to the hunt. I have, however developed a method of controlling it. If you are cold and you are already shivering your Buck fever will hit you even more severely. For this reason I recommend that if you are going on your first hunt at a time of the year when it is extremely cold in the early mornings, try and keep warm. If you have Buck fever and you are already shivering from the cold your chances of an accurate shot are almost impossible.

I still have not qualified my rash statement that handgun hunting is easy, but it is easy for a number of reasons. Firstly, you have chosen to be a handgun hunter because you are a sportsman, obviously you want to enjoy the challenge and you are enjoying every moment in the bush even though you may not actually be shooting, you also want to prove yourself and you are therefore content to take your time and wait patiently for your perfect opportunity. For this reason snap shots and head shots are tabu.

If you are not experienced in the bush I suggest you look for a well-worn game path or a water hole and make a hide from which to shoot (under normal circumstances I would never condone sitting near a waterhole, but a novice handgun hunter needs experience and confidence. At a waterhole he will have a number of opportunities to gain both of these and take a perfect shot under perfect conditions from a dead rest). When choosing a spot look for a place where you will be well hidden, but still will have a good field of view. Your back should be hidden so that any animal coming from behind you cannot see you. Do not use after shave or deodorant in the bush. This smell tends to linger where you have been and makes it extremely easy for the animals to detect the presence of a human. When hunting and in particular when sitting in a blind wear a dark red jacket and cap, this will prevent fellow hunters from inadvertently shooting you as they may see a slight movement from a dark shape underneath a bush and assume that it is a buck or a pig. There is no danger in showing yourself up using a

dark red or dark blue color since animals are all color blind. It is only birds and primates that can see colors. Use a deadrest where possible and use a hat to protect your gun from damage when placing it on hard objects such as logs, sand or rocks. If you see an animal from a blind and it is moving too quickly to get an adequate shot, but it has not seen you, try whistling softly. It will usually stop for a second or two to investigate the sound. This trick works particularly well with antelope and jackals. Once you have fired your shot from a blind don't jump up immediately, stay absolutely still. Often your buck will not know where the shot came from and he may even run towards you, or others in the herd may run towards you giving you an opportunity for a second shot.

Don't follow the wounded animal immediately, wait 10 to 15 minutes. If it is fatally wounded it would have died by this stage. If not then it will have stiffened up significantly and it will be lying or standing still in the bush. If you are following the blood spoor keep looking far ahead and then back at the spoor, this will allow you the chance of having a second shot. If you are sitting in a blind and you have detected an animal in your field of view, move very slowly only when it is not looking straight at you. Do not make sudden movements and freeze completely when it looks in your direction. Do not forget to squeeze off your shot. Do not be in too much of a hurry, this is the moment you have been waiting for "the moment of truth". Do not let a poor shot at this stage upset your hunt after all the preparations you have gone to.

Handgun hunting is as easy as crossing the road, you can cross whenever you want to!

May all your shots be straight & true.



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## **OSS Winner**

Gordon Fletcher is last issue's winner of 500 cast lead bullets of his choice from Ohio Shooters Supply. The winning story was titled "Two A Day." Congratulations, Gordon!

# THE 'LOWLY 22 RIMFIRE' CARTRIDGE AN INTERESTING PAST . . .

By Paco Kelly, Tucson, AZ

## PART I OF A III PART SERIES

I hope you take exception to the title of this article. I do whenever I see it. The 22 Rimfire is anything but lowly. It was our first mass produced fixed cartridge handgun ammunition. It was not invented in America, just redesigned to be a real handgun round. In its early form from France, it was not usable on small game — it was first developed for party, indoor, and arcade shooting.

In its many forms today, it has reached the zenith of its accuracy and development. It is a round designed to test the shooter's abilities with his firearm, whether accuracy at paper targets, tin cans, or squirrels, the little round scores only with fine shooting . . . that is its primary function. And the people of this land support this cartridge by buying it in the multi-billions every year. Way beyond any center-fire ammo purchases.

First came the percussion cap for black powder, brought about in approximately 1815 in France. That was four years before the man credited for inventing the 22 rimfire was born. From that point the percussion cap had been used by many squeezing a BB into it, and then trying to fire it out of all kinds of firearms. This activity kept on until Louis Nicholas Flobert (1819-1894 — 75 years) in the early 1840s worked on the round that would become the BB Cap.

The difference Flobert made in case design on the percussion cap . . . was simple and brilliant at the same time — he put a rim on the cap with tools he designed. That was the first self-contained ammunition to be brought about that worked well and consistently.

In 1845 Flobert, with borrowed money, started his own company. He redesigned his 5.5mm (22 cal.) cartridge and built rifles to fire them. It must be remembered that the BB Cap Flobert brought about was still propelled only by the power of the priming compound. His 'Cap and Shot' guns and ammo became very popular not only in France but all over Europe. So the first 22 rimfire was brought about by using standard components of the time . . . percussion caps and shotballs that fit the cap mouths. The caliber of the fantastically popular and useful 22 rimfire was then standardized for generations to come, because that's what was available at the time.

In the 1850s trade fairs in Europe were popular, and Flobert was many things, but he was a salesman first. His guns and self-contained ammo were always on sale and display. So they were brought into the U. S. Horace Smith and Daniel Wesson improved upon the cartridge and chambered the Number One, as it was called, the first handgun of their new company, Smith and Wesson. It was the first mass produced self-contained cartridge handgun made available. It was a 22 caliber on a case the size of today's 22 shorts.

S & W was ready for the market in 1857, as soon as Colt's patent rights on revolvers ran out. The S & W company held the patent rights to the bored thru cylinder . . . and they got a big jump on the market with their Number

1 Handgun. Their little round held four grains of black powder under a 29 grain bullet.

We tested the various length 22 rimfires with black powder, to see just what the power of the day was. It is only a glimpse, because black powder today is very much refined, and the rimfire priming material is so different . . . so I don't know the true velocities of yesterday. But our shorts with the bullets pulled and four grains of black put in and re-assembled, gave 652 fps out of a four inch handgun. It gave a little over 725 fps with an 8 inch Dan Wesson barrel (yes, we had some time cleaning the guns), the Rossi pump rifle with 18 inch barrel gave just under 900 fps. All respectable if you have nothing else to load with. I can't say about accuracy. The bullets were damaged during the pulling. I suspect for what we could do in plinking, and other loads we developed with CBS, accuracy would be very good to excellent.

S & W constantly improved the little cartridge from the beginning — they are responsible for giving it the start and boost it needed to become so popular. It was known then as the Number One cartridge. In 1860 they changed the priming methods which was using too much fulminate of mercury, a highly corrosive material. Using a spinning action the compound was put into the rim only. That cut down the amount used by the old way of painting the entire bottom of the cartridge with primer compound. That put too much salt like compounds in the existing small bores with soft steel. The cartridge material was changed from a too soft copper like the percussion cap, to a stronger tinned copper.

The little round and Number 1 S & W handgun, was popular. The Civil War saw soldiers of both sides carrying them as backup weapons and hide-out guns. And by the end of the war, it was generally believed the little round was good for self defense. The makers didn't agree so they developed the first 22 long cartridge. It was a longer case with five grains of black powder, and the same 29 grain bullet. The short case is .410 length, the long is .610 length, and the long rifle to come later is the same length as the long. The five grains of black gave the long bullet almost 800 fps from a four inch barrel . . . or about what today's standard short gives in the same gun.

When S & W's White cylinder patents ran out, the development on the little round really took a megaleap forward. The market was suddenly filled with different types of handguns chambered for the 22 caliber rimfires. And all the new manufacturers of 22 rimfires wanted to get a better hold on the market . . . a market where S & W was way out in front, and there to stay even to the 1980s. The BB Cap (Bullethead Breech Cap), has always held on to its popularity in one form or another, even as the market place kept upgrading the 22 caliber Long rounds.

The BB Cap underwent upgrades also, the first to a different bullet shape and a new name. The 20 grain BB Cap bullet went to the 29 grain Short bullet in Conical shape in the same case for

(Continued On Page 12)



NEI 310451, loaded in .45 Colt trimmed by .050", over shoulder in .45 Colt case, in .45 Special case, expansion of Heavyweight .45.



Keith 250 gr. .45 shown with NEI 310 .451 and Lyman 457191; NEI Keith 250 gr. .44 with NEI 295 .429 GC; Lyman 356156 with new Lyman 200 gr. Keith GC.

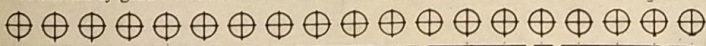


Bear Hug Grips — Indian Rosewood on M27, Brazilian Rosewood on Smith .44, Fancy Walnut on M19.

**THIS & THAT** (Continued From Page 8) to Saguache, Colorado to visit another friend and HHI member, Robert Smythe. Robert had a batch of these loaded out and we retired to the range on his ranch to shoot them through a 5-1/2" Hawes Western Marshall with Target Sights. I had never fired a Hawes (now defunct, but formerly produced by Sauer & Sohn of West Germany) and I didn't have real high hopes. Well, that gun and load combination shoots one hole groups. Guess what sixgun I will be looking for at the next gun show?

Another new .45 Heavyweight that I have been experimenting with just recently, but have not shot over the clock yet, is NEI's #310451, a .45 Keith plain base with one wide grease groove. I'm certainly glad I tried the first one I

loaded for size in my Ruger .45 as the front shoulder of the bullet does not allow the loaded round to seat completely in the Ruger cylinder, about 1/2 the rim protruded through the back of the cylinder. It pays to take nothing for granted when reloading. Always check first; I could have easily wound up with 200 rounds that would have all needed to be pulled had I not checked. I trimmed a batch of cases by .050" to allow proper seating, and loaded another batch by crimping over the front driving band, a practice I do not care for. For use in my New Frontier .45, I trim the .45 Colt cases to .44 Special length so I do not get them mixed up with my Ruger loads. My goal with this load is to safely achieve 1200 fps in the Ruger, and 900 fps in the lighter Colt.



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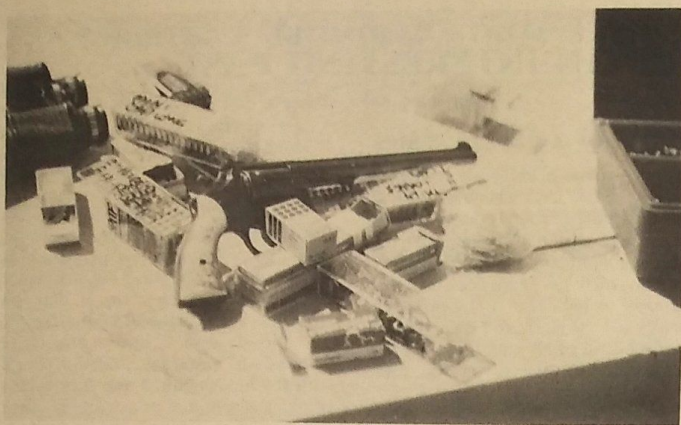
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Paco Kelly's 22 Display

the CB Cap we all know today . . . but at first, still with only priming compound as its propellant. The first power upgrade was a jump to one grain of black powder . . . and it stayed that way as a standard for a number of decades, until European manufacturers started using 'white powder', or smokeless as it is known here.

Today we have a number of CB caps on the market. CCI makes both a short and long CB, and Winchester makes an excellent CB Cap, that is of target grade. Several companies make a gallery load, which has a bullet made of pencil lead at 15 grains and 1700 fps velocity. It is accurate, and deadly on small game . . . it will not ricochet and has limited range. I like it for small game hunting where I must shoot up into trees, because it falls rapidly after 100 yards or so.

Right behind cartridge and handgun development, rifles began to become popular throughout the country. Which lead to small game taking and accuracy trials, and further development on the 22 rimfire round itself. But the limiting factor of the 22 then was its short range, out to 125 yards tops. And target rifle shooters like 200 and 300 yards target shooting.

In 1880 a round called the Extra Long was developed. The case was from the 22 rimfire shotshell cases, about .750 in length . . . six grains of black powder and a newly shaped 40 grain bullet was added. This round didn't survive, but its bullet did. In fact, some people I know of and respect their opinion on the 22 saga, state it was the 40 grain bullet 'only' that made the accuracy and dependability of the Extra Long. Maybe so, but the new hyper velocity ammo is back to using almost the same case length of the old Extra Long, and accuracy is very good with them. We decided to put it to the test.

We used Stinger cases, and six grains of very fine black powder, and 40 grain bullets from other 22 rounds . . . and ran right into pressure indications in the small handgun! Obviously the inside dimensions of the Stinger cases are smaller than the old Extra Long case, and I have none in my modest cartridge collection to measure. But with 1190 fps from the 18 inch rifle, this six grains of black and 40 grain bullet load was every bit the equal of some of our high velocity rounds today.

We cut the load to 5.5 grains and used a 35 grain cast bullet, using the gas check step as the heel. It was a slip fit at best. At 25 yards, they went into 2 inches from the rifle with iron sights. We killed a half dozen picket pins, little rat like destroyers of everything . . . ripping the little rats wide open

like any high velocity 22 rimfire.

We dropped the load back to 5 grains of black, and loaded a 62 grain CB. And we hit pay dirt. Years ago I had taken a Lyman 22536U mould that was 84 grains and milled off the base leaving four lube rings and a lube ring without the flat base and bottom ring, in effect making a narrow gas check step. Whatever the experiment was back then, I've forgotten, but it didn't work. The step was too narrow for gas checks (preFREECHEC, we make them now to fit anything).

Well the inside of a 22 rimfire case is .210 and that bullet base in dead soft lead is .212. Simply pushing the base into the case by hand . . . was great because it was tight enough to hold the CB in place very well, even in my pocket with loose change for several hours testing the fit tightness.

Five grains of black was magic with this bullet. They went into an inch at 25 yards . . . with 920 fps and 116 pounds of muzzle punch puts it into the modern 22 power level. Except that this heavy 62 grain flat nose CB will kill better than any 40 grain round nose. Out of the two handguns, this load keyed badly. Now I'm not advocating the return to black powder in 22s. Just seeing how good it might have been 100 years plus ago.

The problems of black powder in 22s are real and many. The first is cleaning — it's a mess! Then some primers in some 22s RF cases won't ignite the black powder. The bullet length outside the case is very long, once chambered you can't open the action without leaving the bullet in the lead . . . lots of little things like that. So reloading rimfires is a pain all the way round . . . but it sure did make me better appreciate the job the ammo companies do with these little rounds. It is hard to find a consistently 'bad' 22 round on the American market.

The Extra Long dropped from the American market in the 1930s. I have a friend that has a small single shot rifle that is chambered for this cartridge . . . he shoots Stingers in it without any problems. It is a strong rolling block type action, I don't remember the manufacturer. Anyway, he says the Extra Long was a fine small game round, his squirrel gun, with peep sights. He used to get ammo from Europe, but that became prohibitively expensive after 1968 and Federal gun control law went into effect, making importation of small amounts of ammo prohibitive. Of course we all know that keeping 22 Extra Longs off the market significantly lowers violent crime.

Target shooting with the rimfire 22s became so popular at one point, in the 1880s and 1890s that you could

purchase empty primed rimfire cases. Even the bullets could be purchased, in lots of 1,000 at ridiculously small prices. At this point in the early 1890s, the most important discovery of the two last decades of the 1800s was made . . . by many people. If you mated the 40 grain bullet of the Extra Long round to the five grains BP powder charge and the Long's case length, you got fantastic accuracy.

The commercial ammo makers jumped on it hot, and the first to do it was the Union Metallic Cartridge Company, and the 22 Long Rifle was born officially. The J. Stevens Arms Company in 1887 was the first to offer guns for it. They are responsible for naming it the Long Rifle, by stamping their guns with that name. People didn't realize that the Long Rifle was the same length as the 22 Long, and their 22 Long guns would take to it very well.

The man that is credited as developing this round, and he did for industry, (he worked for Union Metallic), is M. W. Thomas. But hand-loaders were doing it for years before it was generally part of the market place. In fact, today, 22 Longs still have a considerable share of the markets 3.4 billion rimfire sales. I think much of it is due to the confusion on the name . . . Long and Long Rifle. Folks say . . . "gimme' two a them boxes of Longs, the 22s." Not realizing the 40 grain bullet far outreaches the 29 grain bullet.

An interesting tid-bit I found in my research on the 22 rimfire: The first 22 Long Rifle rimfires were not crimped in place. They were mass produced with a tight slip fit. Just as the ones made up by buying components and loading your own. It was believed that the non-crimping gave better accuracy. The practice was dropped in the 1890s when testing showed that it didn't aid accuracy, and all the companies went to crimping . . . but they still offered components for those that like to reload their own.

Gun writers like to say things like . . . the 30-40 Krag was the first smokeless powder cartridge, and it was military, to be mass produced in this country, and the 30-30 was the second, but it was the first sporting round. Well, sorry boys, but that is wrong on its face. Let's forget that the 22 C.B. Cap was the first smokeless load, in 1890, for a minute.

The 30-40 Krag rifle was looked at and passed on for the Army, to replace the 45-70 Springfield in 1892! American arms makers put up such a floor stomping and name calling, that the board was reconvened and told to re-evaluate the entries, especially the American entries.

Meanwhile, back in 1892, the smart old Winchester Company quickly produced its fine single shot Hi-Wall in 30-40 Krag for smokeless powder rounds! They knew it would be a good seller to the sportsmen's market, every military round is. And they were right. So the 30-40 Krag in the Winchester Single Shot Rifle was the first smokeless round, and it was chambered first in a sporting rifle.

I must also give credit to the evaluation board . . . in the face of heavy political pressure they found for the Krag again, and it was produced for the military . . . but not until 1894. The 30-40 Krag round was the first center-fire smokeless GAME round chambered in a sporting rifle first, not military. The 30-40 Military was the second smokeless round and

the 30-30 after that. The "lowly" 22 Rimfire was the very first smokeless cartridge on our shores that was mass produced. Now there is a whole pocket fulla'nits for you to pick!

Early manufacturers found one grain or less of the new 'white' powder was fine in the 22 rimfire cases. But two and three grains burned so hot they raised hell with the small bores soft steel. But the industry wanted the advantages of smokeless powder, and Yankee ingenuity stepped in. Also early on, it was still not known that the primer, or priming compound in rimfires were more at fault than the powders of the day.

Keep in mind that 22s were not the only rimfires on the market. Many calibers had rimfire rounds, small game rounds like the 25s and 32s, larger game and protection rounds like the 38s, and the most famous of the lot, was the 44 Flat. So industry had strong motive to develop a useful smokeless powder for rim fires.

The smokeless powder problem was continuously worked on, and the solution was slow in coming . . . into the 1920s. Finally Remington discovered the priming compound was at fault and changed it, bringing out Kleenbore 22s first in the 20s. The revolution in ammo was started, and rifle bores became safe again from corrosion for the first time in almost 100 years.

In 1890 or so, the Winchester folks thought it time to give the small game hunter a 22 caliber cartridge that had some snap to it. And the Winchester Rim Fire 22 caliber round and the Model 1890 rifle was the result. This cartridge looks like a shorter version of today's Winchester Rim Fire Magnum.

I used to fire them in a 22 magnum rifle I had in the 1960s. They were a very accurate round generally, much more than the rim fire magnum. The 22WRF was the cartridge made for John Brownings new pump action 22 rim fire. It also had something lacking in the industry since the first 22s brought out for S & Ws Model #1 handgun in 1857 . . . the WRF had an inside lubed bullet. Up to this time, 22s among others were outside lubed, usually with a wax like substance that functioned very well. But they were a pain to carry for small game hunting and plinking . . . they would pick up dirt and unwholesome stuff and carry it into the guns if the shooter was not careful.

As a kid, we used to buy the cheaper 22 rim fires, for 15 cents a box, if I remember, and they were outside lubed. I had a small tobacco pouch from my Grandfather, and kept my precious store of 22s in that with nothing else. It fit neatly into the back pocket of my coveralls and jeans, protected the ammo somewhat, and kept it clean. But generally inside lubrication and clean bore priming, and later copperwashing the lead instead of lube, brought the small 22 rimfire into the 20th century to stay.

Another innovative idea of the 1890s that lasted was the development of hollow pointing the bullets. The cases themselves in the early part of the 1900s were made thicker inside and the alloy of the copper/tin was strengthened . . . almost singlehandedly Bullseye powder was responsible for this. Many of the old cases could not stand the pressures generated by this the first, and the fastest burning smokeless powder. It is the oldest powder on today's market . . . with

(Continued On Page 15)

# 19th CENTURY STYLE

... John Taffin

I'm hooked! I'd been warned, so it is strictly my own fault. There is something about shooting frontier style that really gets into your blood. Call them charcoal burners, front stuffers, cap ball handguns, muzzle loaders, or whatever, they add a whole new dimension to handgunning.

After spending years shooting the modern Magnums, and the long range TC's, it seemed like a real step backwards at first, but I soon found I had entered an aspect of shooting that I had too long ignored. Having once owned an 1860 Army Colt .44, a Remington 1858 .44, and a Doane & Adams .44, all of which were shooting originals, I was not a complete stranger to the front stuffers. However shooting them had only been an occasional experience, until they were traded off for more modern firearms. As I recall the 1860 Colt was traded for one of the first Ruger .357 Blackhawks.

When Ruger announced that the Old Army was to be made in stainless I quickly placed my order and received one of the very early ones. However over the years, it too, had only been shot occasionally at our annual Western Day and Rodeo held at the Jr. High I teach at. And even then it was simply a matter of showing students how the old guns worked with no real serious shooting. I owned the Old Army for eight years before I ever sighted in on paper off sandbags.

All that has changed. Since I regarded the Old Army Stainless as the epitome of the muzzle loading sixguns, as a companion piece I requested TC to supply me with a sample of their

muzzle loading handgun, The Patriot.

First, a look at these two handguns. The Stainless Old Army was introduced in 1975 and is simply the finest cap and ball sixgun ever produced. Now the purists among us shy away from the Ruger and instead shoot either original or replica Colts and Remingtons. The Old Army is a completely modernized version of the old style cap and balls. In addition to the stainless finish which allows cleaning to be done at the shooters leisure rather than immediately after a shooting session as with blue guns, the Ruger has a number of desirable features.

The sights are the standard Ruger adjustable with blue sights, even though the finish of the rest of the gun is stainless; the lockwork is the virtually indestructible Ruger old-style SA, and Ruger has overcome the problem of the loading lever dropping with each shot by providing a positive locking lever.

Also the loading lever, rammer, and cylinder base pin are an inter-related assembly that can be removed from the sixgun with the simple turn of a screw in the front of the frame. This is one of the most ingenious of the many Ruger handgun innovations. The Ruger is also a true sixshooter and can be safely carried fully loaded as the cylinder has slots at the rear of the cylinder between chambers and provide a positive resting place for the hammer nose.

I mentioned cleaning could be done at the shooters leisure. That is, within reason cleaning can be put off for a reasonable length of time. Stainless will pit eventually if not cared for.

The Ruger strips very easily and I prefer to completely dismantle mine and clean it with hot soapy water, dry it either by direct sunlight or in a warm oven, lightly oil each part, and reassemble.

Loading the Ruger is the standard cap and ball procedure in effect since 1836. Holding the sixgun barrel up, the proper powder charge is poured into the chamber, a ball or conical bullet is placed in the chamber mouth, which is then rotated to place the bullet directly under the rammer and the bullet is seated solidly. This repeated five times, and then, and only then, are caps placed on the nipples. A good accessory to have is a capper which holds about twenty caps and is used to press caps on the nipple rather than using thumb pressure which could be dangerous if a tight cap ignites.

The Ruger Old Army has a tapered chamber which provides a very tight seal and helps prevent a double discharge. It's still a good idea to top off each chamber with either Crisco or a black powder lube to not only prevent a second chamber igniting, but also to help keep the bore clean.

To shoot the Old Army, I mould pure lead balls using a Lyman .457 round ball mould and Conical bullets using the Lee .457 mould. Notice that the proper size for the Ruger is .457 "not .451" as in the Colts and Remingtons.

The Old Army has the standard Ruger grip frame and is more appropriate for my hand than the Old Remington or Colt 1860 Persuasion, and weighs 52 ounces with a 7-1/2" barrel.

Shooting the Old Army requires Remington No. 11 caps, other brands of No. 11 I have tried are too tight, some type of adjustable powder measure, and powder. I shoot Pyrodex "P" exclusively, but "Triple F" (FFF. Black) is also appropriate. Pyrodex is cleaner burning than Black Powder and gives excellent accuracy, so I stick with it.

The Old Army is not a Magnum by any means. At its best it is slightly inferior to a factory .45 Colt when loaded to the top level with a Conical bullet. The Conical bullet also gives me better accuracy than the round ball. Using a 35 grain black powder measure, the 225 gr. Conical bullet goes 870 FPS and will shoot six into 1-1/2" at 25 yards off sandbags. Pyrodex weighs out at about 80% of black powder so the 35 grain BP measure throws about 28 gr. of Pyrodex "P". This load, with the Conical bullet seated solidly; leaves the bullet noses flush with the end of the cylinder. This load shoots so good it has become my standard loading.

Shooting round balls through my Ruger gives the following results:

"32 Gr. Measure"	753 FPS	4"
"35 Gr. Measure"	888 FPS	3"
"40 Gr. Measure"	995 FPS	2"

Groups shrink accordingly as powder charges go up. With the .457 round ball weighing out at 144 grains, these are not real impressive energy-wise. On paper the top loading is inferior to a .38 Special, but in reality, the pure load .45 ball performs out of proportion to its energy figures.

If the Ruger is the premier cap and ball revolver, then the same honor among the single shots goes to the

Thompson Center Patriot. Also, as the Ruger, the Patriot is a blending of the modern with the traditional. At first glance the Patriot with its saw handle shaped stock, and side plate and percussion hammer, looks like an old style dueling pistol. But it has been modernized with coil spring activated percussion lock, a fully adjustable rear sight, a front post protected by an open topped hood (I'd prefer a plain post), and double triggers. The front trigger "sets" the trigger mechanism, allowing a very light pull with the rear trigger.

The Patriot barrel is of the breech plug hook type and fits into a mortise in the tang. To remove the barrel, withdraw the ram rod, tap out the barrel retaining wedge and lift the barrel up and out. It is as simple as it sounds.



The T/C Patriot and Ruger Old Army are the two premier black powder handguns readily available.

Cleaning the Patriot is also quite simple. After the barrel is removed, it is placed in hot soapy water until the nipple hole is covered and a cleaning rod and patch is run up and down forming a suction action pulling water into the barrel and then forcing it out through the nipple. When clean, dry and lightly oil, wipe out the hammer nose and lock with a black powder solvent and it's ready to go again.

Loading the Patriot is quick and easy. As with any muzzle loader, snap a cap on an empty chamber first to clear the nipple hole. Then pour a pre-measured charge into the barrel, place a moistened patch on the end of the muzzle, press a round ball into the muzzle, press in with a bullet starter, push ball down on powder charge with the ram rod, cap, and it is ready to go. The Patriot uses .440" round balls and a patch to match its .45" barrel core must be used to see that the ball is seated firmly on the powder to prevent a dangerous air space between powder and ball.

There is no easy way to hold a Patriot while loading, but it can be accomplished in 30-40 seconds. Because of its longer barrel (9") and no cylinder gap, the Patriot is much more powerful than the Old Army.

Loading the 130 gr. round balls over Pyrodex "P" from a 35 gr. BP measure gives 1215 FPS and shoots into 1-1/2" at 25 yards from sandbags, 5 shots. Using the 40 gr. measure velocity goes to 1250 FPS and groups shrink to 1-1/4".

Although TC does not advocate using the 240 gr. "Maxi-ball" in the Patriot, I use it with a 30 gr. measure for 800 FPS. This load will shoot one hole groups at 25 yards, and is only slightly inferior in power to a factory .45 Colt.

As a companion to the Patriot, TC provided a .45 Seneca rifle. This makes an interesting two-gun combination. The Seneca is a 6 lb. sleek light rifle capable of excellent accuracy and firing the 240 gr. Maxi-Ball at 1500-1600

FPS is slightly more powerful than a .44 Magnum sixgun. I've had an enjoyable year firing both of these TC products using the same components for both, with only the powder charges differing. Both of these are keepers and when time comes to ship them back, a check will go in their stead.

Since the Ruger Old Army and the Patriot performed so well, I began to wonder about brass cartridges and black powder. Just how good were the black powder cartridges and the frontier revolvers? To answer this three traditional sixguns and four cartridges were selected. And as best I could, I duplicated 19th century loadings although I was forced to use modern primers, CCI large pistol in this case.

The four cartridges chosen were the .45 Colt, .44-40, .44 Special and .44 Russian, all of which began life as black powder loadings. To fire the newly concocted old loads, an 1896 Bisley 7-1/2" Colt was chosen with both .44 Special and .44-40 cylinders, and a pair of replica Remingtons in .45 Colt and .44-40, both with 7-1/2" barrels also.

For those of you unfamiliar with these old timers, the Colt Bisley is the SA Colt with a "target" grip, and wide hammer and trigger, and the Remingtons are much like the Colt SA except in a few minor areas. Actually the Remington was a better design with the grip frame an integral part of the main frame.

Loads were assembled to match the original black powder loads as much as possible. The original cases were of the "balloon head" type as opposed to modern solid heads so powder capacity was reduced except in both the .44 Russian and .44 Special cases which were the old style.

The original Colt .45 loading was a 255 gr. bullet and 40 grs. black powder. With modern cases the most I could load was 35 grs. FFG using Lyman's No. 454190 Conical bullet. This gave a muzzle velocity of 791 fps? and switching to 31 gr. of Pyrodex "P" yielded a respectable 928 fps.

Trouble was encountered immediately with the Remington .45. It was impossible to run a cylinder full through without it becoming so fouled that the cylinder would not rotate. The fouling occurred on the cylinder pin and running it dry or well-oiled made no difference. Groups at 25 yards ran around 2", but operation required rotating the cylinder by hand.

The same problem occurred with the .44-40 Remington. Using the Lyman No. 42798 Conical gave 909 fps over 35 gr. FFG and went to 1010 fps over 31 gr. Pyrodex. Groups ran around 2" at 25 yards. Cylinder pin fouling again caused so much drag that operation became very difficult.

Hopefully this problem can be overcome as I would like to make these a pair of black powder sixguns with old style holsters. I have some ideas on how to overcome the drag problem. If any HHI members have any ideas I would like to hear them.

Switching to the Bisley gave completely different results. Fouling was no problem and I fired over 100 rounds with no more extra work than running a patch through the barrel at every dozen or so shots. Both the Russian and Special loads performed on par with modern loads. Using the Lyman No. 429251 round nose in both cases gave excellent accuracy. In the .44 Special, groups of 1" were obtained with 21 gr. Pyrodex P at 784 fps.

(Continued On Page 14)

# MP5744 REVISITED

Bud McDonald HHI No. 334

Having just recently gone overboard in casting my own bullets (thanks to John Taffin and Paco) I found myself with more bullets than any sane person could want. All those excellent 357, 44's and 45's just lying there curing is rather strange to one who use to live from one box of jacketed bullets to the next. Now I find myself running out of powder all the time. One can get bargains on primers, make his own bullets but what can ya do for discount powder??

Skimming through shotgun news, recently, I ran across an ad for a powder called MP5744 produced by Accurate Arms Co. (formerly Data Powders). Got to thinking where have I read about this powder before? SIXGUNNER that's where. Out came the stack of SIXGUNNERS (I got 'em all starting with Vol. 1 Issue 1, not for sale). Fifteen minutes later in Vol. 4 Issue 1 (Oct. '82) was Dave Guthrie's article on MP5744. (I'm gonna index SIXGUNNER one of these days for ya J.D.) Dave had excellent results with the 44 and 45 Colt. At the sale price of \$2.84 per pound (not a topo \$2.84) for a minimum order of 32 lbs. I couldn't resist. Got my FFL holding cousin Jim, to split the order with me as he's always looking for powder also. Four weeks later we are happy owners of 32 pounds of MP5744. It came with loading data for all kinds of other calibers which was kind of nice.

Accurate Arms stipulates that MP5744 is an extruded powder used for pistol silhouette cartridges and reduced loads with cast bullets. So far so good. Burning rate was said to be between IMR4227 and IMR 4198. There were bunches of loads listed for rifles starting with the 270 and on up, but I wasn't interested in those. Pistol load listed for which I had no need of were 6.5 and 7MM TCU, 7MM IHMSA and the 30 Herrett.

I started with my TC 223 14", however one was not listed for it in the pistol section. A load of 17.0 gr. of MP5744 was listed for the .221 fireball using a 50 gr. bullet. Velocity listed was 2566 in an XP100. I started right there with the .223. I don't own a chronograph so rely on pressure signs for lack of anything else. Rather half assed in my opinion but the first sign of anything unpleasant I quit. Period. 17.0 grs. was very pleasant and was accurate at 100 yards. 18.0 grs. was also pleasant and, get this, .77 of an inch. No excessive pressure signs; however had lots of other stuff to test so stopped right there. More on this once I've ran it through it's paces. In all truthfulness must say my 10X Burris with paralex adjustment helped a hell of alot in that .77 group.

## 256 WINCHESTER MAG.

My .256 is a 10" TC with 5X/Burris. Use to have a Ruger Hawkeye but you know how things can get away from ya. Load listed was 11.3 grs. using 75 gr. bullet with velocity of 1560 FPS. 1560 FPS is poor compared to my load of 15.0 gr. of H110 or IMR4227 at 2250 plus FPS. Using 60 gr. Hornady with 12.0 gr. MP5744 was real pleasant if not accurate. 12.5 same thing. 13.0 still pleasant and much more accurate with lot more noise. At 14.0 gr., extraction still easy, started getting slight primer flattening. Using 13.5 gr.

shot a group that went into less than an inch and that was with a flyer at 10 o'clock. Actually put 4 in one hole!!! Smoked a few rocks at 150 to 200 yds. with 1" hold over. That's good enough for me. Would like to chronograph this one!!!!

## 7MM 08

A load was not listed for my XP100 7MM 08 (7MM BR conversion). A reduced load of 31.0 grs. behind a 150 gr. was listed for a 308 win. Tried a load of 28.0 grs. behind a 120 gr. It was consistent, however had to crank the elevation knob up on my 7X Burris approx. 10 click to get the necessary point of aim. Sure sign of low velocity. Needed to use up my cast bullets, plus I've got a load of IMR4895 which works miracles in the 7MM so left it at that.

## 357 HERRETT

A surprise was 3 loads listed for my 357 Herrett.

125 Gr. MP5744 29.0 Gr. 2110 FPS  
140 Gr. MP5744 28.0 Gr. 2000 FPS  
158 Gr. MP5744 28.0 Gr. 1920 FPS

My Herrett never would shoot light bullets, plus I never had any luck with cast bullets either, but I said hell I'll try one more time. Read in my cast bullet handbook that shaving lead which seating bullets can affect accuracy. My Herrett die does not bell the neck so used my 375 Mag. die to do it. Lyman No. 358311 (RN) was used with wheel weights and 1/2 lb. of stero metal (pretty hard). This bullet averaged 174 grs. from my mould and mixture. Got bullet seated with no shaving, but again my dies don't crimp. This lead to the round not chambering due to the lip catching on the shoulder of the chamber. Finally ran the loaded round into my 357 Herrett trim die which compressed the mouth not unlike a tapered crimp die. After all this trouble these damn things better shoot decent. My fears were calmed after taking several prairie dogs at 200 yards!!! Load was 28.0 gr. MP5744. Gophers expired with a neat round hold in 'em. This was a fringe benefit from testing this powder. You can go broke buying 180 and 158 gr. jacketed bullets for the Herrett. Stuffed a few Speer 180 gr. 35's on top the same load. Bingo . . . my normal 2" group at 100 yds. RCBS lists a 38 cal. 180 GC, plus SSK has two. A 182 gr. and a 205 GC, one of which will find its way to my bench one of these days.

## 357 MAG.

No loads listed however one was listed for the 357 Max. with 180 gr./MP5744/19.0 at 1440 FPS and 200 gr./MP5744/20.0 at 1450. Starting at 11.0 gr. using Lee 150 gr. cast and the Lyman 358311 I went on up to 14.0 GRS in .5 increments. My old Model 357 with 6 1/2 barrel was used. All loads were very pleasant and accurate. 12.5 in front of the Lee 150 seemed the most accurate, however all the ones tested were very good even out to 75 yds. Drilled a few aspen stumps at 75 yds. without a miss. The Lyman 358311 plowed on thru . . . the Lee 150 was stopped. Strange. I have a few wrist wenching, ear splitting, blister makers I shoot once in a while, but like my 357 Mag. at 38 special velocities, so stopped at this point. Had that old model a long time . . . want to keep it for that many more.

## 30-30 TC

My cousin, Jim, using his TC 14" with the new Tasco 4x shot a group of 2 1/2 inches using a 110 gr. plinker and 30.0 GRS MP5744. It was very pleasant to shoot . . . you couldn't tell if you were shooting a .223 or 3030

Other loads listed were:  
130 Gr. 28.0 2075 FPS 41,000 CUP  
150 Gr. 22.5 2025 FPS 41,500 CUP  
170 Gr. 25.0 1930 FPS 41,800 CUP  
The pressure on the 170 gr. looks a little suspicious but this is right out of their book.

## .45 WIN. MAG.

Using a single load of 20.5 gr. under Lyman's 452454 in his 10" .45 Win. Mag., Jim's TC was not only fun to shoot but shot consistent 2" groups at 50 yards with factory open sights. Even when I tried it, I'm sure you could go a lot hotter but when it's for fun . . . stop. You'll save yourself a hell of a case of 'flinch' in the long run plus the risk of losing a gun to damage. Not to mention your own hide!!!!

## .44 MAG.

If you've read this far ya must be looking for .44 Mag. loading data. No surprises over what Dave Guthrie wrote up. His load of 22.5 Grs. behind Lyman's 429421 (250 gr.) kicked so bad I couldn't get a decent group from my own 5" SBH. My cousin's 7 1/2 inch was better but not much. It felt just like 22.0 gr. 2400 using the same bullet. I started at 19.0 gr. of MP5744 which still whacked ya right good. By the time I got to 21.5 grs., I just couldn't hack the recoil anymore! After one cylinder of 22.0 was fired, I loaded up another only to notice that my front sight was gone!!! Found it in a snow bank 10 feet behind me. 21.0 gr. seemed to be my threshold of pain, but must add that these loads were very accurate! No pressure signs were noted even with the blister makers loads!! The 22.5 grs. was so uncomfortable to shoot we finished them off in a Marlin 44 Rifle . . . and it even kicked the snot out of ya. Using a Lee 215 Gr. cast bullet was much more pleasant even if they didn't group as good. The load of 22.0 Gr./Lee 215 was still pleasant if not very loud!!!

## .45 LONG COLT

Moving on to the .45 Long Colt got me thoroughly confused. Using my 4-5/8 inch Ruger . . . no matter what load I used, with whatever bullet just cleaned house!! Dave's load of 21.5 Gr. went into .90 for him using Lyman's 454424. That same load in my Ruger went into 1 1/2 with open sights. (Dave used 2.5x) However it's a bear to hold onto. Down range, I got lucky . . . sight . . . touch trigger . . . smoke rock. 150 yards . . . little more blade . . . smoke rock. At 300 yards . . . with 2 ranging shots . . . proceeded to smoke rock every shot. Bad news is recoil!! When I want recoil I'll pick up my 44's. However I want my 45 to be my one handed wheelgun. Therefore I went all the way down to 14.5 gr. and went up to 21.5. 18.0 gr. thru 21.5 gr. is rough . . . accurate but rough! Got unburned powder from 20.5 gr. and up using standard primers. 16.0 gr. and Lee's 200 gr. RN was very pleasant plus was hitting everything I sighted at. Lyman 452490 (230 GC) same thing if not better. A recent trip to Wyoming showed the above loads were dynamite on small targets out to 50 yards . . . further with a little luck. Surprised myself so many times I got to half believing I was starting to be a decent shot. Steve Hockman, HHI member, liked the 45 so much I had a hell of a time getting away from there with it. All in all the 45 Long Colt just loved this powder or vice versa. I'm gonna hand it over to John or Paco to find a bad load with this one.

I consider myself rather peculiar, in a sense, in that I got into handgunning

backwards. This is, I started with long barreled, scoped TC's and XP's. With this powder and casting my own a whole new area has opened for me. I've more respect for the HHI'er who hunts with the open sighted wheelgun. I'll still use the scoped handguns, but you'd better believe that with all this powder and bullets somewhere along the line I'll get the hang of that 44 yet!

Want to do some shooting with a bare wallet? Get a few buddies . . . kick in your share . . . catch an MP5744 on sale . . . order some MP5744. Regular price is about \$6.50 per lb. Sale price was \$2.84 per lb. Accurate Arms Co., Mcween, Tenn. 37101. Also has some stuff called MR223 for (what else) 223's and other small capacity cases. No. 9 ideal for 357, 41, 44, 45 and great for 30 carbine and 410 shotgun. If I catch a sale on MR223 or No. 9 you'll be hearing from me again.

## 19TH CENTURY (Continued From Page 13)


while 26 gr. FFG yielded 813 fps. Using the old Russian cases, 18-1/2 gr. Pyrodex P gave 795 fps, and 23 gr. FFG gave 774 fps and 1-1/2 groups.

The Russian case, was lengthened to become the .44 Special which was then lengthened to give the .44 Magnum. Case lengths run .969", 1.160", 1.285" respectively. From the results I obtained, it is easy to see why the old blackpowder .44 loads had such a reputation for accuracy.

All three cartridge "blackpowder" sixguns are completely dismantled, cleaned with hot soapy water, dried, lightly oiled and reassembled. This is about a three hour process and is absolutely necessary to prevent pitting of the metal.

There is something special about shooting the old black powder loads. Perhaps it is just nostalgia, but appreciation of the past is a great part of life. Countless thousands of head of big game have fallen to the old black powder loads and the smell and smoke elicit visions of the frontier and a time when life was harder, but simpler. Try blackpowder (or Pyrodex), it won't replace the excellent modern powders we have but it is a pleasant diversion.





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# HUNTING WYOMING WHITETAILS

By Wayne Randall  
Lake City, MN

"Hell of a way to treat a new pair of boots," I thought to myself. I was standing ankle deep in mud, looking at a very stuck pickup. We were about halfway to Swede's house from the highway when we bogged down. Nothing left to do, but walk to the ranch house and hope he was around. Of course, it turned out he was in town with his hired hand, so we went back to the pickup and tried to unstick it. No luck. While waiting for help I had a chance to think about the last time I was in Wyoming. It was several years ago, before handguns were legal to hunt big game with. I remembered thinking how well suited the Black Hills Forest and surrounding countryside were for handgunning deer. It took a few years, but now I was back with my handguns.

Three rifle hunters and myself had the ranch cabin to stay in for three days. Swede had told us we didn't need a 4 wheel drive for hunting; he just never mentioned needing one to get to the ranch house! He finally arrived and pulled us up to our home for the next three days. Swede also had another choice piece of information. Two weeks before the season opened, they had three feet of snow at one time! Most of the deer had already migrated out of the hills to their wintering grounds. The snow accounted for the condition of his ranch road. He also advised us not to pass up any whitetails we had a chance at.

That evening Swede came around with an aerial photo of his ranch. Some of it bordered on National Forest land to the North. We decided to split up in the morning and look over as much of the ranch as possible. No driving was required as hunting started right behind the cabin.

I decided to hunt directly behind the cabin the first morning. Fifteen minutes after entering the woods, I spotted 4 does. I had stopped next to a tree as is my habit in case I need a rest for shooting. The deer were about 100 yards away, but it was too brushy to chance a shot. I couldn't go around and come up behind them because of the wind. Off to my right was a large opening. Couldn't go that way. My only chance was to back track. I maneuvered back down the hill about 75 yards and circled until I was where I thought the deer should be. No deer. Couldn't have possibly have heard my dainty footsteps, yet they were gone. On further investigation I came upon a well used deer trail, had I known about it, I may have done things differently.

I spent the rest of the morning looking over the ranch. About noon we met back at the cabin. Dave said he heard his dad shoot just before we arrived. After lunch we decided to go look for Dave's dad. We split up and headed out. After an hour and a half, I decided Bill was not in my area. Earlier in the morning I found a fresh buck scrape and decided to spend the rest of the day covering this scrape with no action. When I got to the cabin everyone was admiring a six point whitetail Bill had taken. So ended our first day at the ranch.

The second morning I returned to the same area where I had spotted the does. I didn't see any deer, but I heard

shooting coming from where the others were. When we met later that morning I learned another member of our party had scored on a small spike buck. We split up again and I headed for the northern part of the ranch. I found the boundary line, the National Forest, and Miller's creek, but no deer. It was a long walk back to the cabin. No one else had seen deer either. After sandwiches we relaxed a bit and then headed out for the afternoon. I watched the buck scrape again and was disappointed when no buck showed up.

Later that evening Swede showed up to see how we were doing. I showed him one of my pistols, the 10' Dan Wesson .44. He had been wondering what I was doing out in the woods with no rifle!

The third morning was cloudy and foggy. It had snowed 2-3 inches so this would help us spot deer. We split up into two's to cover two different side hills. Niles and I took one side, Dave and his dad the other. Niles walked the top and I took an old logging road that wound its way to the bottom. Suddenly, a shot rang out from above. I heard some crashing in the brush twenty yards ahead of me, but I couldn't see anything. All was quiet, then Niles directed me to the large doe he had killed in its bed. Three down and one to go. I still hunted for the remainder of the day, but came up empty.

Could I have killed one of the does the first morning with a rifle? Maybe, but I was handgun hunting for sport, not meat. The time spent at Swede's ranch was time well spent. I don't feel I went home empty-handed. I enjoyed myself and that's what counts. Next time I will allow 5 days to hunt!

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## SAF WINS LAWSUIT AGAINST NEW HAVEN, CT

The Second Amendment Foundation won an important pro-gun lawsuit on April 24th when the Connecticut State Supreme Court agreed with the Second Amendment Foundation and held that a ban on the sale of handguns in New Haven, Connecticut, violated state law. The Court upheld a lower court's ruling that it was unconstitutional for the city council of New Haven to prohibit the sale of handguns within city limits.

At the instigation of an anti-gun group at nearby Yale University, the New Haven city council voted on December 3, 1979, to prohibit city residents from selling handguns.

At the request of a SAF member in New Haven, SAF retained local counsel and in July 1980 filed *Bonito v. Morrone*, which sought to overturn the ordinance in state court. The suit contended that the state's firearm-preemption law permits individuals to sell a personal handgun if they have obtained the proper state handgun-sales permit. Due to a procedural motion, the suit was dismissed in March, 1981.

However, sensing that the merits of the suit were still valid, SAF refiled its suit as *Dwyer v. Farrell* in January, 1982. Six months later, state Superior Court Judge Fracasse found in favor of the SAF lawsuit and overturned the city's ban on handgun sales.

Shortly thereafter, the city appealed to the Connecticut State Supreme Court to overturn Judge Fracasse's decision and thereby uphold the city's ban.

Now, two years after its appeal, and after various procedural motions, on April 24, 1984 the state Supreme Court ruled that state law prevented New Haven from banning the sale of handguns.

The Supreme Court opined: "In passing this handgun ordinance, the city has placed two important and substantial restrictions on the sale at retail of handguns which most residents of the city can never overcome: (1) that the seller be a dealer, and (2) that the sale occur on premises located in an area zoned as a business district. By placing these restrictions on the sale of handguns, the ordinance effectively prohibits what the statutes clearly permit.

"A local ordinance is pre-empted by a state statute whenever the legislature has demonstrated an intent to occupy the entire field of regulation on the matter . . .

"The fact that a local ordinance does not expressly conflict with a statute enacted by the General Assembly will not save it when the legislative purpose in enacting the statute is frustrated by the ordinance. Here the New Haven ordinance removes an entire class of persons as potential sellers of handguns at retail. The state permit is rendered an illusory right because a casual seller residing in a nonbusiness zone can have no real hope of ever conforming to the local ordinance. In this respect the local ordinance conflicts with the legislative intent as expressed in the applicable statutes. The city has removed a right that the state permit bestows and thus has exceeded its powers. There is no error (by the lower court in overturning the ban)."

The court's decision effectively prohibits any Connecticut community from enacting any gun-control ordinance which is more restrictive than what is tolerated by state law.

"While it took over three years to successfully litigate this lawsuit, and over \$57,000 in legal fees, it reflects our unwavering commitment to go anywhere, at any time, to defend each and every law-abiding American's right to possess firearms," said Gregory McDonald, executive director of the Foundation.

McDonald also reflected, "I want to express my deepest appreciation to the thousands of gun owners all across America who donated to help us finance our lawsuit against New Haven. This is more than just a local dispute. Our lawsuit has set legal pro-gun precedent throughout Connecticut, and it will be cited for support in similar pro-gun cases in other states in the future. It was an expenditure well-worth making."

SAF attorney, Mark Benenson of New York City litigated and argued SAF's lawsuit before the Connecticut Supreme Court. Local counsel was provided by the law firm of O'Brien & Tanski in Hartford.

SAF maintains a pro-gun Attorney Referral Service which exists to assist any gun owner who is involved in a case where he is attempting to assert his legal firearm rights. Gun owners needing legal assistance may write or telephone the Foundation at: 12500 NE Tenth Place, Bellevue, WA 98005, (206-454-7012).

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22 C.F.	.224	14"
9 mm	.355	16"
38	.357	14"
357	.357	18"
44	.429	20"
45	.451	16"

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**22 RIMFIRE** (Continued From Page 12)  
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An increase in the use of ball powders is seen coming today, and some companies are using powders near the 2400 rate of burning, but that will not change the fact that Bullseye is still excellent.

The second segment is on 22 rim fire ballistics today, and the third article is on the use in the hunting field. The movement and development of the

(Continued On Next Page)

cartridge since 1855 brought about the soil for the growth of the pocket handguns, just like the development of the longer case and more powder brought the movement to 22 rifles. That in turn started the quest for more accuracy and range from the 22RF. Which brought about the 22 Long Rifle . . . the world's most satisfying cartridge. "Lowly?" Horsecrap!


**BACK TOGETHER . . .**

(Continued from Page 7)  
mental note to save this squirrel for .44's only. I have since missed this same squirrel twice with my .44!

Dave and I split up and continued hunting. Hearing a chattering up the trail, I slowly crept along. Soon I spotted a fox squirrel perched on a limb chattering and telling the whole forest off. I maneuvered to a small sapling to use it as a rest. I took careful aim and tickled the trigger. The squirrel plunged to the ground dead. Upon examination, this squirrel had taken the bullet square in the head. No meat was wasted on this one.

Returning home Bill was there to inquire about our success. It was impossible to conceal the fact that one of the squirrels was well perforated. Naturally, all the harassment turned on me. Having no defense, I had to endure it. We had bagged 3 squirrels in about 3 hours. This compared proportionately with our all day long hunts, with a bag of ten squirrels. It was a great reunion.

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**HIT MAN . . . (Continued from Page 6)**

looked promising. I set up. I could see both 'hogs easily. I was ready to waste one when something inside said, "Wait, sucker, you won't get this chance again." I waited. Then, low and behold, the two 'hogs lined up together in my scope. I took a breath and squeezed. The usual cloud appeared again and hid the consequences. I looked through my scope. Did I see one or two 'hogs? I couldn't tell. Quickly I stepped off 137 paces to the den. At its mouth were two very dead groundhogs almost completely cut in two. **WITH ONE SHOT! WOW!** I took a lot of pictures and showed them around. I don't think anybody believes it. I hope J.D. prints the pictures. What one 270 gr. cast bullet over 42 gr. IMR 3031 did to two groundhogs is very impressive. Now if I can find three 'hogs in one den . . .

.223 T/C As much as I like my .375 JDJ, I have always realized its shortcomings on groundhogs beyond 150 yards with its 3X scope. I asked a friend, Frank, to go shooting with me in early summer. He brought his .223 T/C with a 7X Burris scope. That tiny hole, tiny bullet, and tiny case just didn't impress me.

My interest was aroused when Frank burned the first 'hog we saw at 120 yards. He shot a few more hogs. I missed a few. It was rapidly becoming obvious that I was outclassed with my .375 at long range. Frank took 'hogs up to 200 yards that day with ease. I know he could see he was getting to me. We saw one final 'hog as we were leaving. He graciously offered me his

T/C. I couldn't believe how well the 'hog appeared in the scope. I could barely see him with my naked eye, but he was as big as a house in that scope. The 16 oz. trigger seemed to go off by itself and the 'hog became glued to the ground. I stepped off 190 yards. The shot seemed too easy!

Thus, started the Great Groundhog Hunt of 1983. Frank and I took our .243s with 6x18 scopes and his T/C on our next trip since we were expecting shots from 200 to 500 yards. We shot at one dumb or lucky 'hog at 350-375 yards. We fired a total of four shots each. He was still untouched. We were disgusted. By then other 'hogs had come out of their holes to see what the commotion was. We said what the hell and set up the T/C. We proceeded to burn 14 'hogs over the next two hours from 150 to 225 yards.

My order for a .223 T/C barrel and Burris 7X scope was in the mail soon after. I then hung up my .243 in July. All contracts were immediately filled by handguns with the .223 receiving the most service. I put 43 tally marks on my records for the .223 barrel.

Our friendly competition became fierce very fast. First we saw who could kill the most each day. We tied. Next came the longest shot. We didn't tie. Frank beat me — this year. We took nine 'hogs over 300 yards. We both tied for second place at 336 of my 38 inch paces. Frank won with a kill at 344 paces. I witnessed all shots and I stepped them all off.

I couldn't believe these results. All the journals said 250 yards was max for the .223. Those 'hogs won't believe that. In all honesty, 350 yards appears to be close to the limits of the .223 on groundhogs. Each 'hog shot beyond 300 yards was hit in the lungs. Each one took two or three steps before he died. None seemed panicked. None tried to run. Each 'hog shot less than 300 yards didn't move one inch.

Our loads were kept simple. Frank doesn't like to load a lot so we started with PMC ammo using a Nosler 52 gr. HPBT. They performed superbly. I have this hangup about shooting factory loads so I experimented. I tried some WW 760 powder that I had on hand. The results were disastrous. 2-1/2 inches at 100 yards was the best I could do. And to think, several years ago I would have been ecstatic about this. The years do change a person.

My eye finally caught an article by Bob Milek. He recommended 25.5 gr. of Hodgdon 322 under 50 gr. bullets. I got some Sierra 50 gr. flat base spiters. This was the load. I put the first five bullets into a .4 inch hole center to center at 25 yards. Frank and I then had a shoot off on his newly built 200 yard range. His factory loads printed 1-3/8". My handloads went 1-3/4" — at 200 yards. Thus ended my .223 load experimentation.

The final obstacle to my fantastic year was a way to take those 300 yard shots under field conditions. I partially outlined some of those experiences earlier with my sotton bag development. The bags were very useful out to 250 yards and off fence posts. I even managed a head shot on one at 297 steps. But overall a more steady position is needed.

My first idea proved to be the only one I needed. I took an old backpack, stuffed it with old divan cushions and, voila!, an instant field rest. I could lay the pack on the ground, put a sand (or Sotton) bag up front and rest the forearm of the T/C over it. The butt of the gun was jammed forward into the

pack. The result was a rock steady, light, and portable rest. I just wear the backpack until it is needed. I carry my T/C slinged and my hands are free for close and fast sixgun shots.

So ended my handgun experiments for 1983. It was a year beyond belief. The third consecutive 200 kills a year, 111 handgunned 'hogs, two kills with one shot, and a kill at 336 yards. What's next? How about 150 contracts and a 400 yarder by my pieces? And maybe a new barrel. I've read a lot about this new 6mm/.223. It should do a number on 'hogs at 400 yards. You can never tell. Stay tuned for Part IV.

**REDHAWK (Continued From Page 5)**

having trouble keeping them in working order.

The M-29s generally will not hold up. I gave them better care than my wife and kids. Almost all of my loads were 10% below max, and never over. 90% of my loads were 20 grains of 2400 under a 240 grain cast bullet. This is a mild 44 magnum load. All of the Smiths but one gave good accuracy. Keeping them in good working order was the problem. Timing, lock-up and action freeze-up were all problems. They got so loose they would rattle like a rock in a tin can. A gun that shoots loose with the above load is not a gun that can be recommended.

Better, more serviceable guns are to be had for much less money. I shoot a lot and put my guns through hard use. I keep them clean, lightly oiled and ready for service. I do not like it when they let me down.

I would like to say that I have never had any trouble with the Redhawk. I'd like to say it — but it wouldn't be true. The truth is, I have never seen an out-of-the-box Redhawk that did not need some work done on its trigger before it could be shot well. Most have creepy S.A. pull of over five pounds. (Editor's Note: Some members have reported as high as 11 pounds on S.A.) This is far too heavy for most of us to do good work with. This poor S.A. trigger pull has given the Redhawk a bad name to a lot of shooters. I could never get used to a poor S.A. trigger pull. Most of us use the single action pull on D.A. hunting guns over 90% of the time. I feel that Ruger has done more for gunsmiths than any other company.

It's possible to get a reasonable 3-1/4 to 4 pound trigger on the Redhawk, but you'll never find one like that unless it's been worked on. The trigger travel is still long, but it can be made smooth and fairly light. Cutting the mainspring will cause it to jump off at the hammer in recoil.

The Redhawk as a whole is the best 44 D.A. going. It will stand up to more hard work than any other revolver I know of. It pays the penalty of being very heavy for that durability. I believe that frame mounted firing pins, click adjustable rear sights, cylinder lock-up

each end and general heavy dutiness of the gun make it a good choice for the handgun hunter who wants to use a revolver.

I have been using two Redhawks for some time and do a lot of shooting with them. They were always ready to go when I was. I didn't need to go through seven looking for a good one.

The Redhawk comes with service-style stocks without checkering. In fast double-action shooting, the gun turns badly in my hand. For this style of shooting, the Pachmayr grip cured the problem. If I wanted to do a lot of fast D.A. shooting, I would use the Pachmayr grip. I do not like the way they look, but they do work.

I have fitted my two guns with ivory stocks I made to fit my hand. They are a bit fuller than the wood grip that came on the gun, and they seem to take up recoil better. I have always liked the looks and feel of good ivory for handgun stocks.

If you are having trouble with that S & W, take a good long look at the Ruger Redhawk. We all like a gun that looks good, but looking good is not the most important thing. Being reliable is more important than looks if you want to bring home the bacon.

The Redhawk keeps on working and does not shoot loose or come apart with full loads. Now that I have everybody that shoots a 29 mad at me, I'll quit!

**MULE DEER (Continued From Page 4)**

Now the work started. It took everything we had to turn the deer uphill, and after field dressing him, we propped him up on a boulder to cool, since it was too late to pack out before dark. The next morning, the real work began, and we quartered it and caped and carried till I swore I would never shoot an animal in this type of terrain again. After it was all over, it's funny how one forgets the hard work! Joe carried the hind quarters in one trip and I carried the caped head. I thought I was in pretty good shape before this hunt, but I would have sworn I was going to die! Stumpke filled all the tags during this hunt (six antelope and seven deer) and as far as I know, all the hunters (even Dave) were very happy with Joe.

I highly recommend Joe as a guide and outfitter. You can write to him at Box 1347, Saratoga, Wyoming 82331. You will have the hunt of your life.

Now if only I can get that elk and bighorn sheep permit!

P.S. 60 days after drying, I had the antlers scored by a local S.C.I.-HHI scorer, Frank Murtland, who also knew Joe and couldn't speak highly enough about him. The antlers scored at 129-2/8 points which are 6/8 records under making the HHI-S.C.I. record book for Typical Mule Deer. . . . If only he had that other brow point!

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