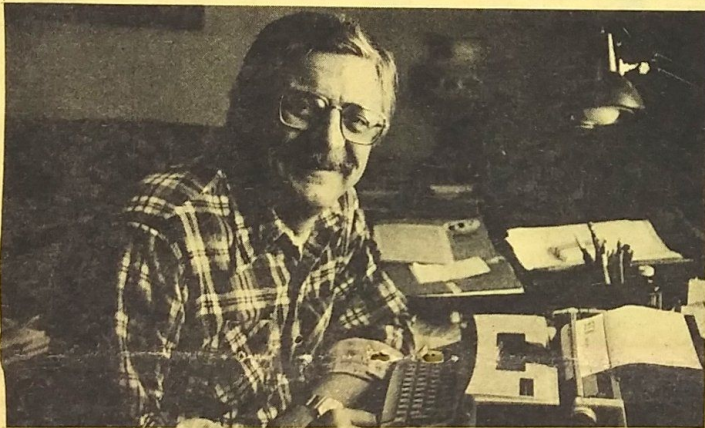




THE SIXGUNNER



MY CORNER

By J. D. Jones

I've always believed in buying the best equipment I could scrape up enough money for. Combined with a deep curiosity concerning most shooting related equipment, I've found few inadequate products survive very long. In general, you get about what you pay for.

I was recently fortunate in being able to visit two Zeiss factories in West Germany. Worldwide, the name Zeiss is highly respected in the fields concerned with superior optics. Zeiss binoculars and shooting glasses have an established market in the U.S. among those who require the very best in equipment.

In January at the SHOT Show, Zeiss will introduce a new line of telescope sights designed for the American market. The line will feature 10" scope tubes, very superior optics, some armor coating and no frills or gimmicks. Initially, the line will consist of a 4X, 6X, 10X and a 3-9 variable. In addition, there is a new 7 x 42 roof prism binocular.

In essence, the trip was very educational and interesting. I'm certainly impressed by the quality of the equipment. It certainly isn't for everyone though, just those who appreciate the very best.

After the factory visits, we went to Spain for field testing. A Mauser 77 .30-06 topped with the 4X was used with excellent results on two European boar and a Red Stag under difficult light conditions. The 7 x 42 binoculars are simply phenomenal. Yesterday, I watched three Whitetails for about 10 minutes through them at around 150 yards. Sharpness and color rendition was absolutely superb. Sorry . . . as yet, no pistol scopes. For information: Bruce Cavey, Zeiss House, 444 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10018.

Lee Precision Inc. (Hartford, WI 53027) is on the move with many new products. A new water soluble case lube works fine, either wet or dry. A new lead ingot mold incorporates a handle and drops 2 one pound and 2 half pound ingots. Very handy. New dies and a turret press and box to mount it on that can be used anywhere are on the way.

Omarr Industries has purchased Outers Laboratories Inc.

ALCO Carrying Cases Inc. (601 W. 26th Street, New York, NY 10001) has jumped into the high quality guncase market with both feet. Their products are practical, tough and versatile. Seems I can't field test one to

Continued On Page 2



This 15" heavily horned buck is probably a little better than can reasonably be expected on any antelope hunt.

NOBODY'S PERFECT

By J. D. Jones

Starting HHI was one of the best things I've ever done. It's introduced me to some of the finest people in the world with like interests. My correspondence and phone calls are always interesting. I never run out of things to do. Tom Shippy, No. 26, is a friend through Silhouette gun development and Gary Geraud, No. 467, is a friend through HHI. Gary also has an intense interest in handgun accuracy, long range shooting and a brother with a ranch near Laramie, WY.

Now, this ranch just happens to be in the foothills of the Story Mountains and offers some fine possibilities for handgunning antelope. It isn't often you can hunt antelope in the trees. John, Gary's brother, also just happens to have a .30-40 Ackley T/C and knows how to use it.

In any event, this combination of facts plus the additional fact that I'm a pushover when it comes to being talked into doing anything having to do with guns, hunting, and good people,

resulted in a get-together at John's ranch about the first of October.

There were antelope permits aplenty . . . I had room for a buck and two does. Gary and John had several. Tom was out of antelope permits, but still had a deer tag. John is trying to develop a deer herd and had decided it was time to cull a few. He and Gary also had unfilled deer tags.

As a side interest to the hunting, I was interested in the game performance of the .358 JDJ and .411 JDJ at long range. As usual, at the last minute before leaving, I mounted a 4X Leupold on the .358 and a 4X Burris on the .411 and decided to sight-in in Wyoming. Both barrels were 14" long and ported. The .358 was loaded with the 250 grain Speer at about 1950 F.P.S. and the .411 with the 210 Sierra HP at about 2150 F.P.S. The first morning at the ranch, both were sighted in at 250 yards and would stay on a softball sized rock without any

Continued On Page 2

My Corner *Continued From Page 1*
destruction. This latest one is geared toward the bullseye shooter.



New ALCO case.

For those who wrote to the Cast Bullet Association unsuccessfully, I screwed up. The correct address is 5522 Trent Street, Chevy Chase, MD 20815 . . . sorry. It's still worth joining.

The U.S. Repeating Arms Company presented President Reagan with the first pair of John Wayne Winchester Commemorative Carbines. The President's gold plated carbine bears serial No. 1 and is one of 1,000 units called "The Duke." An accompanying pewter finished commemorative version also carrying serial No. 1 was presented to the First Lady.

Ruger is bringing out a front sight set for the Redhawk. Several varieties will be interchangeable. Also new and different is a transfer bar action kit for old model single actions. The transfer bar action is considerably safer. Send you gun to Ruger and they will install the new action and return the old parts to you free of charge. The original parts may be reinstalled and no modifications are made to the frame.

Excellence of any kind deserves recognition. HHI member Rich Winters of Zanesville, OH fired a production 40X40 at a very difficult range a few weeks ago. His choice was a 7 TCU. Another member, Mike Grove, is probably one of the most improved shooters in the country from a couple of years ago. Improvement from not having shot before to excellence didn't come easy, but Mike kept at it with practicing and competitive shooting until he's capable of holding his own in any group. I'd like to hear of other member's achievements, also.

Many thanks to those who submitted T-Shirt designs and names for that new .45. No decision as yet on either, but the T-Shirt will probably use the HHI logo.

Six Enterprises, 6564 Hidden Creek Drive, San Jose, CA 95120 has a new XP stock that's a winner. I've tested it thoroughly with the SSK .375 JRS (Jones Rhino Stomper), a case capacity maximized .358 opened to .375. This one will get over 2100 F.P.S. from a 270 grain and in passing it around at a couple of shoots, the usual reaction was, "Can I shoot it again?" The Six stock does much to minimize recoil and this stock can also be used offhand or off the bench without peeling the hide off your thumb knuckle or pounding your wrist as it tips up in recoil. It's strong, can be utilized with the Power Bedding block that allows interchangeable actions or with the XP action glassed in. We'll have photos as soon as mine gets back from painting. This one will get a workout with a .458 x 2. Then I feel I'll truly be able to say it is

impervious to recoil. As it is, few individuals chamber for anything that develops the recoil of what this has been tested with.

Numerous stocks for the XP get a running start in recoil due to faulty design, tear the hide off the shooter's thumb knuckle and just plain break. I don't anticipate the Six stock to have any of these problems. I'll try to cover the .375 and Six stock next issue.

SOAP BOX TIME . . .

California Right Now . . . Handgun control groups are trying to place a six point initiative on the November 1982 ballot to freeze the number of handguns in the state and severely limit their acquisition and possession by private citizens. The California Coalition for Handgun Control has retained the Dentsu Corporation of America (corporate headquarters Japan) to generate public support which needs 400,000 petition signatures to get on the ballot.

It is reported that support of TV and movie personalities Mike Farrell (M*A*S*H), Ed Asner (LOU GRANT), Robert Vaughn (Actor), Norman Lear (Producer), and Jean Stapleton (ALL IN THE FAMILY) is assured at this time.

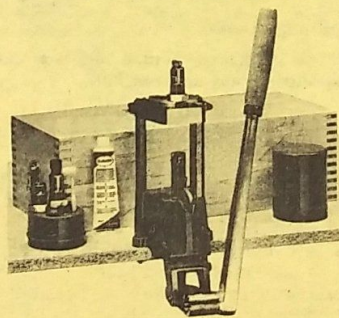
In short, the proposals are rough and highly restrictive. California now has a "use gun — go to jail" law with mandatory prison sentences.

Apparently one of the Coalition arguments is that "nobody hunts with a handgun". The California F & G estimated 26,000 Californians hunt with handguns annually.

The California R & P and the NRA at this time oppose the plan.

Time and money are needed nationwide to combat these threats to our rights. What have you done to protect your rights? ? ? ? ?

LEE TURRET PRESS KIT

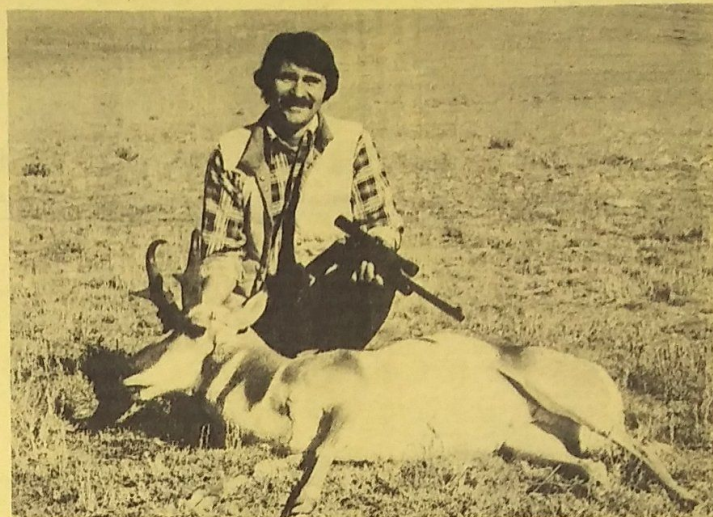


Kit includes the Lee Turret Press (90496), Hardwood Box (90499), Resizing Lubricant (90517), and a FREE Extra Turret (90497) if ordered with a set of Lee Dies. 90498 — Lee Turret Press Kit

Nobody's *Continued From Page 1*
trouble. Gary's .30-40 Ackley was zeroed at 400 with the 165 Hornady and his 7 JDJ at a little over 300 with 120 Hornadys. Tom hadn't showed yet, but was carrying his .375 JDJ with a light load under the 235 grain Speer which pushed it about 1800 F.P.S.

On Day One, I could have filled all three tags with a .357 wheelgun. But I didn't. I didn't want to shoot a doe that quickly, and I wanted a good buck.

Gary, however, did some outstanding shooting on a decent buck at loooong range. I was on the spotting scope and saw as much as could be seen. The antelope was killed by two



This is probably an all time record for distance with a handgun. Gary and his .30-40 Ackley. This animal's horns measure around 13.5 inches.

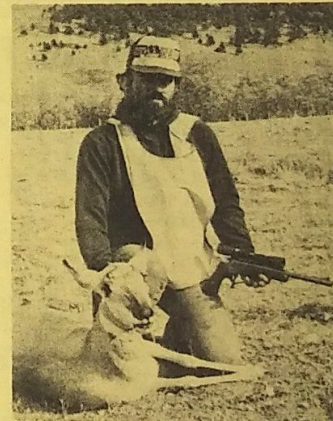


Some crew — Gary Geraud, Tom Shippy, John Geraud, Jones. Tom's homemade holster is comfortable, quite and efficient.

shots about four inches apart through the chest. The experimental load was pushing the 165 Hornady BT at close to 2400 F.P.S. M.V. and the bullets did show signs of expansion. Gary was using a 6X Burris scope off sandbags. The distance was stepped off by Gary at 748 steps on level ground. My steps are a little longer. Call it around 700 yards. And if you don't believe it, I think he would probably be willing to demonstrate it again if the bet was right! It's certainly the finest long range shooting with a handgun I've ever seen. A couple of days later, just to prove it wasn't a fluke, he dropped a doe with one shot at around 400. The hole through that one was quite good. He also dropped a three point mulie at between 300 and 400 with one shot, although a finisher was required. Really tough that those T/Cs won't shoot. I wonder what he could do with a good gun?

After spending a lot of time driving in open country, looking things over and again realizing I didn't know the difference even through the spotting scope between a 12 and 14 inch antelope, I became firmly convinced that my ability to judge range in this country was totally in error.

On the third morning, Tom and I watched a hillside that had been covered with antelope the previous day. They seemed to move into the flat overnight and back on the hillside during the day. On the previous day, I had spent about two hours on a careful stalk through the trees and ravines,



John and his 250 yard doe taken with the .30-40.

trying to approach a good buck on that hillside. At one point, I watched for quite a while as the buck took care of his ladies who always seemed to be a problem. At the conclusion of what I thought was a perfect stalk, I looked over the edge of a ravine to see a completely blank hillside. Disappointed? You betcha! I'm still picking out cactus from that one. The plan on morning three was to intercept antelope as they moved through the tree dotted area at the foot of the hill. We no sooner arrived when we spotted several does and a buck. Tom whispered that he was a good one. I got situated to shoot. Seemed like a long time until there was a clear shot at the

Continued On Page 3



Gary with his three point taken at 300+ with the .30-40 Ackley Improved T/C.



Not quite symmetrical horns give this 15" trophy head the "Nobody's Perfect" look.

buck. I could only see about the upper three-fourths of his body and held for the top edge, figuring the range at around 300. The .358 went off, pointed just where I wanted it and the 250 Speer cleared his back by a couple of inches and smacked a rock 50 yards behind him. Instant panic. . . The buck cut diagonally toward my left for about 100 yards and hesitated to look

for that white rock smoke. This time, he dropped in his tracks. Pacing it off on the way to him, I took 199 steps. The 250 Speer had gone in at the back edge of the shoulder, taken out 11 ribs and about a foot of backbone before exiting in front of the hip on the off side. This is the first time I've ever felt a bullet actually moved an animal other than varmints, but I think this buck was actually moved 3" to 4" at impact. Up close, he was a beautiful animal. Terrific marking and coloration. Good, robust horns except that one was about 1/4" shorter than the other and curved inward more . . . Nobody's perfect! The largest measured 15" to 15-1/4", depending on how it was measured. That's good for today. I would expect anything over 13" would be a keeper.

That evening and not much over a half mile from where I dropped the antelope, Tom dropped a nice forkhorn with his .375. Nothing spectacular, just a 100 yard shot — in fact, two shots before he fell. One was a rear end shot that penetrated into the neck and the other, a lung shot that dropped him.

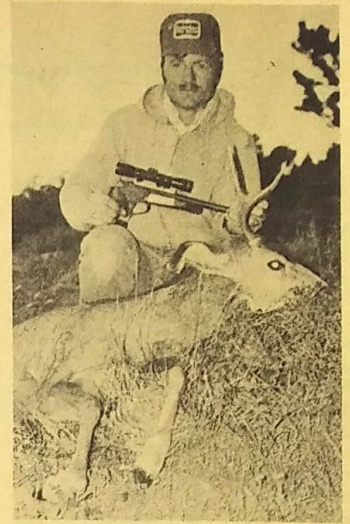
The next day, I switched to the .411 and shot at two does at around 250 that I missed so badly we didn't even see the bullets hit. After the second one, we drove to the 250 yard shot and set up. First shot was about six feet high. I didn't believe a scope could jump adjustment that far, but this one did. It had been kept in an aluminum ALCO case. After re-zeroing, I babied it for an hour or so and promptly gutshot a doe. As she was going away at around 200, I tried to hit her in the back of the head. Tom spotted the hit a couple feet right. Next shot, I held a couple feet left and the 210 Sierra grooved the

doe's side hair and impacted into the right front shoulder for a quick kill. The 210 Sierra completely blew up at 250 yards. The shoulder was totally ruined. Five ribs were broken from impact that were not touched by a bullet. All we found of the bullet were small fragments.

I took my other doe with the .358 and John dropped one with his .30-40 with the 150 grain Hornady Spire Point. The damage from this shot was very extensive for a lung shot.

I learned a little about antelope hunting this trip and really can't feel that the small 7mms are the right calibers. I'm sure the 7BR or 7TCU will kill antelope and 115-120 grain bullets are certainly heavy enough for antelope. I feel the .30 Herrett is about bottom line for them and the .30 through .41 diameters with properly accurate and powerful loads are certainly adequate to 300 yards in the hands of a good shot. Obviously, if you can't shoot, no caliber is magic. It's possible to kill antelope with wheel guns, but don't count on it. After the first day, I didn't have one antelope in wheel gun range. All in all, the trip was very successful, and next year, there will be an HHI Antelope Hunt.

Three pieces of equipment that were very worthwhile on the hunt were a pair of Bushnell 8X24 variable Insta-Focus binoculars, an armored Bushnell 16X36 spotting scope and sandbags.

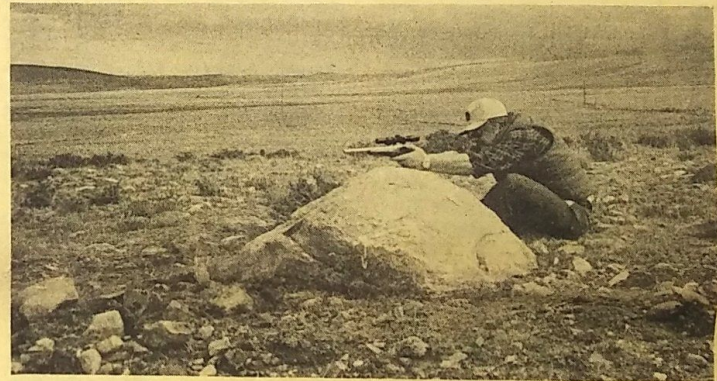


Tom took this Forkhorn at around 100 yards with the .375 JDJ T/C just before dark.

The binoculars saw constant use at around 12-14X and did quite well. The spotting scope, mounted on a tripod is, of course, optically superior and its 36X was useful most of the time.

Flat, square built sandbags can be used just about anywhere and were used on several antelope and a large number of prairie dogs and jacks.

This was one of the most enjoyable hunts I've ever been on.



Jones used this position for 250 yard shot.

GUN OWNERS OF AMERICA ... IT IS NOT A RUMOR ... IT REALLY HAPPENED!

On June 8, 1981, the Village Trustees of Morton Grove, IL. voted 4 to 2 to ban handguns. Incredible as it seems, the Ordinance actually prohibits the possession of a handgun within a private citizen's home, regardless of whether the firearm is kept for recreational use or self-defense.

Handgun owners among the 23,000 villagers were given until September 8th to turn in their handguns or face arrest, prosecution, fines and possible imprisonment.

The Constitutionality of this new anti-gun law was immediately challenged in a lawsuit, and that case, QUILICI vs. THE VILLAGE OF MORTON GROVE, is now pending in a United States Federal District Court.

The trustees who voted in this new anti-gun law were sending a message to other communities throughout the nation; they view the 2nd Amendment to the United States Constitution and similar state constitutional provisions as not protecting the rights of law-abiding handgun owners.

There is another message here, even if you are not a handgun owner. What will they think of next? YOU CAN SEND A MESSAGE RIGHT BACK TO THEM BY GIVING YOUR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO HELP SUPPORT THE INITIAL LAWSUIT (FILED ONE DAY AFTER THE ORDINANCE WAS PASSED).

You can be assured that whatever financial assistance you give will go directly to finance the legal fees and costs in this, the initial lawsuit. Any amount will be accepted and will entitle you to an honorary membership in our organization. HELP US TO HELP THOSE WHO ACTED PROMPTLY TO PROTECT OUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS.

Make your check or money order payable to: Constitutional Rights Pistol Club, and mail to: Constitutional Rights Pistol Club of Morton Grove, P. O. Box 581, Morton Grove, IL 60053.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I am enclosing a check or money order for the total amount of \$ _____

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

Date of Filing: September 30, 1981
Title of Publication: The Sixgunner
Frequency of Issue: Bi-Monthly
Location of known office of publication: Rt. 1, Della Dr., Bloomingdale, OH 43910
Location of headquarters or general business office of the publisher: Rt. 1, Della Dr., Bloomingdale, OH 43910
Names and address of publisher and editor:
Publisher: J.D. Jones, Rt. 1, Della Dr., Bloomingdale, OH 43910
Editor: J.D. Jones, Rt. 1, Della Dr., Bloomingdale, OH 43910
Managing Editor: J.D. Jones, Rt. 1, Della Dr., Bloomingdale, OH 43910
Owner: J.D. Jones, Rt. 1, Della Dr., Bloomingdale, OH 43910
Known bondholders: None

Circulation:	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Actual No. Copies Single Issue Published Nearest To Filing Date
A. Total No. Copies Printed (net press run):	1100	1100
B. Paid Circulation:		
1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales:	—0—	—0—
2. Mail Subscriptions:	784	841
C. Total Paid Circulation:	784	841
D. Free Distribution By Mail, Carrier or Other Means, Samples, Complimentary, and Other Free Copies:	95	97
E. Total Distribution (Sum of C and D):	879	938
F. Copies Not Distributed:		
1. Office Use, Left Over, Unaccounted, Spoiled After Printing:	221	162
2. Return From News Agents:	—0—	—0—
G. Total (Sum of E, F1 & 2 — should equal net press run shown in A):	1100	1100

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

John David Jones
Editor/Owner

Getting Started In Reloading

By Mike Slaybough, No. 807

If you've started your new reloading operation with a hand tool loader, such as the "Lee," you've discovered the limitations and drawbacks by now. It's difficult to get much speed out of them, but you can get more versatility inexpensively by buying the Lee powder measure kit consisting of a dozen or more powder scoops and a slide chart listing almost all current powders and how much of each powder scoop will contain. Used in conjunction with a reloading manual you can more effectively tailor your handloads to your needs with the simplest tools. Just remember to stay at least 10% below any listed maximum load. In many cases a 10% reduction in powder charge results in only a 5% loss in velocity. Read through the front of your reloading manual(s) before you start to use the loading data. There is a lot of good info for the beginner and veteran alike in a manual such as the new Speer No. 10. This manual contains info on such things as components, safety, procedures, troubleshooting, pressure, and both handgun and rifle metallic silhouette shooting, along with a large reference section in the back. The Speer No. 10 manual contains a very complete handgun data section including some of the more popular wildcat and rifle cartridges chambered in handguns. Using a manual you can now load up light plinking loads and cut your costs by using reduced powder charges and lead bullets. Unless you use hard cast bullets, keep your velocity under 1,000fps (feet per second) to prevent leading. (Ed. — 700-800 is a lot more satisfactory)

If you want to speed up your reloading or you own a handgun chambered for a wildcat, you'll need something other than a handtool setup. This means that you'll have to dip into the old cookie jar and come up with some extra money. Remember that this will be a lifetime investment, so you should give some consideration to possible future needs as well as your present ones.

For example, if you plan to do case forming for wildcats, you'd be better off buying a heavy duty, compound linkage reloading press right off the bat. This type of press offers greater mechanical advantage to help ease the strain of tough reloading chores. A good example of this type of press is the RCBS Rock Chucker or Pacific 07. They are well known and widely distributed. If you load only straight walled pistol cases, you can get by with a lighter duty press if you want to save some money.

Along with a press you will need reloading dies, shell holder(s), a priming device, and a primer catcher. Without a primer catcher you'll soon have spent primers all over the place and those little buggers can end up in some of the damndest places imaginable! Shell holders snap into the ram or your press and hold the rim of your brass during the reloading cycle. They often accept a number of different cases so you may not need one for every caliber you reload for.

Without good reloading dies, a press is just an oversized paper weight. Most dies and presses are threaded 7/8 x 14TPI (threads per inch) and you can use dies by one maker with a press

made by another. Die sets generally come with either two or three dies depending on the case to be loaded for. Bottle neck cases usually use a two die set while straight walled cases usually use a three die set. You can use carbide sizing dies for straight walled cases and they will outlast ordinary sizing dies by a large margin. An added benefit is that you don't have to lubricate your cases prior to resizing. Carbide dies cost more but are well worth it in the long run.

You will also need a method of repriming your cases. You can use the setup that fits your press or you can use something like the Lee Auto-Prime. I started with the priming system that came with my press and soon switched to an Auto-Prime. This tool is hand held and operated. It gives excellent feel when seating primers. I can deprime and resize a large quantity of brass and reprime it fairly rapidly. The tray holds 100 primers and comes with trays for both large and small primers. You'll have to order shell holders for it at around \$2.00. (Lee Precision, Inc., Hartford, WI 53027)

Next on your shopping list should be a good quality reloading scale. You'll need a scale for max or near max loads or to adjust a powder measure. There are many makes and models on the market with a wide variety in prices. A useful feature to look for on your scale is magnetic damping. This helps the beam to settle down quickly for a faster reading. If your beam won't settle down, check for a draft. I had this problem when I first set up my scale. After tracking down the source I had no more problems.

After you have a scale you can add a mechanical powder measure to your reloading bench. This will really speed up your reloading, but **must** be used with a scale. Charges thrown can vary depending on factors such as the type of powder, amount of powder in the hopper, and consistency of operation. Ball and fine flake powders vary less than coarse extruded powders. A powder measure is easy to use, just follow the manufacturers instructions. When loading max loads, I set my measure up to throw less than the max charge and then dribble powder into the scale pan until I reach the desired charge weight. I weigh out each and every max load for peace of mind. Always work up to a max charge. Resist the temptation to look in your manual for the heaviest charge of the powder you're using. Always start at least 10% lower and work up in small increments while watching for signs or excessive pressure.

Just what are you looking for? Signs of excessive pressure include such things as difficult case extraction, primer leaks (smoke ring around primer), flattened primers, cratered primers, pierced primers, loose primer pockets upon reloading, or split brass. This isn't a complete list by any means and if you are curious to know if your loads are over pressure, just check your once fired cases against cases from factory ammo fired in your gun. I was getting marks on my primers from the recoil shield of my Super Blackhawk and found this to be normal even with factory loads. I've noticed this in other handguns now that I've looked for it.

Remember to drop down 10% anytime you change any component in an otherwise safe load. Components can and do vary, so drop down and work up again to be safe.

Every handgun is a law unto itself and what may be a safe load in one gun could possibly give problems in another. Contenders and Rugers will digest loads that are dangerous in some Colt single actions. Even new guns such as the S & W M-29 can get out of time if fed a steady diet of hot loads over a long period of time. Remember that one of our reasons for reloading is to load less than full power loads for general shooting. One of my favorite practice loads in .44 Magnum is 8.5 grains of Unique behind a 240 grain cast SWC (Lyman No. 429421). Magnum primers aren't needed and I've found this to be a very accurate moderately powerful and pleasant load to shoot.

Your reloads won't do you any good if they won't shoot where you're looking. You can check them by shooting off of a solid rest at 25 yards. Load up at least five rounds of each variety to check for accuracy. Naturally we are looking for the smallest group size possible. A few tenths of a grain difference in charge weight can make a big difference in accuracy so keep track of what works best in your guns. A loading log is much better than your memory for keeping track of all the different combinations that you try. You can buy one or make one of your own using a ring binder. Make columns for information such as: date, distance, group size, number or shots, case, primer, bullet, powder/grains, gun, sight elevation and windage adjustments, and comments.

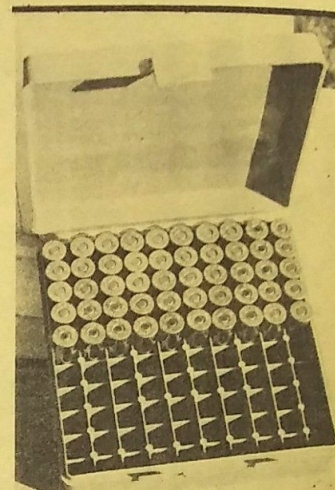
Nothing is worse than to pick up a box of reloads and not know what they contain. This could be a problem if you load .45 Colt for both a Colt SA and a Ruger or Contender. I buy blank self stick labels and put bullet, powder/grains, primer and approximate velocity on it. I get my velocity info from the manuals as I don't have a chronograph. That's on my wish list. I've also found that factory ammo boxes tend to fall apart (self destruct?) at the most inconvenient times so I use plastic ammo boxes.

Recently I had the pleasure of introducing a young nephew to the pleasures of handguning. I started him off with a .22 pistol to learn the basics including safety. I then moved him up to my .357 Mag loaded with .38 Special wadcutters. It wasn't long before he was using .357 Magnums with no problems. He also wanted to shoot my Super Blackhawk so I loaded with some mild handloads and let him have at it. After he'd shot up all of my mild loads, he shot a couple hotter loads for dessert! Needless to say, we both wore hearing protectors even for the .22 pistol. The point I'm trying to make is that almost anyone can shoot a .44 Magnum if they aren't scared off by full power loads right off the bat. The only problem with this approach is that you may have to buy another handgun for your spouse and/or children to shoot so that you can get yours back!

After you've gotten the basic equipment and have started to reload, you'll find accessories that come in handy or may be necessary in your reloading operation. Some of the things that I've gotten or want to get include: burring tool, bullet puller, primer pocket cleaner, case trimmer, brass polisher, case length gauge, loading block,

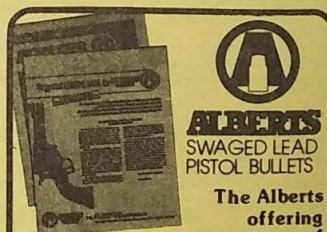
primer tray, etc. To this list I would add books on reloading, catalogs, reloading data from powder makers, and a card file of loads gleaned from gun magazines and *The Sixgunner*.

Well, there you have it. A beginners viewpoint on reloading for the beginner. I'm sure you'll pick up tips and techniques of your own as you go along. You may even decide to go for more production with a progressive loader or to cast or swage your own bullets. Reloading is a lot like sex; it's hard to stop once you get going!



MTM's new offering for handgunners that like to shoot — a plastic box that will contain 100 handgun rounds. Different calibers are available.

WANTED!!
YOUR
STORIES
MORE
ARTICLES
NEEDED



ALBERTS
SWAGED LEAD
PISTOL BULLETS

The Alberts offering consists of **TWENTY** designs from .32 to .45 PLUS a pair of belted conicals for black powder shooters. The depth of the Alberts line demonstrates our genuine interest in providing exactly the bullet you want. Pre-lubed for fast, clean reloading, and constantly checked against stringent manufacturing standards, you can be confident when buying Alberts.

Swaged lead bullets are our only product — they have to excel.
Cost? Absolutely competitive — and Alberts prices have remained constant since 1979!

Send **50¢** for 4 page brochure, and 4 pages of Loading Data.

THE ALBERTS CORPORATION
12-B Commerce Road • Fairfield, NJ 07006

COMPONENTS TAX WON'T HELP HANDLOADERS

By Ken Howell

I will present to a US House of Representatives subcommittee a number of reasons handloaders oppose the levying of an eleven-percent tax on components. For understandable reasons, **The National Rifle Association** won't have anyone there to testify against this bill, so there probably won't be any NRA telegram or letter warning members of it, either. I'm not at liberty to say why, but for good reason, Neal Knox won't be able to oppose the Forsythe bill (HR-3429), and besides, the NRA is in an uncomfortable position — wanting the favor and good will of the conservation and wildlife-management people who want the money that such a tax would give them for their programs.

This means that if handloaders are to write good letters, based on sound information and offering good arguments against the bill, to present their opposition to their congressmen, we'll all have to get at the job ourselves. This means both writing congressmen and warning every handloader we know, so they can write, too.

To give the members of the subcommittee and their staff time to study my testimony and an opportunity to form questions before the day of the hearing, I had to pound out a rough draft, make a batch of copies, and send them to the subcommittee ahead of time. At the hearing, I'll present orally a much briefer summary of those comments. That summary follows, and a copy of the complete commentary is available for a stamped, addressed magazine-size envelope (first-class postage is thirty-five cents on the expected weight).

Mike Bussard of Sierra Bullets will testify as president of the National Reloading Manufacturer's Association, opposing the bill primarily on the basis of the deterrent effect its cost will have on handloading and the handloading industry. I doubt that anyone else will oppose it at this hearing. Representatives of those who hanker for our money will be there with bells on, clanging loud for all they can get.

As editor of **Handloader** magazine, I represent handloaders who will bear the burden of this bill. As a former wildlife biologist — and as far as intent is concerned — I applaud support for wildlife management. I'm a hunter familiar with our game resource, and inclined — as far as intent is concerned — to favor programs to support hunting. As a shooter, I'd love to see more places for shooting. As far as intent is concerned, I'd hope for the success of any program to increase and improve places to shoot.

As a handloader, I dread increases in the costs of components, which are already causing handloaders to turn to home-made bullets as factory-made bullets go up in cost; shooters to replace guns chambered for large cartridges, turning to smaller cartridges as powder costs go for the sky; and shooters of trap and skeet to shoot less or quit as costs of shotshell components grow more and more prohibitive.

I'd be willing for taxes to increase the cost of handloading if handloaders would benefit. As far as intent is concerned, I'd favor HR-3429 despite

its inequities, but obvious inevitabilities inspire pessimism. However much we handloaders trust and applaud intent, we know that what you want to do for us simply won't be done.

Too many barriers won't be easily surmounted, if at all. This inevitability won't let us overlook the inequities.

Most hunters are not shooters except when they shoot game. Only a few are handloaders. Many hunt for years with one box of cartridges.

Many handloaders do not hunt. 26% of our 80,000 readers don't hunt, and 71% hunt big game, firing sometimes only one cartridge at game per season, sometimes none. Some handloaders hunt with factory loads, upon which the Pittman-Robertson tax has been paid. Only 32% hunt waterfowl, and only 61% hunt upland birds, frequently with factory-loaded shotshells though they handload rifle and handgun ammunition.

Yet 59% shoot quantities of handloads at pests, to which the term game and funds for wildlife management don't apply. In addition, we fire most of our handloads in competition, recreation and experimentation.

Vast quantities of our handloads don't pertain to hunting, so the inequities are obvious:

- non-hunting handloaders supporting hunting, in addition to support already paid through Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Hart taxes.

- hunting handloaders supporting hunting, out of all proportion to their handloads' relevance to hunting.

- multiplication of inequities in Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Hart, whereby shooters already support wildlife restoration whether they hunt or not.

- hunters buying one gun and one box of shells for several years of hunting, paying much less for tax support of wildlife.

- favoring wildlife over shooting, allowing diversion of shooter-program funds into wildlife programs.

Certain inevitabilities foredoom shooters' programs largely or totally to failure. The Forsythe bill ignores handloaders' Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Hart support of wildlife programs, assigns 50% of its expected funds to the same purpose, then provides for the forfeiture of even our remaining half to support the migratory-bird act if any state chooses not to use it for hunter education and ranges.

Both the Dingell-Hart funds and the Aviation Trust Fund discourage hope that any significant Forsythe funds will actually go into programs for handloaders and shooters — both have failed to provide what they promised. Their failure involves barriers strikingly relevant to the prospects of the Forsythe funds. A look at one barrier should be enough: local objection to noise (not to mention hostility to guns and shooting).

Although the Aviation Trust Fund was to extend and improve airfields, as well as to build new ones, local opposition to noise — among other causes — has blocked such use. The major barrier to ranges is not lack of funds but opposition to shooting. Conservation funds are used by con-

servation professionals. Many are hostile to hunting and shooting, reluctant to spend funds for hunters and shooters. Even if these funds had to be used for this purpose and no other, administrators would face as essentially impossible task. It is just too hard to do what the bill promises shooters, too easy not to.

When Dingell-Hart funds were provided for the same purposes, only 28% went for hunter education and 1.4% for ranges the first year, only 3.8% for ranges the second year. Also, states now getting Dingell-Hart funds for these purposes can divert them to other programs, leaving their hunter-education programs open to soak-up Forsythe funds and leave none for ranges.

Therefore, I'm opposed to the Forsythe bill on the grounds of inequity and the inevitable failure of that portion meant to benefit the handloaders who pay for it.

(Here's what the bill proposes: an 11% tax on cartridge cases, primers, percussion caps, bullets, shot, wads, powders — half to states for hunter education and ranges, the other half for wildlife — the first-mentioned half to revert to the Migratory Bird Conservation Act "if any state chooses not to use it for such programs." Also, "in five years, the Secretary is to make recommendations to Congress as to whether such funds should continue to be allocated to the states for this purpose" — that is, for hunter education and ranges. So we could lose every nickel for good and all, eventually, KH)

ED: If you agree with Ken, contact your representative by mail or phone, expressing your opposition in a calm logical manner.

1982 HHI ANTELOPE HUNT

1981 was a banner year for Wyoming antelope. One buck and up to three additional does were allowed one hunter. There is plenty of open land to hunt in Wyoming as well as private holdings. HHI members have access to both. Hunting open land is free. Private land usually carries a flat minimal "trespass" fee of \$100 to \$150. This hunt will probably start out as a private land hunt and if we have too many participants, overflow into public land. Either way, there are plenty of antelope to go around. It is now necessary to write for your permit applications. Write: State of Wyoming, Game and Fish Department, Cheyenne, WY 82002, requesting out of state information for antelope and deer permits.

1981 antelope permit fees were \$100 per animal. Your opportunity to get a mountable head is excellent. Call me at 614-264-0176 if you have any questions. Not everything is nailed down as yet, but this is one hunt you shouldn't miss. It will be in late September or early October.

It's possible to get an antelope with a revolver, but you would be severely handicapping yourself. A flat shooting T/C or XP with a 4X scope would be highly recommended. I would expect to shoot at 200-plus yards. Antelope aren't hard to kill if hit in vital areas.

It may be possible to tie in a deer hunt after the antelope, but you are on your own for that.

.22 JET

By Anthony Carlyle

I've been accused of necromancy on several occasions, however this is totally unfair as I only go completely mad when the moon's full; and all this just because I've got a thing going for the .22 Jet.

It's often said that the British have a romantic affection for underdogs, which may explain why I like the Jet, which has been consistently slugged off by just about every gun writer who's written about it. Many shooters have illogical love affairs with "dead" cartridges and maybe my liking for this round is similar to their opinions, but I honestly believe that the .22 Jet is considerably under-rated by many shooters and that pistols chambered for it should have a home in many handgun hunters batteries.

Probably two things contributed to the demise of the Jet. Firstly, when it was introduced, exaggerated claims were made for it in terms of velocity and secondly, many writers highlighted the case set-back problem.

Certainly the Jet isn't the fireball (no pun intended) it was made out to be, although in the ten inch T/C it is capable of impressive performance. From the results of tests that I've carried out so far, the Jet should be very useful for pest control purposes.

I'm continuing my tests with the Jet to take in a few different bullets and load combinations, but the results to date give a fair idea of the sort of performance that can be expected. Bullets used so far have been the Hornady .22" 40 grain SP and a cast NEI bullet 39-224-GC weighing a nominal 39 grains.

Tests so far have shown that 2400 works very well in the Jet. Although I'm trying other powders out, I have a feeling that I'll end up coming back to it.

Using either bullet, a load of 11.5/2400 seems to be good medicine. With the 40 grain Hornady bullet and Remington 5½ (magnum) primers velocities of 1867 in a six inch barreled Smith are obtained. The magnum primers are worth between sixty and one hundred extra feet per second in this handgun and don't seem detrimental to accuracy, so I think they're worth using. We've taken the load up to 12/2400 but it only gave an additional four or five F.P.S. and although extraction was still easy, I'm prepared to call 11.5/2400 the maximum sensible load in this pistol. Accuracy with this load with either the Hornady or NEI bullet is very good, sufficient for a friend to make head shots on squirrels. From the ten inch T/C velocity is increased considerably to around the 2000 F.P.S. mark and above. Incidentally, 11/2400 in the S&W gives 1795 F.P.S. in the six inch.

Expansion with the Hornady bullet is immediate when fired into water or modelling clay test media from either gun. The cavities blasted into the modelling clay indicate that the Hornady bullet would make short work of pests, but finding enough bits of a rabbit to make a decent stew would be difficult.

The N.E.I. bullet, when cast very hard doesn't expand at all, apart from some minor nose deformation, but is very brittle-which in my opinion has its advantages which we'll come to later.

Continued On Page 6

This neat little bullet doesn't lead the bore, but does exhibit slight signs of gas cutting when examined under magnification. A softer metal mix may prevent this, but could contribute to leading. Although this bullet doesn't expand, it seems to do the job well on small game.

My friend Geoffrey has fired hundreds of rounds through his Smith and Wesson revolver. The majority of which have been very hot handloads. He's never had the gun jam up due to case set-back. O.K. This is only one gun and I know Geoffrey keeps his gun and ammo clean, but it does make me wonder about some of the "bang, bang, stop" stories I've read about this pistol. Geoffrey's old load for his pistol was 13/Nobel No. 1 Revolver (similar to Nobel's Hornet) with the Hornady bullet which he discontinued after discussions with me as being too hot. The gun never jammed up with this load. I'll never forget my first encounter with this load. I'd arrived at his place with my wife and whilst the ladies went inside Geoffrey took me up to his range to try out some Jet loads. I hung my jacket on a tree branch and languidly took a shot at a coffee can with a load of Remington factory. I realized then we'd forgotten the hearing protection — but the noise wasn't too bad so we carried on and I killed the can again with a 11.5/2400 load, still finding the noise acceptable. Next was the 13.0/Nobel No. 1 load. Bang went the gun, up went the can — and I couldn't hear anything any more. (Foul up number one.) My ears were still ringing three hours later. I learned my lesson about hearing protection the same way I learned about eye protection — the hard way!

So I've come to the conclusion that the .22 Jet is quite a useful pest-popper in the S&W revolver and although it gives much better velocities in the T/C, the revolver is more versatile. For lying in wait and ambushing your targets a scoped T/C would be best, but for a general cart-about pest-popper the iron sighted Smith is ideal.

Loads are cheap, with over six hundred shots from a can of 2400. It has a considerable advantage over .22LR, although it's a lot noisier. Provided your gun still has the inserts you can still shoot .22 LR though. Some folk may say the .22 WMRF is as good for this sort of work but it's very expensive here, and not reloadable. Quick follow-up shots can be made if the revolver is used, and as a point of safety the Hornady bullets are so fragile, they just don't ricochet! Cast hard, the N.E.I. bullet also breaks up quickly, making it much safer than the .22 LR which can bounce across the countryside like a rubber ball.

So as you'll have gathered by now, I like the Jet, and think it's a useful cartridge. I hope I haven't allowed my enthusiasm to blind me to the faults of this cartridge and maybe I've been lucky with it. I know there are faster .22 rounds and that the Jet is very inefficient compared to the Hornet, but try and buy them chambered in a factory sixgun. C'mon, Smith and Wesson, make some more.

Before I close, a short word on safety. I've just read the October Sixgunner and J.D.'s comments are right on! I've related the occurrence that convinced me on ear protection. A case head failure in 9mm P convinced me on eye protection. I always wear them on the range, and you won't be sissy if you do the same.



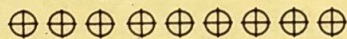
DALL

By Bruce Scott

Just a quick note to let you know how pleased I am with the 30-40 Krag barrel. I recently used it topped with a 4X Leupold on my Contender to bag a Dall ram in the Wrangell Mountains. The ram, my first, taped 36 inches and was over a full curl. One shot through the head at 300 yards killed the ram instantly as he lay in his morning bed. I used a 165 gr. Hornady BT SP backed by 38.5 gr. H-322.

While I was working up a load, I was amazed at the accuracy possible from this cartridge. My best groups were around 1 1/4" and 3 out of 4 hits on beer cans at 200 yards was the norm.

I'm planning on getting a .375 JDJ barrel next spring. It will be ideal for moose and goat.



Mag-na-port®

Means: Reduced Recoil - Reduced Muzzle Jump



The original Mag-na-port® a Patent Precision muzzle venting process - Has become famous because of the thousands of shooters that insist on having greater control of their firearm.

Will not change Ballistics or Accuracy.

For further information on Mag-na-port® or the Mag-na-port Custom Ruger Handguns write for free literature.

We thank all of our customers for Mag-na-port's success in the Firearms Industry.

Patent No. # 3808943
Mag-na-port®
ARMS, INC.
 (313) 469-6727
 30016 South River Road • Mount Clemens, Michigan 48045

RIPS FIRST HANDGUN HUNT

By John Woods, No. 1186

Like so many hunting enthusiasts these days we are all looking to try a new style of hunting or some new hunting areas. For myself, I had always wanted to tackle the sport of handgun hunting.

With the 1979 Missouri deer season approaching, I figured this was an excellent time to get geared up for my first handgun hunt. I was experienced in handgun shooting large caliber handguns, so I did not feel I was a novice in the use of handguns. I selected a Dan Wesson .357 Mag with an eight inch heavy vent barrel and a Bianchi shoulder rig. With range testing this set up proved very accurate indeed. So accurate in fact that it shot circles around my hunting buddy's highly touted Colt Python with a six inch barrel. And there was more to it than my extra two inches of barrel. We were both quite impressed with the Dan Wesson.

Being a newcomer to reloading I was doubtful of my skill in assembling a useful hunting load. For practice I settled on a 158 gr. lead semi-wadcutter over six grains of Unique. This was very accurate in my D.W., but I still felt a jacketed soft point or hollow point would be better for my first trial at handgunning whitetails. So I abandoned my dubious handloads in favor of some fresh soft point factory loads.

After becoming fully satisfied shooting the Dan Wesson with the factory loads, I figured I was truly ready for the big event.

Butterflies began to hatch in my stomach as deer hunting season approached. The season here in Missouri is always scheduled in such a way that most hunters can take advantage of two weekends of hunting.

Now I'm no fool so my first weekend I spent rifle hunting my favorite grounds in Osage County near Linn, Mo. Some of the best hunting hospitality around is to be found on the Basil Prater and Sons farm. Son, Russ and I were old college buddies and deer season brings us together to rerun stories which probably should not be told.

In seven years of hunting this same area I have bagged three deer, one a small four-pointed buck, and two does allowed by possessing a special randomly selected doe tag, selected by state units.

I felt this first weekend would sharpen my stalking skills for my handgun hunt the following weekend. I wasn't so interested in bagging game this first weekend out, as I was concerned about peaking my hunting senses of sight and sound. I wanted to be at my best for my first honest-to-goodness big game handgun hunt.

As the midweek season days fell by the wayside my own excitement began to grow. It's the feeling that every sportsman gets before a big day of hunting or fishing, especially if you are hunting a new area or trying new equipment or a new technique or style. For me, handgun hunting was this new form of excitement. I was definitely on a "high."

The area selected for the hunt was near Kirksville, Mo. in Adair County, a site on which I had previously hunted turkey and was thoroughly familiar

with the terrain outlay. My partner and I arrived the evening before the final two days of hunting, so we could be well rested for the hunt. It actually proved out just to give us one more restless night of pent up excitement and anticipation.

Saturday morning came none too soon for me and my hunting partner. The air was cold, crisp, and the star filled sky was evidence of a clear horizon. Perfect whitetail weather, I thought. Proving to ourselves that we were sincere about carrying out the goal of bagging a deer with a handgun, we somewhat hesitantly left our rifles at the house. I suppose they were brought along as security blankets, but we cut the "cords" and left equipped only with our handguns. The true test of a (beginning) handgun hunter!

A few minutes drive from town brought us to our hunting area well before dawn. It was pitch black with the temperature hovering somewhere around freezing. The slight breeze down my back reminded me quickly of how cold it really was. Even our stalk to the pre-selected "stands" failed to warm me very much. My partner and I separated down opposite sides of a ridge to take up our positions. As always, I took the hillside facing toward the East.

At this point the story line of this tale begins to unfold. Previously when I sought out a spot for stand hunting, I always elected to face the East. In this way the early rising sun would hit me first, providing those much needed rays of warmth. Because the woods was very dense, I was not fearful of hunting into the sun, as the light would be well broken up.

Before the sun was up, I had chosen a spot in a slight depression at the base of a forked-trunk tree which included a nice layer of oak/hickory leaves. I got settled into my reverse prone position and got the D.W. into gun ready status. I was ready to hunt.

And then an affliction began to come over me. My body had been so psyched up for so long waiting for this very day, that all energy seemed to sap away much like the tree I was using for a leaning post. As the sun declared morning, its rays finally reached my hiding spot and provided a much welcomed warming of my cold body.

Problem was: this very relaxed state enticed me into one of my most sound sleeps in days. Could have been I actually slept a whole year until the next deer season, but I doubt it. Some time later my subconscious alerted me of another presence in my locale. Half startled and half asleep, I jerked into a semi-awakened state to find myself facing three deer not 25 yards away. Some ten yards or so further into a thicket stood a fourth deer. They were all as surprised to see me as I was them.

The three deer facing me were all medium sized does, and legal game in this state hunting unit on the final two days of the season. Not to matter though, as they quickly became aware of my entry back into the world and quartered hastily away from me without a shot being fired. To this day through my sleepy, blurred vision I swear the fourth deer furthest out was

.44 PRESSURE DATA

Thanks to Kent Lomont, No. 750, who provided the following data. 328 Grain JDJ .44 Magnum. 90% Wheelweight, 10% Linotype, Federal 150 Primers S.V. 2X Fire Cases 9.25" Pressure Barrel.

Amount	Powder	O.A.L.	Pressure	Velocity	60 Yard Group
24.0	WW 680	1.740	35,300	1414	1.6"
22.0	WW 680	1.735	29,200	1331	1.7"
21.5	WW 296	1.730	38,000	1433	1.5"
22.5	WW 296	1.735	42,400	1483	2.1"
21.5	IMR 4227	1.760	34,100	1329	2.0"
20.0	2400	1.725	40,900	1413	2.6"
21.5	WC 295L6	1.735	42,100	1448	2.0"

All loads except the 4227 load showed excellent uniformity in pressure and velocity. The 4227 load was just an average load.

Primers, pressures, velocity and temperature — .44 Mag. 235.5 gr. Keith Bullet, Remington Cases 25.0 WC295.

	20°	110°
CCI LP	25,700 C.U.P. SD3530 1553 FPS SD 27	35,600 C.U.P. SD2270 1681 FPS SD 14
CCI 350	29,600 C.U.P. SD 3090 1602 FPS SD 26	36,300 C.U.P. SD 2270 1680 FPS SD 8
CCI LR	34,700 C.U.P. SD 1500 1632 FPS SD 11	36,100 C.U.P. SD 3760 1682 FPS SD 18
FED 215	39,400 C.U.P. SD 812 1660 FPS SD 11	39,800 C.U.P. SD 1153 1700 FPS SD 9

Some cases, notably of Remington headstamp, will accept rifle primers with a little coaxing. Note the 20° performance of the Federal 215 primer is almost as good as the 110° performance of the others with this powder and load. This primer absolutely cannot be substituted for others in some loads without running into problems. Note that pressure increase from 25,700 C.U.P. to 39,400 C.U.P. in the 20° column. Extremely cold temperatures would probably justify the 215s use with the above load.

MISCELLANEOUS .44 MAG LOADS

240 Gr. Keith Cast. New S.V. Case made by Federal, Mouth Lacquer Used. Primer Federal L.P., 9.25" Pressure Barrel.

Powder	Amount	C.U.P. —	Pressure Variation	FPS —	Velocity Variation
Bullseye	9.6	29,400	— 1500	1250	— 24
WW230P	9.2	27,600	— 2800	1170	— 28
P.B.	10.5	31,900	— 2900	1250	— 35
SR7625	10.5	28,200	— 2300	1210	— 13
Herco	14.5	35,100	— 5300	1460	— 22
AL 5	15.0	25,900	— 2900	1350	— 28
Unique	13.0	34,000	— 4700	1400	— 64
HS-6	13.0	20,200	— 1300	1250	— 29
HS-5	13.0	25,600	— 4300	1300	— 15
SR 4756	15.0	44,300	— 1500	1480	— 12
AL 7	15.5	28,400	— 2400	1390	— 21
Trap 14	13.0	41,100	— 7700	1400	— 37
Blue Dot	19.0	39,100	— 3600	1600	— 32
630 P	19.0	30,200	— 900	1430	— 28
WW 630	19.0	30,800	— 1400	1450	— 22
AL 8	20.0	36,200	— 3000	1550	— 27
2400	22.1	32,800	— 2000	1510	— 11
2400	23.0	36,300	— 2500	1570	— 31
IMR 4227	25.0	31,800	— 1500	1500	— 11
H 4227	25.0	33,600	— 1500	1550	— 17
H 110	25.0	32,500	— 2500	1610	— 25
WW 296	25.0	30,400	— 2300	1600	— 19
WW 680	28.1	31,500	— 1900	1620	— 30

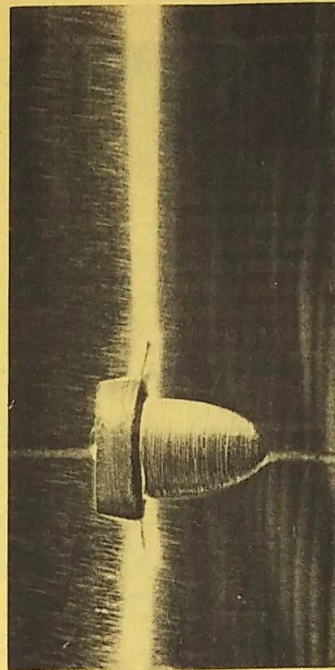
The chart above is for information only. It is not to be used as a way of determining minimum or maximum loads. For example, the 15.0 SR4756 load has been recommended at times . . . It clearly develops excessive pressures for the .44 Mag.

in fact a 4-6 point buck, and well within handgunning range. That is had I not been asleep at the moment of their approach, and been able to act appropriately.

Having agreed to meet my partner atop the ridge at mid-morning I left my lair feeling embarrassed and disappointed at missing a golden opportunity to handgun a buck on my first attempt. After briefing my buddy about the incident, he aptly dubbed me

the "Rip Van Winkle" of deer hunters. A name which unfortunately has stuck in certain circles of hunting companions.

Even though I have yet to bag my first whitetail deer with a handgun, I certainly learned one good lesson on my first attempt. From now on I'll establish my stand facing to the West, and maybe without the warming sun in my face, I won't fall asleep and miss an opportunity to bag the next buck that crosses Rip Van Winkle's stand.



The hell you say, it can't happen to you. The owner of this Super Blackhawk claims 21.0-2400-265 Hornady is the heaviest load it digested. I believe him as I think the cylinder cracked while I was chronographing the load. Each shot was quite uniform. Just don't think, "It can't happen to me", because it can. I'd like any solid information you might have on guns that let go for any reason. JDJ

HHI SIXGUNS

Up to now there has been a wait for the Custom Limited Edition HHI .44 Magnum Ruger Sixgun. We now have a few guns completed and available for immediate delivery. The price is still \$550.00 which will probably go up on the next batch, as it's expected Ruger will boost their prices in January. For serial numbers available or other information, call 614-264-0176.

Maverick
RANGE FINDER

a new concept in handgun sighting

for Colts & Rugers

\$6.95 EACH

PLUS
White or Gold
OUTLINE REAR SIGHT BLADES

for Ruger & Colt Handguns

\$5.95 EACH

OMEGA (NEW IMPROVED)
Trigger Spring For All New Model Ruger Single Action Revolvers
Lightens trigger pull.

\$6.95 EACH

Omega Sales
SUBSIDIARY OF MAG-NA-PORT ARMS, INC.
P.O. BOX 1066 MT. CLEMENS, MICH 48043

JAVELINA HUNTING IN SOUTH TEXAS BRUSH COUNTRY

By W. G. Gayle III, No. 432

First let me explain a little about my part of the world. The brush country of South Texas is very unique. It is at all times very beautiful and can also be hazardous to your health. I've seen places where the brush is so thick the ground hasn't seen sunlight in years. Down here, if it doesn't scratch or stick you, it bites, but it provides ideal habitat for the Javelina which is what this story is all about.

I have hunted Javelina with all types of firearms; in the last ten years or so, I have used pistols only. The brush and long hikes taken sometimes just to encounter these animals makes a rifle a pain in the donkey to carry. The caliber of handgun is also important. I've taken Javelina with one well-placed shot from a Ruger single six, .22 caliber, but most of the time, I opt for a .44 mag. Don't get me wrong here, a .357 works well, too. On occasion, I've taken these little tuskers with 110 grain factory jacketed hollow points, but any game worth taking deserves a quick humane kill in my book. Practically any caliber works on these tuskers. My Compadre that I hunt with uses a DW .357 mag and .45 Colt Commander for a back-up.

This is how the story begins: We had been deer hunting that morning on some senderos. (They are bulldozed strips cut all through this country by seismograph companies, and it's the only place you can see for any distance with no obstructions). Anyway we weren't successful. After a midday lunch, we decided we might try to hunt the creek out that runs through the place. As a general rule, Javelina lay up during the heat of the day. This creek is heavy though, and I have seen them in midday, rooting around the bushes and along the bank in the shade.

We figured the sand in the bottom of this dry creek would offer plenty of quiet; the wind was right, so we took off. We had gone about a half to three-quarters of a mile without seeing anything, so we sat down to talk a few minutes (barely above a whisper) when I noticed a little movement up the creek a ways.

When I realized it was Javelina, my compadre had already seen them; and man, was he excited! It took a while to calm him down so we could move in for a clean shot. (Let me explain a little about my hunting partner . . . first off, he'd rather hunt than eat, except when it comes to Javelina . . . He'd rather eat them than beef steak! He is about 6'3" and 200 plus pounds but MOST of the time, can move through the brush like a ghost). By now, Hoot (which is a name hung on him years ago) had calmed down enough to at least talk. We planned to move in a little closer and close the gap from about 75 yards to possibly 45 or 50 yards. As I said, most of the time, Hoot's pretty graceful, but this time, he got tangled up in the only little bush in the creekbed and fell down, making enough noise to attract the attention of our quarry. I turned around as he was getting up, mumbling something about watching the hogs and not the ground.

By this time, the Javelinas had started to move off slowly, (here we

Continued On Page 10

.44'S: OF BULLETS AND MOULDS PART I: KEITH BULLETS

By John Taffin, No. 76

One of the most fascinating books I own is an old copy, much dog-eared from use, of Lyman's *Handbook of Cast Bullets*. This excellent little book is about 25 years old as can be seen by the fact it only has a few "pet" loads for .44 Magnums. I especially enjoy looking through the sections on .44 and .45 caliber bullets as there are so many different styles and weights of these big bore bullets. This particular edition lists twenty-eight different designs of .44 bullets available from Lyman.

Why not run a series of tests on .44 caliber bullets and moulds from the major manufacturers? How good are they? How do they cast? Are some better than others? Are some more accurate than others? These and many other questions crossed my mind as I looked through catalogs from the various mould manufacturers.

Lyman no longer lists 28 moulds as their line has been cut to 9 of the most popular, but Lee lists 10 designs; R.C.B.S., 5; Saeco, 7; N.E.I., 15 plus four exclusive S.S.K. designs, and H & G has 20 designs of .44 caliber bullets. With designs being added constantly these totals have probably changed by now.

To test all in various revolvers would take a lifetime plus an unlimited expense account, so a selection of representative types of .44 bullets of various designs from the lightest to the heaviest were picked to be shot through a variety of quality sixguns to see what would happen.

To this end sixteen different moulds of six different manufacturers were acquired as follows: five Lyman designs, five N.E.I. manufactured moulds, three from Saeco, two which are brand new designs; and one each from Lee, H & G and RCBS.

For testing purposes, moulds were categorized as to the following classification with some overlapping:

- I. The Keith Bullets
- II. The Heavy-weights
- III. The Gas Checks
- IV. The Light Weights and Special Purpose Bullets

This month we look at the most popular style of .44 bullet design, the so called Keith Bullet. Back in the '20's Elmer Keith started working on bullet design, first in .45, then later in .44 caliber. His first .44 designs were 260 and 280 grain blunted round nosed bullets which were manufactured by Belding & Mull.

These bullets were designed with one large lubrication groove but two problems surfaced: the crimping groove was not deep enough and more long-range accuracy was needed so Elmer went back to the drawing board with a desire to come up with a long-nosed bullet with a wide heavy front band that would act like a full caliber wad-cutter plus a long flat-point for shocking power, and long-range accuracy. The result in 1928 was the Lyman — Ideal No. 429421, a .44 caliber semi-wad-cutter listed at 250 grains.

Just as "Webster" is tacked on to every dictionary, every flat-pointed bullet is called a "Keith". Elmer's original design calls for a full caliber, wide front driving band with one wide, deep, square cornered lubrication

groove. In Elmer's own words "To the detriment of the bullet many mould manufacturers have changed my bullet design."

Five different "Keith" bullet moulds were acquired remembering Elmer's original specifications. Those chosen were three two-cavity moulds: Lyman No. 429421, RCBS No. .44-250 KT, Saeco No. 296441; and two four cavity moulds: H & G No. 503 and NEI No. 260429.

The first experiences I had with Keith bullets was using a single-cavity No. 429421 mould over the kitchen stove back in the '50's. Using a Lyman bottom pour pot and two and four cavity moulds seem a long step up from those bullets slowly cast from my early .44 Specials.

As expected all five moulds were found to be of real quality. One mould came from the factory with some light rust on the blocks even though packed with rust inhibiting paper. Later moulds are now being shipped with a coat of oil. Never, never store steel moulds without oiling them first. Don't trust special papers or leaving the last cast bullets in the mould, oil is the only sure way to protect an expensive mould, and it will clean out easily with Q-tips and lighter fluid.

All five moulds performed beautifully. The NEI aluminum provided "instant success" while the steel moulds of the other makers took varying "break-in" times with the Saeco requiring about 100 bullets before it broke in and started dropping perfect bullets. Every mould seems to be a law unto itself with another Saeco mould dropping perfect bullets almost immediately.

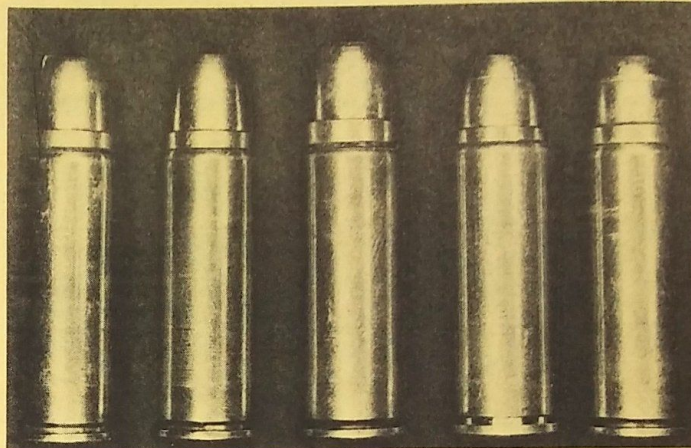
The Saeco mould blocks are provided with the most comfortable hardwood handles while the NEI moulds use RCBS or Lyman handles. When casting I prefer to run two moulds so one can cool while the other fills; using two four cavity moulds, this method really produces bullets quickly. In preparing for this article, 200 pounds of type metal was used with all bullets cast with a Lyman furnace, the Mould Master, with no fault being found with either the moulds or the furnace. Any .44 shooter could be satisfied with any of these moulds through personal tastes may cause a preference for one mould over another. Personally, I like the light weight four cavity aluminum NEI blocks for long sessions, but there certainly are no drawbacks to using either the two or four cavity steel blocks.

Since all of my casting was done with pure type metal which produces beautiful bullets with no leading problems, most of my bullets came out lighter than the advertised weights. These are the manufacturers weights compared to mine: H & G 250 gr./228 gr., RCBS 250 gr./237 gr., Lyman 245 gr./238 gr., Saeco 240 gr./248 gr., and NEI 260 gr./248 gr. All weights could be increased by adding lead to the type metal until the desired weight and hardness is acquired.

Are any of these "Keith" bullets really Keith Bullets? All bullets were examined carefully in the light of Elmer's original specifications of fifty-plus years ago. The H & G proved to be



Keith style bullets by H & G, Lyman, NEI, RCBS, SAECO.



Keith style bullets in .44 Mag. brass show varying over-all cartridge lengths. Left to Right: H&G, Lyman, NEI, RCBS, SAECO.

the lightest with a tapered crimping groove, three bands with the base band slightly wider than the others, and a square cornered grease groove. Lyman's No. 429421, which was the original is now found with the front band slightly narrower than the other two, a V-shaped crimping groove, and a wide, round cornered grease groove. NEI supplies the longest nose with three bands nearly equal in width, a tapered crimping groove and a wide square cornered grease groove. This design has the widest front band. A very narrow front driving band is found on the RCBS design with the middle band about twice and the base band about three times as wide while the grease groove is wide and semi-square cornered. Extra weight is acquired by a very heavy base band provided on the Saeco "Keith" which has a tapered crimping groove and a front band the same size as the Lyman and H & G designs. This design also has the narrowest grease groove of all five designs.

As can be seen from these descriptions and the pictures, none of these designs match the original Keith designs to the letter. Elmer used to recommend the H & G as being of his original design but apparently this design has been changed slightly.

Before loading, all bullets were sized to .430 in an RCBS lubri-sizer and lubed with micro lube. All bullets were then loaded in new W.W. brass with Keith's original .44 Magnum loading of 22 grains of No. 2400, with CCI Mag Primers being used, and all brass full length sized first. Interestingly enough the latest Hercules Reloader's Guide lists 18.0 grains No. 2400 as maximum with 250 grain bullets for 1,395 FPS. I don't believe it! Especially when I consider my Silhouette load of 20 grains of No. 2400 only gives slightly more than 1300 FPS and this from a 10-1/2" barrel. There has been a marked tendency for most reloading manuals lately to lower the powder charges significantly and increase the muzzle velocities dramatically. This is

a non-existent inverse proportion.

To test these various Keith bullets, three double action .44 magnum six-guns were chosen. When choosing test guns I usually have a difficult time deciding just which .44's from my collection to use. But this time I decided to use the top three DA's now being made. I was so impressed, and I might add somewhat surprised, by the results that I will expound on these sixguns in a future article. The test guns used were a Smith & Wesson M29-6-1/2", a Ruger Redhawk 7-1/2", and a Dan Wesson 8" fitted with an unported barrel so cast bullets could be used. The Smith was purchased new in 1960 (for \$125.00!) and has been the recipient of tender loving care for twenty years. On the other hand the Redhawk and DW are brand new this year with both having around 1000 full power loads through them. The unported DW barrel was brand new before this test, so basically the test guns were a S & W with many, many light, medium, and heavy loads through it, a Redhawk with 1000 rounds through it, and an unfired Dan Wesson. A full report on the performance of these guns will be forthcoming as I will try to concentrate on the bullets for this article.

All bullets were fired from each revolver using a rolled up carpet on the roof of my Luv 4 x 4 as a rest at a distance of 20 yards. Normally I am not recoil conscious but after 300 rounds of full house .44 Magnums my shooting hand was not sore but definitely tender, I was more than happy to quit.

When the testing sessions were begun, I expected similar results but did not expect all the bullets to be so close. In fact after the session was finished I loaded one of each cartridge in my M29 and fired the five different bullets with the same sight setting for a group with astonishing results. The first four shots made a 7/8" cluster with the fifth shot opening the group to 1-1/2". So for all practical purposes all of these Keith bullets will perform identically. This does not mean certain

Bullet	DW	GROUP SIZE	Redhawk	S&W	Three Gun Average
H & G	1-1/2"		7/8"	7/8"	1-1/12"
Lyman	1"		1-1/2"	1-1/2"	1-4/12"
NEI	1-1/4" (4 in 1/2")	1"	(4 in 1/2")	1-1/4"	1-1/12"
RCBS	1-1/2"		1-1/4"	1-1/2"	1-5/12"
Saeco	1"		1-1/4"	1"	1-1/12"

revolvers would not shoot tighter groups with certain bullets.

With the proper conditions I am convinced that any of these bullets are capable of one shot groups; A better shot than I could probably shrink all these groups to cloverleaves. Also my groups would probably have been tighter if all loads were not tested at the same time. Three hundred rounds do have their effect.

The velocities averaged were also quite impressive although somewhat surprising. These results will be covered in a later report, suffice it to say that the lowest velocity average was 1396 FPS in the 8" DW (surprise!) and the highest was 1538 FPS in the 7-1/2" Redhawk.

Since three (NEI, Saeco, H & G) of these designs had long tapered crimping grooves and two (Lyman and RCBS) had the narrow V-shaped crimping grooves it was decided to see what effect recoil had on the crimps. One cartridge with the Lyman bullet over 22 grains of 2400 was marked and placed in the cylinder of the S & W as the sixth cartridge. After five rounds had been fired the bullet had started to jump its crimp. By the tenth round the Lyman slug had moved further out, and then rubbed on the back of the barrel after the thirteenth round, with the gun being tied up after the fourteenth round as the bullet was protruding from the cylinder face preventing rotation. The results were similar with the NEI bullet only slightly quicker with the bullet rubbing the barrel after the eleventh round and the gun was tied up after the twelfth round. With any .44 Magnum full house load it would be wise not to leave the fifth or sixth round in the cylinder more than once; keep fresh ammo in the cylinder.

Only one bullet was tested at this time for long range. After twenty-five years experience with the Lyman, I

know it will perform at long range, so I tried the NEI bullet over my silhouette load of 20 grains of No. 2400. The target was a bolted down turkey at 165 yards, using the same sight setting as my Hornady FMJ silhouette load and shooting from Creedmore. Using my 10-1/2' Super Blackhawk the result was six shots for six in the body of the turkey that could be covered with my hand. Similar results are expected from the other .44 bullets since local club members are also shooting both H & G and RCBS bullets now with success.

If a .44 "Keith" style bullet is desired, it is impossible to go wrong with any of these top quality moulds. In past years I have run into trouble with moulds from two of these companies, the moulds were returned and replaced immediately by those manufacturers and I would expect all companies to do the same. What about price and availability? All moulds are readily available except Hensley & Gibbs' which I have been informed are now facing an 8 months back order situation. Here are today's prices with handles except for NEI moulds which come without handles (Lyman or RCBS fit).

Make	2 Cavity	4 Cavity
Hensley & Gibbs	—	\$93.50
Lyman	\$38.45	\$74.45
N.E.I.	\$26.00	\$42.00
RCBS	\$39.00	—
Saeco	\$46.80	\$64.80

Lyman and RCBS moulds are readily available from your local dealer. NEI and Saeco can be reached at Northeast Industrial Inc., 2516 Wyoming St., El Paso, Texas 79903 and Saeco, 525 Maple Avenue, P.O. Box 778, Carpinteria, California 93013. Both will respond quickly to inquiries. Hensley & Gibbs is located at P.O. Box 10, Murphy, Oregon 97533; they also will send literature by return mail but are way behind on orders. Next issue: The Heavy Weight .44's.

that availability is still a problem. My survey showed one DW .44 engraved model at \$750.00, no Redhawk, two Model '29's a 4" at \$399 and an 8-3/8" at \$500, and surprisingly enough three stainless 29's, the 629, at prices from \$449 to \$575, all with 4" barrels. All Redhawks and '29's I've seen this past year continue to go well above retail while DW's have been available from time to time at below retail. Strange situation.

The first S & W .44 Magnum was shipped to Remington for ammunition development in December of 1955, with Major Hatcher and Elmer Keith receiving their sixguns in January of 1956. Using the 1950 Target .44 Special the weight was raised from 2-1/2 lb. to 3 lb. by lengthening the cylinder, beefing up the top rib and replacing the tapered barrel with a bull barrel. There have been a number of minor changes in the Model 29 but it is basically the same design as it was in 1956 which was simply a beefed up version of a model that goes back to the turn of the century.

Both the Redhawk and the Dan Wesson 44's were hinted at during the NRA show in 1978 with the Redhawks being out first as samples started to show up in late 1980 followed by DW's



Left — H&G, Top — NEI, Bottom — SAECO 4 cavity molds.

in early 1981. Both designs are quite different from the side plate covered mechanism of the Smith, as the inner workings can be removed from the bottom of these solid frame designs.

Ruger and DW had a big advantage in that they could view the first .44 Magnum and make improvements. The Smith was considered a heavy revolver with its 47 oz. weight with a 6-1/2" barrel and both of the newer designs added more weight with the Stainless Redhawk going 52 oz. and the heavy barreled 8" Dan Wesson Tipping the scales at 59 oz. which makes it a full half pound heavier than an 8-3/8" Model 29.

My test Model 29 is a beautiful example of fine craftsmanship. Built in 1960 it is smooth, tight and has the beautiful blue job that Smith used to be famous for. In recent years I've seen some Smith's that were not very well put together, but the last two I looked at, an L-frame stainless and an 8-3/8" 629 were both tight, well finished and smooth.

This 6-1/2" Model 29 came with excellent sights, S & W white outline rear and red ramped front sight. Both DW and Ruger elected to use w/o rear and red ramped front sights also. A wide checkered hammer and wide grooved trigger is still standard on the Smith with both Ruger and DW using narrow smooth faced triggers and a very narrow hammer on the Redhawk, with a medium wide hammer on the DW.

Strength is the watch word for both the Ruger and the DW. Cylinder locking notches are right under the chamber on the Smith, but both of the new .44's have these notches offset to avoid one potential weak point. The

cylinder of the M29 is counter-bored, the Redhawk and DW are not. The diameters of the Redhawk and DW cylinders have both been made significantly larger than the S & W.

The checkered stocks on the Model 29 were built for punishment and mine were replaced immediately with Herring's Trooper stocks. My 7-1/2" Redhawk comes with well designed stocks but I've replaced them with newly available Pachmayrs. The Dan Wesson is supplied with comfortable smooth wood grips that feel good and do a good job of distributing recoil.

The DW is supplied with a Power Control system that has one big drawback. Cast bullets cannot be used as lead builds up between the barrel and shroud making it very difficult to remove the shroud. My test gun was fitted with a replacement 8" unported barrel so cast bullets could be used.

When I approached a testing session with this trio of .44's I had some preconceived ideas that did not pan out. Both Wesson's had an advantage over the Hawk with 2-1/2 — 3 lb. pulls compared to the Ruger's 5 lb. pull. The Redhawk definitely needs S.S.K. to come up with a replacement mainspring that will bring the SA pull down to 3 lb. and still give a sure DA without misfires or the erratic velocity variations of excessively lightened mainsprings.

For this testing session, one hundred rounds of full house .44 Magnum loads consisting of Keith cast bullets over 22 grains of 2400 were fired in each of these .44 Magnums. The Smith has had many rounds through it during its 20 years, and both of the others have had

Continued On Page 10

A TRIO OF DA .44's

By John Taffin, No. 76

In the process of testing .44 bullets for a report on the Keith bullets, I found a trio of fabulous .44's that deserved a write up of their own. When I started shooting handguns back in 1956 the most powerful handgun available was the .357 Magnum which could be overshadowed only by handloaders using the .44 Special. Reports of the new .44 Magnum were starting to appear and the American Rifleman carried the first report in March of that year.

The Smith & Wesson .44 Magnum (later to be designated the Model 29) was born and changed handgunning drastically. Now some twenty-five years later the Smith DA .44 has been joined by two new designs, the Ruger Redhawk and the Dan Wesson. Now instead of having to be content with one quality DA .44, shooters have their choice of three fine .44's. Choice may not be the best word as a check of seven gun shops in my area showed



Dan Wesson, Redhawk and S&W with a typical 25 yard target.

Bullet	Weight	DW8"	Muzzle Velocity	Redhawk 7 1/2"	S&W 6 1/2"
Hensley & Gibbs	228 Grains	1396	1530	1454	
Lyman No. 429421	238 Grains	1436	1497	1436	
NEI 260429	248 Grains	1467	1503	1452	
RCBS 44-250KT	237 Grains	1483	1530	1480	
Saeco Keith	248 Grains	1459	1538	1460	

about 1000 rounds through them. The DW really shined as that extra weight really tames recoil even without using the Power Control system. Firing one hundred rounds through the Smith however is not my idea of fun.

With the fine trigger pull and precision fit of my old Smith I expected it to leave the two new upstarts way behind. It just didn't happen. I was particularly surprised at the velocity readings. Here are my results using an Oehler Model 12, temperature in the sixties. All loads 22 grains of No. 2400, CCI Magnum primers, new WW brass. All bullets "Keithstyle" SWC's cast from pure type metal.

Surprisingly the 6 1/2 Model 29 was neck and neck with the 8" DW for all loads and the Redhawk came out on top everytime. These are full house loads, with extraction sticky in each sixgun.

Firing for accuracy from a rest at 20 yards using the same five different bullets, with 5-shot averages for each bullet design, the DW averaged 1 10/40" with a low of 1" and a high of 1-1/2"; the Smith came in with an average of 1 9/40", low of 7/8" and high of 1-1/2"; and the Redhawk came out slightly ahead with an average group size of 1 3/40" with a low of 7/8" and high also of 1-1/2". Thus all three are virtually identical as to accuracy.

Which one to chose? All are difficult to find on the dealer's shelves. The Redhawk should be the lowest priced at \$325, and I've seen it from this price all the way to \$575. Dan Wessons retail at around \$400. but have been available locally for around \$350. Smiths are still hard to come by and command prices of from \$400 to \$500 depending upon barrel length, which is now a choice of 4", 6", or 8-3/8".

All three of these are top notch .44 Magnums but, and this is vital, there is no way a Smith would be able to stand up to heavy loads that a Redhawk and DW could digest without shooting loose. If a Smith is one's choice I would not recommend a load over 20 grains No. 2400/250 grain bullet both to prolong the life of the revolver and the shooter's hand. The DW with its massiveness will dampen the recoil of any .44 Magnum load significantly. The Redhawks felt recoil is slightly more than the DW.

The Dan Wesson is now available with six, eight, and ten inch barrels (10" overweight for Silhouette competition) and only with the Power Control system. If the use of cast bullets is desired, an extra unported barrel must be purchased. All DW's are available blue finish only. Nine different choices are available for the M29 fanciers with barrels of 4", 6" and 8-3/8" available in both blue, nickle, and stainless. As of this writing the Redhawk is available (?) in only one percussion, the 7-1/2" stainless with 5-1/2" stainless and 10-1/2" blue models to follow.

The Smith & Wesson is still the most popular and probably always will be especially with those "shooters" who really don't shoot very much. If a Smith were my only choice, I would definitely have it Mag-Na-Ported to cut down the recoil while going the

opposite way with the Dan Wesson and doing away with the Power Control. The Redhawk is fine just as it is except for needing a replacement mainspring. The Smith is the easiest to carry, the DW is the most pleasant to shoot while the Redhawk is in between on both counts. All are excellent, accurate six-guns for hunting, or any other purpose. I like them all!

Javelina *Continued From Page 7*

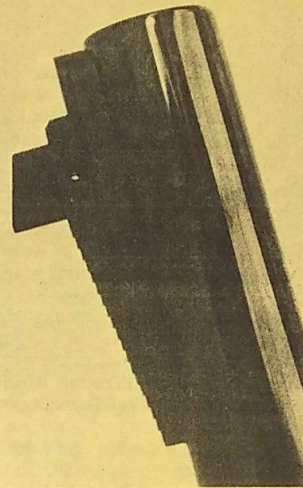
had to improvise plans quickly as there was no time for a good shot). I headed for a cow trail that was the only way out of the entanglement that borders both sides of the creek. We couldn't get a good view to see just how many tuskers there were in the pack. I figured they were some young and old boars, which was a mistake. (Right here is where I have to say that the only time I have ever had a Javelina actually charge me or at me was when a sow has pigs, and for some reason or another, one of the pigs makes a noise. Javelina have very poor eyesight. I have had boar come awfully close, but I think he was just trying to get the H - - - out of there.) We moved off the cow trail in a brushy little flat with scattered openings; before we knew it, we were in amongst those tuskers. There must have been around 30 of them. I motioned for Hoot to get in the middle of Agerita bush (they are wild currant bushes with lots of thorns on the leaves, but they offer fair protection from a Javelina's tusk should they get too close. I've used them before for safety, huntin' behind dogs). I motioned for Hoot to pick his target and fire, which he did. The .357 158 gr. jacketed soft point struck home. In all the commotion that ensued, a pig started squealing . . . for what reason, I'll never know, but all H - - - broke loose. Hogs runnin' everywhere, sows, and boars alike poppin' teeth and gruntin'. (To anybody who has ever heard this sound, it's not one you'll soon forget. It'll make the hackles on the back of your neck stand up!). I looked over at Hoot who was now armed with both guns and standing ground. I picked out one hog close and downed him with a 240 gr. jacketed hollow point. I looked back at Hoot. (He was my main concern, because he had never been in a bunch of hogs under these circumstances, and I was concerned, to say the least). He had smoke drifting from both guns and looking like he was on top of things, so I picked out another hog damned near under the bush I was standing in and downed him. By now, most of the Javelinas had made tracks. I looked back at Hoot and he was standing in a small scrub mesquite tree I hadn't noticed in all the action. I walked over to where he was. He was reloading as fast as he could. When I finally got him to talk, all he would say was "Are they comin' back?"

Well, Hoot lost the toss to see who was going for the truck, but he wouldn't go unless I went too.

It must have taken two or three hours to get the truck around and walk back to where we left the Javelinas. At count, there were only four downed. When I asked Hoot where the rest were

(at that time, there was no bag limit on Javelina), he said he only downed two. The rest of the time he was trying to get those tuskers to leave the country.

Later on after we had cleaned and hung our game for the dry North wind to chill out, we were talking over the day's hunt. Hoot said he had fired the other shots at the ground in an effort to scare the Javelinas off. He told me he also didn't think a H - - - of a lot about that Agerita bush for a blind, either. As we popped the tops on two more South Texas cans of punch, he said one more thing: "Compadre, I'll hunt Javelina anywhere with ya, but I ain't goin' back in that damned creek!"



T/C's new front sight for 10" Contenders. This sight is definitely an advantage over the old ones if you didn't sharpen them up with a file thereby making them illegal for silhouette.

RCBS RELOADING EQUIPMENT
KNIVES, GOVERNMENT SURPLUS
\$1.00 FOR DISCOUNT
PRICE LIST.
BLADE AND BARREL
P.O. Box 2121
Oroville, CA 95965

**YOUR
ARTICLES
NEEDED
NOW**



The new Speer bullet board is larger than previous boards. The board features another outstanding painting by Jack Woodson. The theme is "The Potlach". This was a social event peculiar to several Indian tribes of the Pacific Northwest. The board measures 24 x 14" and contains one each of all current production Speer bullets. Retail price is \$60.00.

MATCH SHOOTERS HANDGUN CASES

WHEN ONLY THE VERY BEST WILL DO

Choice of 3, 4 or 5 gun models in beautiful black or brown simulated leather. Lok-Grip tray holds gun securely. Has compartment for spotting scope and accessories. Scope bracket and carrying strap optional. 4 or 5 gun cases available with back door compartment. Personally designed by Frank A. Pachmayr for discriminating shooters. See at your Pachmayr dealer or write for info.

Pachmayr GUN WORKS, INC.
1220 SOUTH GRAND AVENUE - LOS ANGELES, CALIF. 90015

**YOUR
EXPERIENCES
MAY HELP
SOMEONE
ELSE**

WRITE TODAY!

**SUPER ACCURATE
.44 MAG LOAD**

By Pete Hills, No. 691

If you like shooting the .44 Mag, here is an excellent load for you. Using a 10 1/2" Ruger Super B with Remington brass, CCI Mag primers, 265 gr. Hornady flat point and 24 gr. of IMR 4227.

I get 1 1/2" groups at 50 meters and shoot through 12" to 13" of hemlock at 100 yards. I have shot groups at 200 meters that you could cover with one hand. Velocity averages 1330 F.P.S. Silhouette shooters should try this one. I have never "dusted but not dropped" a ram with this load. I have not tried it on deer or bear yet, but I doubt if it will expand much unless it hits bone.

THE .45 COLT, DISSOLVING THE MYTH, DISCOVERING THE POTENTIAL

By John Linebaugh, No. 1330

In 1873 when the .45 Colt was introduced to the public along with their new single action revolver it was the most powerful handgun combination to be had. It was so superior over any other gun combination at the time that after thoroughly testing it the Army picked it to be the official Sidearm of the U.S. Army.

So was born the .45 Colt Single Action Army. Not only did the Army think this was the best gun to be had, but so did lawmen, gunfighters and all that needed a heavy powerful sixgun. The Colt held its reputation till the mid 30's and the new .357 Magnum came along. The .357 with its high velocity churned up roughly double what the old .45 Colt did in the foot pounds of energy department. The new gun was an instant success and the old Colt lost more popularity. But those who understood the facts about heavy slugs at moderate velocity weren't sold on the lighter, but faster bullets of the .357. As time went on the gun companies came out with bigger guns and more powerful cartridges. For these improvements we owe our thanks to Elmer Keith. From all of Keith's work, experiments, and knowledge of sixguns and with the cooperation of Smith and Wesson the .44 Magnum became a reality in 1955. Then again in 1964 the new cartridge called the .41 Magnum appeared on the market. Since these dates we have seen even further attempts to bring out even more powerful handguns in one form or another. While all the hassle was going on to invent and manufacture more powerful handguns, the .45 Colt faded into the background as a cartridge that had lived out its useful life and now must step aside for the Magnum era.

A few die hards kept their .45's and they were very effective with a hard cast Keith bullet and his recommended loading of 18.5 gr. 2400. But still the old cartridge was nearly 100 years old and it wasn't a Magnum. What many failed to realize was the potential the .45 Colt has over other sixgun cartridges in capacity and caliber. The two things that made it superior when it was introduced in 1873. With the advent of the .357, .41, and .44 Magnums,

the gun manufacturer's beefed up their guns to handle the high pressures these cartridges developed. The guns chambered for the .45 Colt weren't beefed in proportion as were the smaller cartridges. The larger diameter of the .45 Colt case that helps it so much in capacity and caliber weakens it in the critical area, the cylinder. Thin webs and walls in the cylinder is the rule instead of the exception in the .45. While it is evident to anyone that can see, that the .45 cylinder isn't quite as strong as say a .41 or .44 Mag cylinder, there are many other myths and rumors that the .45 Colt is unsuitable for hot or if you prefer "Magnum" loads. The first argument against the .45 Colt is the weakness of the guns chambered for it. Then probably the case itself comes next with its supposedly weak base and small rim that pulls off while reloading. Also many fear that a case with a balloon head might accidentally get mixed with the new brass and be charged with a heavy load. There are probably more rumors than this and if you shoot the .45 you are more than likely aware of them. Now that the accusation's have been made, let's sort them out and see which ones hold water. First, let's look at the guns available and see how they stand up — strength wise compared to say a popular model in .44 Magnum.

In our testing we broke these guns listed above into two classes, heavy frame and light frame. We listed the Abilene, not by Mossberg but the old Abilene built by U.S. Arms in New York and The Seville from United Sporting Arms of Tucson, Arizona. We didn't have a Ruger in .45 Colt to test and while it may be strong enough to handle our loads, we tried in the so called heavy framed guns. I can't say and won't say they are OK for the Ruger, because we didn't test it. Maybe these guns should be broken down into three classes as heavy, medium and light, but for now heavy and light will serve OK.

While there are many load combinations and bullets available for the .45 Colt, we chose what we feel are the most useful for the hunter who wants

Gun	Manufacturer	Web	Wall	Outside Diameter
Ruger Super Blackhawk (44 Mag.)	Sturm, Ruger	.080	.080	1.725
Smith & Wesson .44 Mag.	Smith & Wesson	.082	.080	1.718
Abilene .44 Mag.	U.S. Arms	.092	.080	1.730
Abilene .45 Colt	U.S. Arms	.070	.075	1.730
Seville .45 Colt	United Sporting Arms	.067	.080	1.732
Ruger Blackhawk .45 Colt	Sturm, Ruger	.060	.075	1.730
Smith & Wesson 25-5 .45 Colt	Smith & Wesson	.065	.065	1.710
Colt .45 Colt				
(New Frontier & SAA)		.038	.064	1.665
Dakota .45 Colt	Jager	.042	.060	1.665
Mitchell Arms .45 Colt		.042	.065	1.670

Note* . . . Web measurement is between chambers in cylinder. Wall measurement is thickness between chamber and outside diameter of cylinder. All measurements taken at rear of cylinder.

the most out of his gun. In our tests we used the following bullets: 225 gr. Speer JHP, 240 Sierra JHP, 250 Hornady JHP, 255 gr. Keith hard cast No. 454424. For fun we also tried a couple of extra bullets we happened to have on hand. They were the Lyman No. 457191A and the 457122. The No. 457191A calls for a 292 gr. solid slug and I think is intended for the 45-90. From straight wheel weights our slugs weighed 305 gr., sized .452 and lubed. The 457122 is the old original 330 gr. Gould Express bullet. This is a good all around bullet for most any of the old .45 caliber rifles. This bullet weighed in at around 328 sized .452 and lubed in its hollow point configuration. Before you start loading you should check your gun inside and out very closely.

The loads we have worked up are from the results and work of nearly two years, so don't think you can go right to the top overnight. First be sure your gun is in good mechanical condition and if it is used when you bought it that it has not been previously overloaded or abused. Next check the bore for diameter. This is done by slugging the bore. I have seen bore diameter in .45s to run from a very tight .448 to a sloppy .455. Also check the throat in the barrel, this is the first inch or so of the barrel that screws into the frame. Many gun companies screw the barrel into the frame excessively tight and constrict the bore a thousands or two. What this does on firing is swage the bullet down under-size and leave it to rattle down the remainder of the barrel and good accuracy is near hopeless. This also runs

pressure up in the critical area. While you are slugging the barrel with a soft bullet you can sometimes feel the tight spots in the barrel and the throat area.

After slugging your bore if you should find your gun has a tight throat or the whole bore is a little undersized it should be relieved by lapping. For this I use a wire brush with steel wool wrapped around it and some paste valve grinding compound on the whole affair. While this may not be the best, I once opened up a Dakota from a .448 bore to a tight .451. I decided to quit there before I took the edge off the rifling. Be sure the brush is free to turn with the rifling and keep slugging the bore frequently so you don't go too far. Next check the throats on the cylinder. The same is true here as on the barrel. If the cylinder throats are smaller than the bore diameter, the gun won't usually shoot for beans. Also if they are a lot oversized the bullets may well expand to fill them with heavy charges of powder behind them, and then have to swage back down when they hit the smaller diameter of the barrel. This will result in higher than necessary pressures for the velocity you will obtain. Also cylinder gap should be tight. The tighter the gun is the harder it will shoot with each load. I prefer a cylinder gap of .002 or .003 at a maximum. Also each load will shoot different in each gun. I have seen one load in a friends gun shoot 100 fps faster than my identical gun, but yet with another load mine would give higher velocity than his. Only a chronograph will accurately tell you where you are at. As I mentioned earlier, we have worked on these loads for nearly two years. We have shot them extensively in every gun tested and have not yet stretched one gun or took the head off a case. These loads have been shot through at least 10 different guns and the results have been the same every time . . . No trouble at all. How safe these loads are, only you can be the judge, but after firing well over 500 rounds of hot stuff through most of these guns my mind is pretty well made up that they are OK.

We recommend that you start at minimum loads listed and work up slowly from there constantly checking your gun for signs of excessive pressure. We also recommend that you shoot several rounds with each load level to get the feel of the gun and its characteristics. When we reached what we thought was a heavy load, we stopped there and used that load for two or three months extensively before we went on up thus accounting for the two years to get to the top. Each of these loads have been shot extensively by the author and more than a few others.

Continued On Page 12

Six ENTERPRISES . . . first name in fiberglass stocks

introduces

The J.D. Special for XP-100 Pistols

The J.D. Special is the result of combining our more than 10 years of experience in the manufacture of 'glass stocks with the invaluable design assistance of J.D. Jones, well known competitor, designer and firearms authority. The inherent strength of fiberglass, and the advantages offered are well known. We believe the J.D. Special is the finest silhouette stock ever manufactured. Period!

Introductory prices

J.D. Special Silhouette Stock . . . \$70.00

J.D. Special with Powers Bedding Block Installed . . . \$110.00

Dealer inquiries are invited but must be accompanied by a current F.F.L.

For information on the complete line of Six Enterprises' stocks for pistols and rifles, send for a FREE catalog today.

Six ENTERPRISES

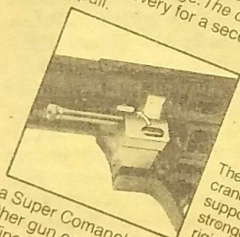
6564 Hidden Creek Drive
San Jose, California 95120
(408) 268-8296

**GO AHEAD,
TAKE A LOOK.
TAKE
ANOTHER LOOK.**

Tough. Accurate. Reliable. Precision-built. The smoothest action going. Take a good hard look at the new .44 DA Super Comanche.
Go ahead, examine the Smith & Wesson Model 29, the Dan Wesson, the Ruger Redhawk. Now compare the features that make this the standout among all magnums: The precision-lapped, heavyweight bull barrel for target accuracy. The matte finish, ventilated rib for more efficient heat dissipation, less glare and less target mirage. The oversized grip that soaks up recoil, allows for better control and a faster recovery for a second shot. The super-wide trigger for a more comfortable, controlled pull.



The foolproof, eccentric cam system on which the hammer pivots and makes accidental discharge virtually impossible.



The three-point crane/cylinder support for a stronger, more rigid lock-up.

Now make your own analysis of the Llama Super Comanche. Be thorough. Be critical. Once you compare this Llama to any other gun on the market...we're convinced you will come to the same conclusion: Tough yet refined. Massive yet manageable. Power with precision. The smoothest action going.
The all new Llama .44 DA Super Comanche. It can't be beat.

LLAMA

Illustrated catalog \$2.00. For nearest dealer, call toll free 800-631-0722. In N.J. call collect (201) 440-2700 or write:
Stoeger Industries
55 Ruta Court
S. Hackensack, N.J. 07606
Stoeger Canada, Ltd.
165 Idema Road
Markham, Ontario
L3R-1A9

45 *Continued From Page 11*
All chronographing was done with an Oehler Model 12 with Skyscreen II Detectors. Five foot spacing between screens was used and velocities were taken at 15 ft. from muzzle. We used both Winchester and Remington standard .45 Colt brass. CCI No. 350 Magnum primers were used exclusively. Warning!! If you use Federal brass cut all loads by two full grains. Federal brass has two grains less capacity than Winchester and Remington brass. We recommend that you start at least two grains below all of our minimum loads, especially in the light frame guns. We have started here ourselves, but didn't take the time to chronograph any of the loads below our minimum. In all of our testing and loads we used H-110 and Winchester WW 296 powders exclusively. The .45 is a large case of Magnum dimensions so to speak and like nearly all large capacity cases, the .45 performs best with slow powders. We don't think that the .45 case has enough capacity to work with IMR-4227 as it did with H-110 and WW296 but we haven't tested it either, so if you use 4227 and are having good luck more power to ya. We chose the

ball powders for three reasons: First and most important is the burning rate. Heavy charges of fast burning powders are poison in a sixgun. The pressure curve is too fast and puts too much pressure on the cylinder too quick. For light loads faster powders are fine and cheaper, but if its velocity, power and punch, you want to use the slower powders. Secondly ball powders burn cooler than regular single or double base powders and we feel this is a big help when shooting lead bullets whether cast or swaged versions. And third, the graphite in the ball powder not only helps the powder flow easier through a powder measure, but we feel that a little of that graphite can't help but stay in the barrel and that too cuts down on leading. We don't have any way to prove this out, but we have such good results with cast bullets that we won't change. Hercules 2400 is also a good standby, but it is the fastest burning powder I myself will use for any loads over the 1000 — 1100 fps mark. We have done some testing with it, but not near as much as with the two ball powders listed. In all of our testing we have found H-110 and WW 296 so close together in burning rates that the

loading data is nearly the same for both, but velocities will not be the same. There are times WW 296 will get higher velocities than an equal charge of H-110 and then by using another type or weight of bullet H-110 will perform better. Not in all cases, but usually WW 296 will obtain higher velocities than H-110, especially with the heavier bullets. Winchester warns not to load their WW 296 powder below recommended loading and near maximum capacity. Even with loads of down to 20 or 21 grains of WW 296 we have not had any trouble other than a few squibbs. If this happens work on up another grain or so if pressure signs look favorable and the problem of squibbs will more than likely disappear.
A velocities in the following were fired from a U.S. Arms Abilene with a 6.5 inch barrel at around 60°. Using H-110 we were able to obtain 1581 F.P.S. with the 225 Speer. Actually, 1520 F.P.S. was the best load. Going to the 240 Sierra JHP, I was able to get 1508 F.P.S. The 250 Hornady was somewhat slower at 1429 F.P.S. The 255 grain Keith style Lyman 454424 topped out at 1396 F.P.S. The Lyman

457191A 305 grain maxed at over 1260 F.P.S. The 330 grain also got up to 1250 F.P.S.

Anyone interested in obtaining the exact load data can contact me at Box 1263, Cody, WY 82414. AC 307-587-6608.

Editors Note: Unfortunately, there are problems with printing all of the goodies such as experimental loading data. I understand .45 Colt cases are made from the same blanks as .44 Mag. are. Modern .45 Colt cases are quite strong in the lead area. I would have no quarrel with 40,000 C.U.P. personally. As you can see from John's table cylinders vary considerably in dimension — not to mention alloy and heat treat. I'm certainly not shocked by Johns loads and feel quite sure I've fired .45 Colt loads developing more pressure than his. Obviously some of his loads would be likely to take some .45 Colt revolvers apart with one shot. The Ruger is reputed to be very tough; however, I'm aware of several taken apart by experimenters. — Note the cracked Ruger .44 Magnum cylinder shown in this issue. It can happen to you! I'm not knocking Johns experiments, but after 20 plus years of experimental handloading — some of the results become known as Super Vel — I'm a lot less bold than I used to be. But, I'm just as positive the experimenters need all the encouragement they can get. You now have high performance handgun ammo because of strictly experimental handloading that evolved into Super Vel ammo. That was the first step toward high performance ammo by the big ammo makers.

**JANUARY
HHI HUNT**

Telico Junction Hunting Preserve. Be prepared for anything. Temperatures could be warm — 50 or 60; or it could be nice like 10° in snow — just hope it isn't 32° and raining. Whichever way it happens the hills are steep, dogs loud and action fast. Cost of a hog hunt will run around \$300. Some exotics; sheep and goats will also be available. Get in on January 13 — out the evening of 15th or 16th. Drive or fly to Knoxville, TN. No reservations accepted without a \$50.00 deposit. Some interesting people will be there — maybe even some interesting guns. For more info write HHI or call 614-264-0176. Limited to twelve.

PLL

Sherm Harns is awarding Greg Peterson and Bud McDonald each a Precision Loaders Log for their articles in the October issue of THE SIX-GUNNER.

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS
HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

CARE AND FEEDING OF A "SILVERHAWK"

By Tom Frick, No. 23

It's past time to expand on the brief report in February's SIXGUNNER about HHI's Super B 44. Last winter was totally unproductive for me as far as hunting goes. The seasons in Ohio have been shrinking lately. Not many years ago, you could hunt something with hair 12 months a year. Now even rabbit and fox end about mid-January.

The last week of the season, Ted and I strapped on snowshoes, white coveralls and white face masks and trudged out on a fox calling and bunny tracking expedition. The newly christened "Silverhawk" (with an HHI SB, who could need a Redhawk?) was slung along under my left arm in an N-frame size Jackass rig which it fits perfectly.

Sixguns on snowshoes is a great way to spend a bright sunny Winter day. We soon dug in along a drifted fence-line and started calling. Fox and deer tracks dotted the open fields along the ditches and woodlots. The plaintive cries of the Burnham Bros. tapes echoed along the cut-off and back through "Pete's Woods" without convincing Red that his lunch was ready. At 9 a.m., bunnys were fair game, so we reluctantly gave up our warm holes in the drift and tried to get back up on our snowshoes. In the process of crawling out of the drift and trying to get both feet tracking to stand up on (try it sometime on snowshoes) I managed to dump myself and the Silverhawk head-first into the drift. When back to a near normal position, the .44 was checked out. Snow packed the barrel and cylinder and was frozen all over the sights, as the body-warmed handgun sank into over two feet of snow. Field stripping the Ruger can be accomplished with stiff-gloved hands, and a frozen weed stem with a strip of torn hanky for a cleaning kit. The Hunters' Handgun was soon ready to go.

As we shod off through the woods, several things became apparent. In fairly deep snow on "Michigans" with your hands free from long guns, keeping your balance is just no problem, and you can push through brush and briars that would bog you down if you were just wearing boots.

Tracks were everywhere, just as out in the open, but the critters must have been working overtime in the past night's full moonlit snow. Not a hair (or hare) was to be found anywhere, but the anticipation kept the body heat on high. The semi-pleasant odor of fox musk teased our nostrils as we checked out several known dens along the cut-

off ravine. We followed the creek back, over the drifts and frozen clover fields without firing a single shot. The trip afield was far from a loss. A great day out on snowshoes with the "Silverhawk" was quite fulfilling.

Next on the agenda was to be another snowshoe hunt, this time in the lake country swamps of Northwestern lower Michigan for the big, delicious snowshoe hares that often tempt you to spoil your deep hunting vigil in November. The season lasts until March 31st so it somewhat helps to break the hunting drought in Ohio. An early February hunt was booked with ole number 798, but Pop still hasn't got the knack of controlling the weather. After rolling 350 miles north through snow, we hit an early spring-like monsoon, which soon erased most of the snow and filled the tamarack swamps with running water. Once again the "Silverhawk" went hunting . . . the weather-proof Metalife SS and Pachmayrs were designed with this kind of hunting in mind. No rusting or cleaning problems to worry about. Also no rabbits were swimming around the swamps, though the tracks in the remaining snow showed we were in the right place; deer tracks showed the red-coats didn't get them all, either. To make matters worse, Pop outshot me with my own new .44 in an impromptu shootin' match deep in the woods.

To date, for shame, the HHI .44 has taken little game. The only score has been three starlings and one barn pigeon downed in mid-flight with Speer 44 shotshells. If that sounds easy, just try it. The range of the shotshells is not very far, and I've seen a lot of guys miss pigeons with 12 gauges as they barreled out of a barn window at full speed. (Don't ask how many of the Speers I burned up.)

A couple of loads have outstanding bench accuracy through the "Silverhawk". A varmint-medium game load of CCI mag primers, 26.5 gr. H110, under the Speer 200 JHP in S & W brass is a real smoker! Two clicks up from DFB is flat to 100M; same setting with the full insert resting over the Clark rear blade will drop as many slugs into a woodchuck hole at 200 yards as you would care to fire. Penetration on a live scrub hickory of 4" diameter was only 2" and expansion was about the size of a half dollar.

Got a shot at a 'chuck in early Spring; held six o'clock at the 50 yard varmint and sent the Speer HP to POA. Musta've tickled his belly with all the mud thrown up from the



Tom, all set up with white camo, snowshoes and sixgun.

mount. The bullet opened in the loose dirt to a classic mushroom.

Another load right on the money is a 240 Keith-style SWC, cast HARD, 21 gr. 2400. Warm but pleasant for any 44 shooter, but the lead splash from the "portholes" cover up the ramp in 3 or 4 shots.

By the way, I knocked out the red insert (sorry, Kelly) and cast in an epoxy-mix hot pink fluorescent for better identification in poor light.

The superhard finish cleans up better than any blue gun. Just a wipe off at times with an oily rag and a quick mop through the tubes will suffice. The new lead wipe-off cloths take care of the hard crud, and a thorough clean-up with brushes and Hoppe's makes it look like NIB. The trigger pull is now down to around 25 oz. Reversing the hammer pivot pin and screw dropped 1/2 pound at once. It fits better if the retaining groove (and long screw) is assembled on the right hand side as the gun is in shooting position. Some Rugers have been coming through just the opposite of their own directions in the manual, possibly by being put together with the revolver held upside down. Did it myself the first time I tore one down and mis-reassembled it.

Still working on a big game load . . . I prefer the Sierra 240 JHC . . . one of the most accurate 44 bullets used in silhouette shooting, but it has a fairly hard jacket which gives good penetration, but needs near max loads for reliable (?) expansion in meat. Also the "Silverhawk" eats S & W factory 240 JHP's like candy — very accurate!

Bianchi SA crossdraw rig and belt is

a good field combo as is the Jackass system intended for the big Smiths. Fits great for off the shelf leather.

If I picked up another HHI Ltd. edition Ruger SB 44, would I rush right out to shoot it? DAMBETCHA! If you want one, better hurry. I'm gonna order one for Tom Jr. ASAP.

HIGH COUNTRY BEAR

By Mark Kowack, No. 429

I couldn't sleep. It was July 3 and I was camped near the head of a canyon on the Montana side of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area. The Idaho state line was a ridge no more than a half mile away. The mountains were exceptionally green and beautiful following a very wet spring. Walking in, I'd come through bear grass so plentiful and high I looked like I'd been lightly dusted by flour over much of my height from the bear grass pollen clinging to me.

It had been somewhat of a tiring walk, with 80° plus heat and a trail that often didn't exist, making me pick my way carefully, often over deadfalls and other rough footing. Crossing a couple of small creeks had been tricky too, with their still slightly swollen waters giving me reason to take time to select safe routes.

After setting up camp I was tired but
Continued On Page 14

From **Clinton River** HOME OF THE **Ambusher**
Gun Service



A complete Catalog of Services offered by one of America's foremost gun shops.

Clinton River specializes in quality repair, accurizing and custom gunsmithing.

Send \$.25 for the New Clinton River brochure.

The Clinton River **AMBUSER** is the first special issue based on the Ruger Blackhawk Convertible .357/9mm.



CLINTON RIVER GUN SERVICE, INC.
48 CROCKER BLVD. • MT. CLEMENS, MICHIGAN 48043 • (313) 468-1090

THE Shooters' Accessory Box from MTM

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

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

MTM's Equipment Box measures a full 21" x 9" x 9 1/4". Construction is of rugged polypropylene, with metal hinge and latches.

Add \$.75 to any order sent the company, to cover handling and postage.

For complete data on THE Shooters' Equipment Box, see your local MTM Dealer, or send for Free catalog.



\$26.69

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

Bear *Continued From Page 13*

didn't feel like sleeping. It was 9:10 p.m. and still plenty light. Sometimes it doesn't get dark till around 10:30 p.m. that time of year. Restless, I threw open the tent flap and there he was! A beautiful bear was coming down one side of the basin headed on a downward diagonal course above my camp. His head was a dark chocolate color, his neck a blond somewhat like a grizzly and his body a cinnamon/brown/blond mix, it seemed. He was 300 yards away and getting closer. The binoculars brought him to inspection distance.

He looked healthy and his hide looked good; not patchy from losing hair in the heat as I expected. I'd stopped hunting bear in mid-June since hides are usually no good after that time so I thought I'd try to get closer and just watch him. Then I figured, "Wait a minute. It's only been hot a couple of weeks and this is a high country bear (where it's cooler and the hide could be good later into the summer)". Realizing this and seized by the desire and opportunity to bag another of my favorite critters with a handgun, I thought or said, almost loud enough for the bear to hear, "I'm gonna get me a bear!" Whipping on my clothes, boots and the shoulder holstered six inch M29, I was already contemplating my stalk, keeping in mind to stay cool and wait for my shot.

Now ready, I headed up the side of the basin which was pretty wide open. Moving 150-200 yards uphill, I stopped behind a big long rock, two feet high on its right side, behind which I waited. Not seeing the bear, I thought he'd disappeared, as game can. But, since he'd been headed towards some brush and trees in front of me along a creek coming down the side of the basin, I waited. Then, maybe thirty-five yards away, the bear appeared briefly in an opening. Since his course would take him even closer to me across the grassy hillside and into the open, I continued waiting. Now, at twenty-twenty five yards, by heart sank, as at this angle, the bear seemed too small, like a just deserted cub. I was thinking I wouldn't kill him and didn't want to do anything to make it necessary. Being this close to a bear I thought wasn't shootable was uncomfortable. But still, being in his realm with him totally unaware was fabulous! The scene was alive — the grass, rocks, brush and the bear seemed slightly animated; brighter than real life.

My sadness ended quickly as the bear came into clear view and I realized he was a keeper, about 160 pounds, which is about average for that area.

In plain view, the bear was still angling downhill past me and at fifteen yards I poked my head up to get a good look. The bear, now broadside, looked at me and stopped. I disappeared, thinking he wouldn't spook if I didn't remain in sight but came almost right back up cocking the gun. The bear heard this and stopped, now fourteen yards away. Looking at me as I took aim, the bear just stood there. Aiming for a high lung shot and with a clear sight picture, the gun went off.

With the shot, the bear was jolted to his right, wasn't knocked off his feet or apparently bothered too much. He seemed to pause and gather himself up. Then he took off, headed right past me. Getting close, his mouth came open, as if the air had been knocked out of him. Cocking again, feeling uncomfortable at the sudden closeness but standing my ground, I waited,

knowing I'd have a close broadside shot as the bear whizzed past, I pulled the trigger with six feet separating the .44's muzzle and the bear's side. Boom! Whop! and the bear dropped onto his side as if he'd hit a wall. "Good," I thought, "now you're dead twice." Pause. Wait. Now, the bear tried to sit up facing me, his mouth again open as if needing air, ineffectually reaching up with his right front leg and paw. Blam, again! Dead center in the chest and down he went again, hard. (Time lapse, no more than eight seconds from first to third shots.) Now, with this bear who I figured I'd killed three times, I decided that if he was really coming after me, he could find me, I was changing locations. I moved around the rock and came up behind Mr. Never Gonna Die.

Some trembling, which I'm sure was nerves, rippled the bear's body. One last time, BLAM! All was still. I waited, then hit him with a rock. Nothing. Walked to his head and hit, then touched his eye with a stick. Motionless at last. Seven miles from the trailhead, alone, I'd pulled it off. Not the kind of situation I'd have relished or probably tackled, seven years ago when I started hunting. But I'd known, this night that I was ready.

No more than fifteen minutes had elapsed since I'd first seen the bear and the shooting had probably covered fifteen seconds. It didn't seem like slow motion, but each part of the experience provided time to get at least a glimpse, and usually more of it.

With maybe an hour of light left, I started skinning like mad. I was careful and lucky, making only one cut in the hide and none, or none of consequence, in myself. By dark, all but the front of the face was off the carcass. I'd cut the claws off the feet, which I didn't skin out, in the morning.

Before going back down to camp, maybe two hundred yards away at most, I washed my hands real good in the creek. Not relishing drawing any furry visitors, I then left my shirt, pants and boots outside the tent. Now satisfied and with a warm contentment, I thought I could sleep. Wrong! I didn't do so 'til about 4:00 a.m. I thought it was because of concern over visitors being attracted by the blood but I was just plain keyed up. The experience and achievement of completing this hunt alone in such a fantastic setting on such a beautiful day was a truly exciting gift and like a kid at Christmas, I was sparkling.

A couple hours of sleep and back to finish the job. Looking at the carcass, the first shot had passed completely through slightly below the spine. Both lungs and shoulders appeared completely penetrated with no bone being broken. The chest shot resulted in the bullet hitting the spine, lodging next to it under the hide.

My load was the Speer 240 JSP (jacketed semi-wadcutter), 23 grains of 296, W-W cases and CCI LP Magnum primers. This bullet is the one I and others have had the problem of the core creeping out of the jacket during recoil. I discovered that Speer Reloading Manual No. 9, which I'd loaded from before, had a lower minimum powder charge than Speer Reloading Manual No. 10. Since a charge below minimum causes the creeping, as Speer states, the problem appears solved, or close to it, for me with a load of twenty-three grains of 296, which is within the new minimum and maximum. I've had little or no creeping with this powder charge over

the last couple of months.

The walk out was strenuous, but there was a happiness present over the aches, sweat and heat. After I'd been home awhile, I felt real good, kind of like my whole body was smiling. It had been one of those times when you know the Creator had heaped your pile of gold a good bit higher than usual.

THE NIGHT HUNTER

By R. Donnelly, No. 334

I looked at my watch — one o'clock in the morning on a frigid October night in the blackened mountains of the Catskills. The wind is messaging the barren tree branches while the now lifeless, dried leaves of early autumn busily dance on the hard frost bitten ground. Now and then, a skyward ghostly white form silently glides by, temporarily shielding from view the infinite sparkling starlights piercing the darkness. On some nights that bright white nocturnal sun showers its rays downward to the forest casting eerie shadows from everything it touches. In the distance, that never ending sound of rushing ice water can be heard changing the shapes of ice covered rocks. Momentary distant cries of the great horned owl echo through the hills and valleys. What mortal dares to enter this nightly domain of that which we cannot see? The night hunter.

Here I am amidst what must be the epitome of aloneness and desolation. Yet, I continue my trudge along the forever winding rocky dirt road; my headlight penetrating the wall of darkness while my boots search for a solid foothold with each step. Unexpectedly, defiant of the darkness, I am faced with a pair of glaring eyes thirty yards away. I froze. The coldness leaves my body. My heart begins to pound. Slowly, I rased my scoped Contender chambered for the potent .221 Remington and, after what seems like an eternity, I switch on my scope light and slowly squeeze the trigger. My 50 grain Sierra Blitz bullet finds its way to the owner of those defiant glaring eyes while the sound of the shot continues to echo its success throughout the mountainside. The masked bandit now proudly hangs on my wall.

We hunting enthusiasts excuse our way into seeking game 365 "days" each year — turkey and bear in the spring, varmints in the summer and small and big game in the fall and winter. But, when you take into consideration that most small game animals are nocturnal, the realization of what you are missing is quite evident. There are eight to twelve hours of darkness every day abundant with animal life.

Now I know you have all read about coon hunting at night with dogs and night calling out west with the Burnham brothers but did you ever consider the challenge of night hunting with only you and your handgun? Well my friends, you just don't know what you are missing.

Before continuing, though, I feel I must defend the idea of hunting alone, especially at night. First, a good competent hunting partner that won't blow your balls off is hard to come by. A re-

cent article in this areas largest selling newspaper printed the gun related hunting accidents of 1980 for New York State. Pitiful are the facts that out of 90 accidents, even of which were fatal, 58 hunters were shot by their companions and 22 hunters shot themselves. I have also discovered that, one on one, handgunners are, 99% of the time more knowledgeable of their weapons and safer on the range than other shooters. In conjunction with the aforementioned, it is exceptionally rare indeed to know of, let alone encounter another night hunter, especially here in the east. The key factor that will enable all of us to enjoy hunting season after hunting season is safety.

We hunt with the handgun because of the challenge it offers. We must be more knowledgeable of game animals' habits, must excel in the development of stalking skills, must pass up more shots, and must be able to shoot on a higher par than our rifle toting brothers to insure hunting success. Night hunting with a handgun requires the accomplishment of these objectives with an even higher degree of competency and consistency than the daytime handgun hunter.

Stipulatory of this is the primary concern of the night hunter-safety. My conscience mandates that I highlight some of the hazards encountered at night that might be unfamiliar to you such as limited distance of vision, increased chances of becoming lost, impaired ability to watch where you are going and animal identification based on glowing eyes and offer some safety precautions.

Because you walk, shoot, run, and reload in darkness, special care must diligently be practiced regarding all aspects of hunting safety. Preparation is the key factor to reducing certain hazards. Emphasis must be directed towards knowing your terrain as well as the quarry you are pursuing. Spend time in the day learning game whereabouts, landmarks and problem areas. You must have a mental picture of the area you will hunt because it will look deceitfully different at night. Limited vision and constant scanning for eyes allows, for the most part, only your peripheral vision to identify any hazards in your path. (A headlight is donned for night hunting.) I have found that purposely lifting your feet a little higher than normal, as in marching, will prevent you from tripping over stones and branches. Once you shoot, making your way to the animal can be difficult since, if you take your eyes off the spot that you shot at, you may very well spend needless time searching for your game. This situation is intensified if the animal is wounded. Specific knowledge of your terrain concurrent with a purposeful marching gait reduces these hazards.

Believe me when I tell you — fifty feet into the woods at night off the beaten path is equivalent to being fifty miles off course if you are not careful. There are less landmarks at night to help with direction. So, after you shoot — THINK before you retrieve. Pick out at least one landmark and always be aware of it with your light. Never lose sight of it. If you are one of those people whose sense of direction is lacking carry and use a small extra flashlight to place on the ground shining up to mark the spot where you fired from. Proceed then to your quarry. After I shoot, my eyes remain fixed on the spot where the animal eyes were shining, my peripheral vision picks out

Continued On Page 15

a landmark, I make my way to the area of the animal, check again for my landmark and then search for my game. If you become turned around — remember — fifty plus yard shots will be very rare indeed, so you will usually be within fifty yards of your original shooting position. A methodical circular search will bring you back to your starting spot should you become turned around.

My final point of safety deals with game identification. Many factors will determine how much of, if any, of the animal will be seen. The ability to correctly match an animal with a pair of glowing eyes comes through experience and common sense. (Please be aware that human eyes do not reflect light and therefore do not glow at night.) Air quality, humidity, amount of moonlight and starlight and the angle of your headlight are all variables that make it unwise to identify animals by eye color. Glowing eye colors at night can vary through almost the entire light spectrum. The same species of game will exhibit different eye colors based on these variables. The size of the eyes, their distance apart from each other, distance off the ground, eye movements and knowledge of animal habitat will be the determining factors of whether to shoot or not. Unless you are 100% positively definite of the animal's identification, Don't shoot. Then after positive identification make your first shot count as you will not get another. And, since you will have a working knowledge of the terrain — keep in mind where your bullet will impact if you miss your target. You must also check out individual state and local laws regarding night hunting and/or caliber restrictions.

Sequential to safety are psychological factors that will be of concern to the night hunter (this is primarily regarding the first few night hunts) especially since so many safety precautions require that you have your wits about you. At 9 a.m. you are excited about the forthcoming night hunt. At 3 p.m. with the sun going down, excitement develops into anticipation. At 5 p.m. apprehension sets in and then at almost total darkness apprehension turns into anxiety. At 10 p.m., in total darkness and out in the woods, anxiety can escalate into fear. Mild anxiety sharpens our senses and increases our awareness but too much

anxiety has opposite and adverse effects. Understand that anxiety is a troubled feeling of distress related to a real or imagined threat. Fear is a strong, unpleasant emotion caused by an awareness of danger. Many people are fearful of solitude and darkness, especially if they are in the woods. These fears relate to either a misunderstanding of nature (ie. being attacked by animals) or to our past childhoods that were filled with monsters and boogey men that appeared after dark. Realistically, these are imagined fears. How unfortunate it is that so many of us don't know the luxury and peace of mind that can come from solitude at night in the forest. Confidence in your ability, your gun, ammunition and the other safety features previously mentioned will aid greatly in reducing your possible fear back to mild anxiety. Confidence through experience will overcome the rest. Keep in mind that at night, mankind is asleep. I have never met another night hunter, let alone anyone at all in the woods at night. There are no animals waiting to ambush you. If you call at night though, and become the hunted, it can be quite an experience to have a raccoon charge at you or suddenly, out of seemingly nowhere, run between your legs. Your surprised yelps will surely make him/her aware that you were not a bird or rabbit. It is the unexpected happenings that make for future tale telling. Reverence for safety and use of common sense concomitant with self-confidence are guarding factors that will aid in the establishment of memorable night hunts.

Before I discuss types and techniques of night hunting, I should acquaint you with the equipment I use. First, a well made, high intensity, light weight headlight with preferably a three inch reflector and adjustable headband is needed. My preference for a headlight set is one that incorporates a six volt battery system as opposed to the use of four D size batteries due to the six volters superiority in duration. When purchasing a headlight (6-volt) you are usually supplied with a plastic battery carrying case that fits on your belt. Throw it out and either purchase or construct your own out of heavy cloth or leather. The plastic cases simply do not last. Also, obtain a red lense cap for your light as animals are not too disturbed by red light. Always carry an

extra bulb with you.

Besides a knife, cord, calls, and a small flashlight, I carry as my main night hunting weapon the Thompson/Center contender with a ten inch bull barrel (chambered for the .221 Remington), with Herrett grips (due to the configuration of the Herrett grips, I am able to manage a quicker sight picture than with the Pachmayr grips), a Leupold M8-2 scope with the now discontinued maxi-mounts and applied to this set up is a little home accurizing to take the vertical and horizontal play out of barrel lock up. On top of the scope sits a scope light with twin transistor batteries as sold by any number of manufacturers listed in major gun magazines. These scope lights work by mercury switches. I removed the mercury switch and ran two thin wires, connected to a flat pressure switch, to the grip to be activated by my thumb just before firing. On the back of the scope light reflector it is imperative to apply a layer of rubber compound corking (as used for bathtubs or boats) about one sixteenth to one eighth of an inch thick. This will prevent the fragile reflector from cracking and shattering. This set up allows you to see the scope crosshairs at a distance out to one hundred yards. As an aside, I recently mounted an Aimpoint sight, which projects a red dot by batteries, with Weaver mounts on my contender and this set up looks to be both promising and deadly. (ED: The Aimpoint will not stay on a hard kicking Contender in Weaver mounts.)

The Contender is not holstered since quick shots will be the rule. As a back up I carry a 6" S&W model 29 chambered with .44 magnum loads (Remington cases, CCI No. 350 primers, 21.5 gr. 296, Hornady 265 gr. F.P.) Now that equipment has been reviewed, an understanding of hunting techniques will be in a more explicit perspective.

I have divided night hunting into two categories. The first I call jump hunting. The name implies the method used. Animals like to make use of logging roads and dirt paths. A dirt road parallel and adjacent to a stream is ideal. A slow meander along these roads gives the greatest opportunity to see game. Small game is on the move most of the night so even if you do not see anything on the first pass on a road, the walk back could prove productive. With this type of approach shots will usually be close (within 25

HUNTING TIP

Drop a Ziploc bag of hunters "gorp" in you vest pocket or fanny pack on the way out of camp. (Equal measures of M&M's, raisins, and unsalted peanuts, or whatever else you like.) No need to come in for lunch if the hunt's going strong. Light weight — high energy. A slug of water to wash it down, and you're good 'til sundown.



Hornady 45 cal. "hard ball" now in flat point!



45 cal. 230 gr. Full Metal Jacket

Since 1911, 45 caliber ACP ammunition has always been round nose. Now Hornady announces an innovation for the 45 caliber hard ball ammo. Designed in cooperation with the U.S. Air Force, Hornady's new flat point 45 caliber ACP bullet has improved the performance characteristics of the traditional round nose design. The new flat point design:

- Feeds smoothly from the magazine—no hang ups.
- Lengthens the effective bearing surface—greater stability.
- Improves alignment with the barrel throat—better accuracy.
- Increases the ballistic coefficient.
- Means a superior bullet for the 45—more accurate than match—better penetration than conventional.

Combining the talents of Air Force ballistics personnel and Hornady engineers, round nose 45 ACP ammo can now be improved with our new, more efficient flat point shape. And whether it's the winning shot in match competition or one shot at a trophy, you can always rely on Hornady... new hard ball in flat point is one more reason why.

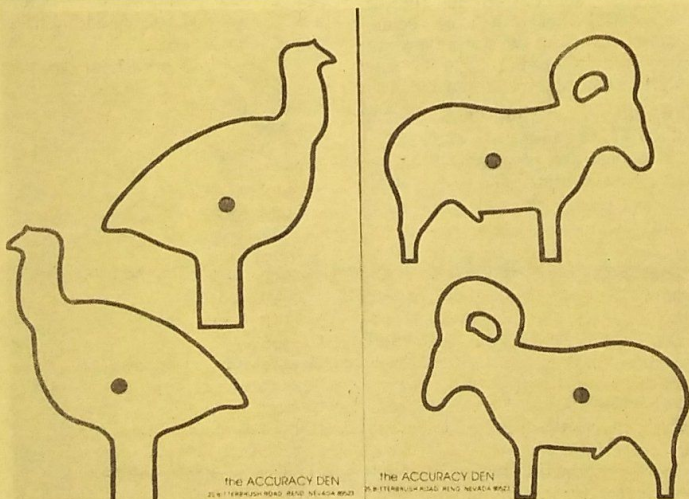
Ammunition loaded by Frontier is also available with our new flat point hard ball.

For more information about Hornady bullets, contact your dealer or write:



Hornady

HORNADY MANUFACTURING CO.
Dept. _____, Box 1848, Grand Island, NE 68801



Vern Juenke (The Accuracy Den, 25 Bitterbrush Rd., Reno, NV 89523) is now marketing a set of four magnetic rubberized cards with spotting discs for silhouette shooters contained in a neat vinyl folder. It's a good aid and works. No misunderstandings between shooter and spotter. Vern also is a T/C and XP expert. Order direct from the above address. I believe the price is around \$20.00.

yards) and you must be quick. Remember too, white light shoe directly into a small game animal's eyes will usually frighten it (as opposed to a deer's behavior) and cause the animal to high tail it out of there, pronto. If white light is to be used, do not shine the beam of light directly into the eyes but rather, keep the light at a 45 degree angle allowing peripheral light to spot eyes. Better yet, use the red lens cap.

If I am to stay with this type of hunting for the night, my cartridge preference is the .221 loaded with the 50 gr. Sierra Blitz pushed by 17.6 gr. of IMR 4198. At distances of up to 25 yards, the entire animal will be visible through the scope and a heart-lung shot with the blitz bullet is utterly devastating and almost instantly fatal. Because of the tangibility of this bullet, most of it's energy is imparted to the animal and my own autopsies have consistently verified that the organs of the thoracic cavity are destroyed almost beyond recognition. My registered nursing experience should give credence to my observations and no, I don't wear panty hose.

The other method of night hunting involves an entirely different approach. Calling at night and using a handgun is the other ultimate challenge at night. This type of shooting requires the utmost of patience, an accurate cartridge/gun combination, a steady rest and a high degree of self-confidence. There is a different type of excitement with long range handgunning at night. A cautious note though, because, at ranges greater than 25 yards, you can usually only see the eyes, so, animal identification becomes your most important consideration. Your target area will vary from about one to three inches (this measurement encompassing most eye to eye distances of small game animals) so a steady rest will usually be mandated. Perimeter field shots at fox and shooting coon out of trees at distances in excess of 75 yards are not uncommon. My cartridge preference for this type of shooting is the Sierra 53 gr. H.P. ahead of 16.7 gr. IMR4198. Since most long range shots are at the head (only the eyes will be visible) this bullet hangs together and causes less head damage than the blitz. Besides, headless raccoon make poor trophies. An important factor to be aware of is that distances seem to increase at night by 1 1/2-2 fold. In other words, an animal at 30 yards will appear to be about 45-60 yards away at night. This phenomenon is specific to hunting at night and only experience will be your teacher.

Also specific to night hunting are some ideal conditions of the environment that you should look for in order to prepare for a potentially successful night hunt. Since your headlight is responsible for reflecting light off animals eyes, the less amount of overhead light from the moon and stars there is, the better. The brighter the moon, the more difficult it becomes to discern eyes at increased distances. If the ground is wet or damp, all the better for the hunter since a quiet walk through the woods will be possible. As a general rule, I have found that as the temperature plummets, so does wildlife activity whereas a warming trend after a cold front increases animal activity.

So, if you think the apex of the challenge of handgun hunting is in the day, expand your horizon by experiencing the thrill of hunting with a handgun, at night, alone.

FIRING LINE

Well, I have been wanting to get this across to a lot of people and never found time to do it, so here goes my own SOAPBOX TIME . . . I just finished reading my October SIXGUNNER, "My Corner" always first. J. D. mentions the free ad of **Playboy** on their own anti-gun crusade. Well, they are welcome to do just that and I am welcome to cancel my subscription to their magazine. Let us all face the fact that this is out and out war. This country is run on the buck and you had better believe it. We, the hunters and shooters of this country can do a lot to slow down the companies who think it is the IN thing to do, to go Anti-Gun. Let them know that you are not going to spend your buck with their Company to help slit your own throat. Hey! It hurts once in a while, but let it hurt. I don't shave with Gillette, I don't vote for our present Ohio Senators, I just quit **Playboy** and **OUI**, and anyone or any company that wants to get on the ANTI'S bandwagon is going to do it without me paying the way for them. My little personal fight might not be much, but you multiply that by a million and some people and they are going to be hurting. I don't threaten them, I just write and let them know that I for one no longer do business with them and why. There are a lot of little things one can do, to help our sport, like my **American Rifleman** always goes to the local High School after I have read them. It does not hurt to try and educate kids right to start with.

My **SIXGUNNER**, after I have wrung every word out of it, is given to a local shooter that I feel will be interested enough to sign up for his own. It has worked four times already. If each member of **HHI** got four members, look how many more good people we would have fighting our cause. It does not do any good for one of us to be telling each other about all the reasons why we should have our sport, our guns and our Second Amendment rights. I'm convinced . . . try to convince some of the dummies that don't know from nothing.

Tom South, No. 696

HELP! !!! I have not received an issue of "THE **SIXGUNNER**" since the June 1981 issue. My check has long since cleared the bank. Please check this out and get my subscription going again. My dog will appreciate it since he always gets kicked around when my **SIXGUNNER** is late!

Ricky J. Roberts, No. 81

No problems with HHI and your membership. Complain to your postmaster. Missing issues on the way.

JDJ

When Sierra came out with their new loading book, they did not list their new 220-44. I wrote to them, asking if they could suggest a load with either 296 or H110. Not only did they send me back a whole sheet of loads all fired in a 7 1/2" Ruger Super Blackhawk, but a whole sheet of drop and trajectory tables and other good stuff. All at no charge. I sure didn't expect all that information. But that shows how well tuned to the handloader they are.

In my last letter, I mentioned that I ran 16,000 rounds through my Ruger. Well, just after I wrote, I had the transfer bar break. This was the first thing that went wrong of a serious nature with my Ruger. I did blow off two ejector rod housings, but I didn't consider that serious. Anyway, for a few bucks, my gunsmith made the Ruger as good as new. I have now passed the 16,500 mark. In case you would like the statistics, here they are. That is about 54 pounds of powder. Both 296 and H110, but mostly 296. And just about 600 pounds of lead give or take a few pounds. I have not counted in the jacketed stuff or light "SISSY" loads (8.8 of Unique) that I sometimes load for first time shooters of my 44. My Ruger still continues to shoot and shoot. I have to admit they are as strong as hell, and just as well finished.

Since I am not going to have a chance to deer hunt this year, I'd like to do some small game hunting with my handguns when rabbit season opens up. However, I don't like to hunt alone. All of the hunters I know personally are either rifle or shotgun shooters. It is hard to believe, but I'm the only handgun hunter I know around here. I'd sure like to meet up with some handgunners that I could talk handgun hunting with, and more importantly, someone I could hunt with here. Maybe then we could get together and do some small game hunting this season yet. Please contact me if interested in getting together. Richard Manka, No. 331, 6200 N. Kirschoff St., Rosemont, IL 60018.

My .358 is shooting great. I'm getting 2" groups at 100 yards. Hopefully, I'll be able to try it out on a bear or a deer soon. I'll also have a story on it for **THE SIXGUNNER** soon.

Bill Aurand, No. 992

A walrus hunt with handguns would be exciting. I got one with a rifle four years ago. Hope they reclassify the marine mammals so we can hunt them again. Lots of big caribou within an hour's flight. Keep up the good work.

Dan Brainard, No. 114

I have returned from my bear hunt in Maine unsuccessful (three straight days of rain); however, the potential is definitely there to make a kill.

My tree stand was selected for the gun, .44 Mag SBH, with the bait being, at worst, 25' from the stand (you can select from a ground blind or tree stand). I can highly recommend The Driftwood, Rt. 1, Box 260A, Patten, ME 04765. Phone 207-528-2936.

Mornings are reserved for grouse and coyote hunting. The Dan Wesson .22 got a good workout. The afternoon from 1:30 p.m. to dark (about 6:45

p.m.) was for the bear hunting. I have booked another hunt for the 1982 bear season (September through November).

Earl Nothstein

* * *

Hey, J. D., where's that great magazine? The last issue I got was June '81. I renewed my membership in **HHI** last May. You haven't forgotten about me, have you? I really enjoy reading the articles and hopefully I'll have some experiences to relate to the other members in the near future. The .44 Mag load I use is 22 grs. of 2400 in W-W cases and Speer 240 gr. MHP, CCI 350 Mag primers. I am also experimenting with some 250 gr. Keith type cast bullets.

Doug Scates, No. 984

Doug — Delivery of the August issue was a disaster. I don't know if the "near" postal strike had anything to do with lousy delivery or not. I'm sure several hundred members missed their deliveries. THE SIXGUNNER is sent 2nd Class Mail. That means you get it or its returned to me — according to the Post Office. It just doesn't happen that way. If you miss an issue, we'll send another — but please complain to your local Postmaster — not your mailman — that you are not receiving Second Class Mail. All copies are mailed on the same day. Sometimes Alaska gets theirs before western Ohio.

JDJ

* * *

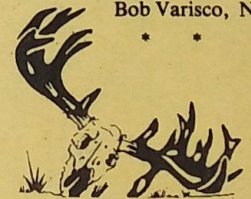
Enclosed is my renewal check for \$15.00 which I do think is a very small sum of money considering the amount of enjoyment and information that I receive in reading **THE SIXGUNNER**. Maybe if more people would just sit down and read a publication such as this, they wouldn't be so quick to criticize the sport of handgunning.

Glen Schnegg, No. 1130

* * *

My .44 Mag. gives excellent accuracy with 23.0 grs. of H-110 under the Speer 240 H.P. Killed a small buck in '77 in Maine at 35 yards with it. Not much expansion for a H.P., but broke both shoulders. Same load took a coyote last year in Maine. With a 40 yard hit through the lungs, the coyote acted as if it was struck by lightning. Not a quiver, just dropped in its tracks. Also like the 250 Keith with 22 grs. 2400, or with 23.5 grs. 296. Experimenting with Lyman's Composite bullet. Weighing in at 235 gr. and backed with 23.5 of 296, it's very accurate.

Bob Varisco, No. 1046



HANDGUN HUNTERS INTERNATIONAL

P.O. Box .357 MAG
Bloomington, OH 43910
Annual membership is \$15.00

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Check _____ M.O. _____ Cash _____