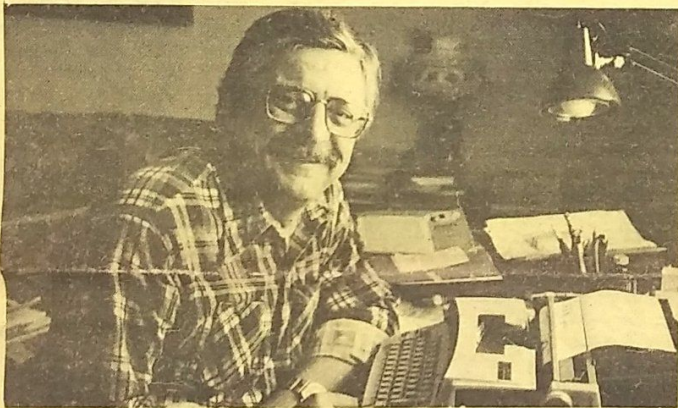




# THE SIXGUNNER



## MY CORNER

By J. D. Jones

Perhaps one of the most interesting corporate mergers is Penn Central's recent acquisition of Colt Industries. The Firearms Division is reputed to be 3-5% of Colt Industries, but there is no doubt Colt is still a major factor in the firearms industry.

What's in the future for Colt? Probably few changes will be made, except some of the executives will switch from wearing ten gallon hats to railroad caps; otherwise it's business as usual.

As some of our members are Silhouette competitors; in the Ohio State .22 Shoot - Blackie Sliva won Production Intl. with a score of 75, Rev. Intl., Standing Intl. and high over all. Of course, his wife Rosetta beat him with a 38X40 for the highest single round score of the shoot!

Phil Briggs did a number at the Internationals and came in second by ram count in AAA Revolver. John Taffin won one of the Idaho Championships, but I can't remember which one — Congratulations all on excellent shooting.

Those of you who are interested in cast bullets couldn't go wrong by joining the Cast Bullet Association, 522 Trent St., Chevy Chase, MD 20815. Twelve bucks annual dues will give you the latest — and best info about cast bullets.

T/C has introduced a new front sight for the ten inch guns. It comes in two different ramp heights, is affixed to the barrel by screws, the post is pinned in and interchangeable. Blade width is narrower than previous sights. But, the big news from T/C is their new opening device-trigger mechanism. It is supposed to give fantastic mechanical advantage, allowing easy opening of the gun with one hand no matter how tight it is set up. The trigger mechanism is also changed — for the better of course. Old guns will have to be sent back to the factory to have the new assembly fitted. Price has not yet been announced for this service. It is planned that the new mechanism will be used in new guns produced by about November 1 — maybe a little sooner — at no price increase.

The Contender Collectors Association, 4302 S. Wisconsin Ave., Stickney, IL 60402 is an organization of Contender collectors interested in furthering their knowledge of variations and in trading-selling. I've belonged a year and find their newsletter informative and interesting. If you are a collector, it would be well worthwhile to join. \$15.00 pays a years dues and also gets you the 1st years newsletters. The organization is two

*Continued On Page 2*



Necessary hunting equipment consists of a 4x4, trail bikes, all the usual camping gear and plenty of ice chests. Distances in the Australian Outback are great and civilization sparse.

## A "TROOPER" IN THE OUTBACK

By Charles T. Mower, No. 1027

It was a simple matter following the bore drain which twisted its way like a snake through the drought stricken countryside, once prime sheep and cattle pasture of the property belonging to our host. The outback of Australia had suffered severely in the last couple of years with little rain, dust storms and bush fires all adding to the misery of a falling beef market, and poor return of wool clips. Signs of the deepening drought were evident along the drain as I coaxed the 175c.c. two stroke between many rotting carcasses and skeletons of both sheep and cattle. Bare ground, lifeless scrub, accompanied by the overwhelming stench of the rotting animals weighed heavily on my mind as I stood on the pegs of the bike hopefully searching for wild pigs. When the drought hit this area nearly eighteen months previously, the property owner by a stroke of good fortune, had taken heed of the long range weather fore-

cast and decided to move the majority of his precious breeding stock to his smaller holding which borders the river twenty miles further down the highway (if that could describe the torturous section of dirt tack one has to negotiate to get there), where good grass and water were still abundant enough to sustain life for many dry months to come.

This move obviously paid its dividend for his stock has survived the rainless summer, and is one of the few properties that has not been plunged into debt through drought relief.

However, the remaining stock on the other holding were left behind to graze on what was left of the diminishing feed. Their fate was, not to die of starvation, but lack of strength through their efforts to free themselves from the squelching mud in the bore drain where many of the weakened

*Continued On Page 2*



With Christmas coming up the Sid

Three miles of twisting drain behind me and still no sign of a wild pig, surely I would strike one sooner or later on or near the drain as that was



Well, that's one less pig to run around fouling up water holes, polluting dams, destroying young crops and killing lambs, I mumbled to myself.

The pig is a prolific breeder and during the wet years in the outback channels, a sow may produce up to three litters in a year, averaging six to nine piglets per litter and as these litters have few natural enemies (the fox and native dingo may account for some deaths) these piglets will themselves breed as soon as they are big enough. Come the dry season and a different story evolves. According to the Commonwealth Scientific Industrial Research Organization (C.S.I.R.O.) whose investigations and experiments into wild pigs have shown that a sow will not become oestrus during the dry because of her own likelihood of death by dehydration, so pig numbers drop dramatically. However, the nomadic pig normally moves on to greener pastures where it can continue its life cycle, breeding profusely, much to the annoyance of the man on the land who spends enormous amounts of dollars



**Trooper** *Continued From Page 2*  
towards its destruction, but happily to the hunters who are willing to travel large distances in pursuit of good hunting.

And so it was that I came to be on this far western Queensland property along with two hunting companions of many years, endeavouring to chalk up a sizeable score and in the process help our grazier host remove these unwanted vagrants.

We'd arrived two days earlier in brilliant winter weather, cold nights, clear blue skies on warm days, totally equipped for the hunt.

We expected the pigs to be few and far between, so trail bikes were brought along in order to help reduce the vast distances (the property was 40,000 acres) we knew would be travelled daily if we wanted to get any pigs.

My companions had met with limited success the first day, but all signs had dropped, causing us to widen the search to where there may be small mobs. I managed my first kill that afternoon as explained earlier in the story. Normally my shooting is done with a custom built .257 Roberts, but growing tired of the rifle, I proposed to continue the hunt with a hand gun.

The revolver was a 6" B.B.L. MK III Colt "Trooper", a much used target weapon of mine which I brought along for this unique occasion. I say unique because, my home state law forbids hunting with handguns, but I took the opportunity to inform my host of my intentions, namely handgun hunting, and as he happened to be an administrative member of the local pistol club, he helped clear the way by organizing a special club shoot to correspond with my visit, thus legalizing the carrying of the revolver by "Yours Truly" if any doubts were raised by the local law.

Loaded with 16.6 grains of W.W. 296 in Winchester cases and magnum primers and 158 grain Hornady J.H.P.'s, this Colt has produced five shot three inch groups at 50 yards firing from the prone positions over a sandbagged rest not consistently, but four out of eight groups to me is not to be sneezed at. I had intended to chronograph the load before leaving at my local pistol club where we had a MOD 33 Oehler at our disposal, but heavy rain during the week on the coast where I reside had prevented the testing session, but if one can believe the Winchester Reloading Guide, then such a load churns up around 1600 F.P.S. at 39,500 pounds per square inch from a 6" B.B.L., a load I find very comfortable to shoot and judging by the impact it had on the downed boar, more than enough killing power.

I took some photos of the pig, then checking to see if any other pigs were in sight, kicked over the bike and continued my reconnaissance of the bore drain. The next mile proved fruitless, but as I passed through the last gate, I could see an area of green sag, a reed like grass which grows on and around swampy areas. As I approached the slough a few grey kangaroos exploded from the edge of the sag where they had been feeding on fresh green shoots. Gunning the Yamaha over the top of a levee bank, I noticed two dark colored shapes feeding near a clump of lignum out from the slough.

"Well, well!", I thought to myself, "with a little bit of luck I may just get one of these pigs." Leaving the bike, I began the slow cautious stalk towards

the feeding pigs. I estimated the distance to be around 50 yards when one of the pigs suddenly stopped feeding, turned front on to me and literally froze in his movements. Quickly placing my posterior on the hard black soil, I drew up my right leg into a typical combat style pose, thumbed back the hammer, settled the sight on the second pig's ear and squeezed off the shot. Both pigs took off into some fallen timber, but I was sure of the shot and was not surprised when only one pig emerged. This pig stopped, peered back to where obviously the other lay dead or dying and in doing so gave me a copy book shot. I sent down another 158 grainer, heard the unmistakable thump as the projectile hit solid flesh. I didn't have to look at the second shot for I knew that pig was down and out, but I kept the revolver ready as I jumped the drain and searched for the first pig. No worries, I found him or should I say her laying dead in a small depression in the ground.

I don't need to tell you how elated I was to my success with the Colt as a hunting handgun. Too bad I couldn't repeat such prowess at the competition shoot two days later. I did manage to come in third in the centre-fire shoot using the same revolver with target loads, but I guess my thoughts were far from punching holes in paper targets.

## BIG GAME CORNER

By Bud McDonald, No. 334

June in Virginia is, like in many other states, closed for most hunting. For me, a two week hunt in Wyoming is all the pure hunting I get. I spend the rest of the 348 days reading, re-reading and re-reading *The Sixgunner*, G & A and anything about hunting handguns plus trying to figure out where Bob Milek hunts.

Being a country boy of the Blue Ridge mountains, I grew up in the woods, but figured out early that cutting timber or working in a sawmill was not my cup of tea. Now firmly entrenched in a rural setting in the shadow of Washington, D.C., I find every excuse imaginable to get in a little handgunning. If you live in a metropolitan area, you know how hard that is to do!

Gardening . . . My next door neighbor owns 100 or so acres down along the river not 300 yards from our house. The soil down there is beautiful. Looks like it would support money trees. However, I noticed that he never planted anything but root crops. Ask him about this and he said the varmints are so bad he couldn't plant anything except root crops. After talking him into renting us a large plot, my wife and I planted pounds of corn, beans, greens and such things critters love to chew on.

Like most groundhog hunters, I have a couple of varmint rigs gathering dust from non-use, and from the looks of it, I still wouldn't use them on these varmints because the longest shot wouldn't be more than 150 yards. Very unsporting for 12x scopes and 26" barrels spouting lead at 3800-plus fps. I then turned to my pistols which were ideal for this situation.

The handguns I so lovingly oiled and put away back in November came back out. I prepared as one whom would be going to Africa in a few short weeks. I

burnt the midnight oil at the loading bench, working up various combinations of ammo.

My first "trophy" was a very large rabbit taken at 55 yards with a "custom" Mark I Ruger set up with a Leupold 4x and a smoothing up job by B & M Guns of Stephen City, Virginia.

My "ammo bearer" was simply amazed with my exploit as he had tried this often with his BB gun with no success. Over a period of two weeks, I dropped four more rabbits in the same way. This became old hat with the Ruger and I thirsted for the ultimate, the elusive groundhog. Suddenly the signs of this creature appeared everywhere. Never have I seen so many holes suddenly dug in one place. My garden began to bear the blunt of their daily attacks. I, of course, declared war (as I had planned way back before any ground was broke).

I had a bunch of new .357 Herrett brass that needed fire forming and from experience, I knew that this reduced load was highly accurate. This delighted me because I hate firing at paper more than five or so times without becoming bored.

I settled in early on a Saturday morning and as the sun rose, I was situated behind a bunch of honeysuckles, surrounded by jillions of weeds with slightly more than 100 yards of view. No, I was atop my favorite rim in Wyoming, the wind in my face with 10x50 glasses covering square mile upon square mile of open sage for that heavy 30". In other words, I felt great just being here on this pleasant July morning.

On the way in, a great red tailed hawk flew up out of my corn patch and settled in a nearby tree. Curious at what a hawk would be doing in my corn, I walked over to where he had flown from and knew I had myself a hunting partner. A cottontail had eaten his last tender morsel from this garden, because that hawk had nailed him.

The first groundhog I saw was as unwary a hog as I've ever seen. I had, of course, cut all weeds away from all the holes so as to be able to see them before they saw me. This one came right out of his hole and made a bee-line for the corn. At 60 yards, I whistled, he stood up, I put the 3x Burris right on his two front teeth, squeezed off and missed. I'm not a great handgun shot, but that .357 Herrett had always "homed" right in on anything I'd fire it at and I was shocked. The groundhog ran back to his hole at the edge of the field and stopped with his front feet in the doorway. This time I held on his front shoulder and popped another 140 grainer his way. Thought I'd missed as it looked like he took off running again, but this time, it appeared he'd sprouted wings. Walking over to see if my scope was off, stepping it off on the way, I first noticed the groundhog was 10 feet or so from the "mound" of his hole where he'd been when I shot. That 140 grain HP had gone in right on the shoulder blade and it must have expanded immediately on bone, because the opposite shoulder, ribs, neck and half his head were gone.

Well, it went like this for three hours or so, and I ended up with five groundhogs, all of which were well blown up. It picked up the younger 'hogs, slammed them 10 feet or more and made it hard to pick up any pieces at all.

By contrast, I used my .256 the next day with 60 grain sp and it would kill immediately, but with very little gore.

Just a small hole on the entry side and a slightly larger hole exiting. I dropped three with the 256 Hawkeye 2.5 Bushnell without a miss.

Eight groundhogs in two days, and I was only 300 yards away from home. That's what I call action, and as a fringe benefit, I gained experience with various loads. I went to a heavier bullet, flat nose, for deer this fall, knowing those 140's would expand too quickly.

I have my freezer and cellar full of vegies and juices, plus I had a hell of a lot of fun close to home, and the practice I got from those varmints will undoubtedly help me this fall. I'm in the process of planning my garden for next year already. Let's see . . . that 375 JDJ I've been hearing so much about should do nicely. My new 10" .223 bull barrel with a Burris 3x will also get run through its paces.

Handguns and gardening . . . a great pastime.

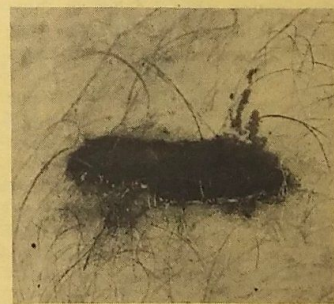
## SAFETY

By J. D. Jones

Accidents do happen. The Creedmore position in .22 shooting is a dangerous one. I personally know two guys that creased their legs this year. Both safe, experienced shooters.

Fifty yard chickens can spit back — hard. I've seen blood drawn on several occasions — always wear glasses at a range.

Bowling pin shoots are becoming more and more popular. The .45 ACP is probably the most popular pin gun. Quite frequently the pins will bounce a bullet back. Here is a good example. An HHI member reports using 3.7 Bullseye under a 185 gr. cast bullet in his .45. During one run one of his bullets came straight back and hit him in the chin. Just a bump that hurt. Too light a load you say — I've seen factory, 230 FMJs and 190 S.V. H.P. come back off of the pins. Again, eye protection is a must if you play — you've got to pay.



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The *Sixgunner* is published bi-monthly by J.D. Jones, Director of Handgun Hunters International and circulated to members of the organization. Rates are \$15.00 per year. Second Class Postage ISSN: 0199-8943 paid at Bloomington, Ohio. For change of address, mail new address, old address and membership number to: HHI — P.O. Box 357 Mag, Bloomington, OH 43110.



# EVER HAVE ONE OF "THOSE" DAYS?

By Greg Peterson, No. 785

The portends were not good.

Dawn of Minnesota's first handgun-legal firearms deer season found me exhausted from no sleep the night before (due to call at the hospital), and wet and cold under a grey sky. The weather had been quite warm all week and now rain and drizzle were added.

I was thankful that my new SBH, customized by Mag-Na-Port, was safe in its shoulder holster. My load of 22 grains 2400 under 240 gr Sierra JHP had been shot enough so I felt confident up to 75 yards (max range in our thick woods). I was at our police chief's cabin about 45 miles southwest of Duluth. Most of that first day was spent under the stand to keep dry or by the fire to dry out.

After a totally unsuccessful day for anyone in the group, I had to drive 80 miles north and join my in-laws in Hibbling for the next four days. I stayed at my father-in-laws place, while all the other in-laws were at John's (my brother-in-law) place 10 miles away in Keewatin. The arrangement was for me to meet them at John's at 5:30 a.m. and we all drive together to the hunting area on iron mine land.

We hunt in an area where the mines are depositing and flooding land with manmade lakes of taconite tailings, a waste product of taconite production. The lakes are made by putting up 45-50' dikes of clay, then flooding the low lands. Our site was at the edge of the flooding and you had to drive on a very narrow "road" on the top of the dike designed mainly for bulldozers.

My alarm set, I hit the rack only to be awakened by my father-in-law, in his full police captain's uniform, at 6:10 a.m. John had called him at the police station when I failed to show after a 30 minute wait. It seems that when I re-set my digital 24 hour alarm clock, I failed to check the am-pm setting, so my clock said 6 p.m. and my alarm was set for 5 a.m. I was told to come along and meet them at the site.

I rushed to get dressed and took off in my Jeep. I had only been to the hunt area once before and that was a year ago, so it took nearly 45 minutes to even find the turn-off road in the dark. Then I had only about five miles of road to cover to be there.

With the rain and warm temperature, the clay road was up to my Jeep axles in no time and after about another 30 minutes of very slow and rough going, slipping from one edge of the dike with 20 feet of water to the other edge with a 45 foot drop, I finally figured out I was on the wrong dike. Being too narrow to turn around, I had to back-up the whole way and start again.

I finally found the right dike and made my way to the end. There, across a 30 yard wide puddle, stood John's 4WD Suburban. The whole area looked like a moonscape, with odd piles and cuts of land pushed up haphazardly all over. Even better yet — it was all totally different from last year! Where was I?

First, I had to get my Jeep through the water. Pride said that if a Suburban can do it, so can my Jeep! Water was up to the floor boards, but I made it.

Unfortunately, I made it without brakes as my standard brake shoes protested greatly when immersed.

I did manage to park and as I tried to figure out where the old trail into the woods was, it started to snow, just to cover everyone's tracks. I decided then just to plant myself on one of the piles and wait. It was already 10:30 and someone would be out to eat soon.

Finally, about 11:00, some of the party straggled out, gave me a bad time and we all ate. After lunch and some vigorous complaining about the weather, everyone had to see my SBH and then proceed to give me more static. Their idea of a minimum deer gun is a BAR in 30-06 caliber. At least they did have the courtesy to show me the way to my stand.

During the afternoon, the skies cleared and winds shifted to the North. Temperature dropped to 10° and I proceeded to freeze quickly on my exposed stand. About 3:30, I met another of our group and we headed back to the jeep to warm up. He went back to a nearby stand about 4 p.m. and since my jeep was all warmed up, I figured I'd try to get back through the water before the ice got too thick. Less likely to stall half-way through with a warm engine.

I moved out without problem and parked on the road to the dike top where I could see all the irregular cleared area around John's car and decided to stay right there in case they pushed anything out in front of them on the way out. Besides, it was so nice and warm.

I sat there about half an hour listening to the radio and wondering what there was about this sport that such an inherently lazy clod like me could be induced to suffer such indignities. All of a sudden, I saw a flash of brown to the front, just between the mounds of debris. I didn't get too excited because everyone else in the group had seen a doe and fawn running loose and we were in a buck only zone, but I figured I better take a look.

I put my gun back in the shoulder holster after reloading, opened the Jeep door and found myself unable to get up! Forgot my seat belt was still on! After opening that, I proceeded around the front of my Jeep, pulling out my Ruger. Just then, with me standing out in the wide open spaces, the deer ran across an opening 20 feet from me, down a ditch and up another hill. Surprise!! A nice rack on the top of the head. The buck then runs ahead about 20 yards more, stops behind another pile of brush and turns to watch me with just his rack, ears and head showing. In front of him, about five feet away, another ditch and then swamp and out of my vision.

What to do? As slowly as possible I raise the gun. Across the ditch, the range is about 50 yards, about one inch or so above point of aim. I figured a head shot was pretty poor, but any hit would down him for another shot or anchor him there and a miss would most likely be clean. I didn't think him likely to back up for a better shot, so I held just below and behind the eye, pulled the shot and saw a fluff of snow explode off a branch just in front of the eye. The buck didn't stay put long enough for me to bring the gun down out of recoil.

Later we all looked for sign of a hit and none was found. The distance was paced off at 70 yards with the intervening ditch making it seem closer. Should have held dead on.

I would like to have a happy ending with a picture of a nice 10 pointer to cap off my story, but I'm afraid that was the only buck I saw during our two week season. I had to listen to a lot of I-told-you-so's from my rifle-scoped companions. My wife had to mention that we would starve if we had to live off the results of my hunting skills, but I still am eager for next season and another try.

## CARIBOU

By Ted Nugent, No. 1230

I'm no trophy hunter per se, but every once in awhile I get real lucky. Just to get out into game country — breathe the air, see the sights and feel that sensation is all the motivation I need. Whether it's the big timber of Michigan, the great mountains of the West, the plains of Africa or the majestic land of Alaska, just turn me loose with a backpack and my bow and arrow. Of course, I'm a firm believer in that time honored Smith & Wesson insurance.

Every other year or so I head off to Alaska to be dropped off in the deep bush for a little adventure. My primary weapon is my bow, but that good ol' Smith & Wesson 29 is always tucked under my shoulder, just in case.

In September of '77, I was out with a great guy by the name of George Faerber after a mixed bag of moose, caribou and bear. After a couple of unsuccessful days stalking good barren ground bulls, we awoke to find a large set of antlers resting on a lichen covered hillside about 1/2 a mile from our tent. A close look through the spotting scope revealed a trophy rack actually lying down.

As George watched through the scope, I made my way down and around the ravine to bring me over a small knoll above the bull. After about 30 minutes of maneuvering through the alder thickets, I emerged on the rolling hillside, and did not see the bull. I looked back through my binoculars at George and he signalled me to move downhill to my right. I pussy-footed it over each little rise and soon came into view of not one, but five bull caribou up and feeding on the side hill about 100 yards ahead.

Having no more cover for a good stalk, I belly-crawled forward another 30 yards to the only hump that afforded any cover at all. 70 yards is a long, long shot for a bow and arrow, but I had no choice and that big fellow we had originally seen was magnificent. I rose to one knee and took careful aim. Not having allowed for the downhill angle, the arrow just slapped him on the back with a fletching and off they went.

I knew he was a good bull and as they disappeared in the next cut, I ran uphill to see where they headed. No sooner had I covered 50 yards to the next knoll when the five bulls came trotting out of the willows at 150 yards uphill. I busted quite a few caps all summer long practicing 100 and 200 yard shots with my model 29, 6 1/2" blue 44 Magnum, so I had confidence as I knelt down and brought the revolver up, resting one elbow on one knee. The five bulls ran slightly bunched up and I waited a second until the big bruiser was open. Just as the smaller bulls moved out of the way, I gave him a little extra front sight ramp,

pulled it forward under his nose a hair, and squeezed off a Remington 240 grain softpoint factory load. The welcome wallop of lead hitting meat came back as the big boy dropped his head low; he took only two more steps and piled up.

It was paced off at 155 yards and the factory ammo had performed perfectly, mushrooming good, and the jacket was against the far shoulder, a clean one shot kill through the heart.

I went on to take a good moose with the bow and arrow and a nice black bear with the .44 as well. I'm just glad George was there to witness that long shot.

## JACKET FOULING

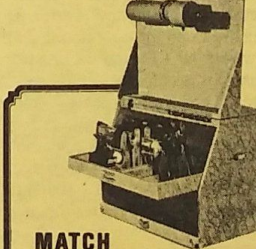
This can definitely be a problem in guns. Excessive buildup of fouling will greatly reduce accuracy. The "I never clean my barrel" guy is probably quite happy with the performance he is getting — but, he isn't getting the best out of his gun. The U.S. Army standard metal fouling solution is as follows:

Ammonium carbonate, 200 grains, or one heaping spoonful. Ammonium persulphate, 1 ounce, or two medium heaping spoonfuls. Ammonia, 28%, 6 ounces, or 3/8-pint or 12 spoonfuls. Water, four ounces, or 1/4-pint or 8 spoonfuls.

Powder the persulphate and carbonate together, dissolve in the water and add the ammonia. Mix thoroughly and allow to stand for one hour before using. It should be kept in a strong bottle and tightly corked. It also should be kept in a cool place. The solution, when mixed, should be used within 30 days.

Push a cork in the rifle chamber, wrap friction tape around the muzzle so the solution can completely cover the muzzle. Stand the rifle on end and pour full, with the muzzle submerged in the solution. Leave the rifle set for about 1/2 to 3/4 hour. Pour the solution into a saucer so you can check the color. Wherever copper has dissolved the solution will turn blue. If none of the solution comes out blue, there was no metal fouling.

It is important that the cork in the chamber be tight. If not the solution will settle and should be kept above the muzzle.



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# HOT SPOT HANDGUNNING

By John Taffin, No. 76

For a number of years, both winter and summer I've tromped the desert kicking up jackrabbits and handgunning with both .44's and .357's. Now after all these years I found another way!

"Why don't we try spot lighting?" was a phrase I heard a number of times from a friend and although we intended to do it, we just never quite made it. Finally this summer we obtained special permits from the Fish & Game Department to hunt varmints. This permit allows the taking of jacks, badgers, and coyotes at night and we signed up to shoot handguns only.

Two special areas in SW Idaho are set up by the Department for spot lighting, with the area we hunt in about 500 squares miles of sagebrush and desert. The rules are simple: no shooting from public roads, no hunting on private land without permission.

For lights we use 13 volt aircraft landing lights mounted in a frame made out of a floodlight wire basket protector with an on/off switch and a handle. The backs of the lights are painted with flat black spray paint to avoid reflection. These lights last about 20 hours and are either wired directly to the pickup battery or fitted with an adaptor to mount into the cigarette lighter.

"Desert" usually conjures up ideas of vast seas of sand, desolate and very hot. At least this is Hollywood's idea. This may be true in some parts of the world but not in Idaho. The desert is always cooler than the city and in fact even when the daytime temperature is in the 90's, the desert is cool enough at night to require a heavy jacket.

As for being desolate, spot lighting shows how much life there really is in the desert: mice, kangaroo rats, owls, birds, squirrels, weasels, cottontails, as well as the hunted jacks, badgers, and coyotes. Spot lighting, I envisioned animals hypnotized by the light standing mesmerized waiting to be shot. This also is not true. Every animal reacts differently. Rabbits will sometimes run into the light almost as if they were attacking, other times they will run away from it. Some sit still, others jump and take off, some sneak off using every piece of cover. We pass up the real close shots and I've often let a Jack go when impressed by his actions.

Badgers also are unpredictable. Some dive directly into their hole when the light hits them, others stare into the light, while some lumber off looking for another hole. They are tough and vicious and if they were as big as bears they would be King of Beasts.

This past week we've jumped three coyotes. One ran across the front of the truck and never stopped; one was picked up in the light, rather his eyes were out at around 300 yards; and another stood looking at us around 60 yards away. So one out of three got busted.

Our method is quite simple. We simply drive the desert with one or two guys in the back of the pickup manning the lights. Closer shots are taken with iron-sighted handguns with the scoped T.C.'s used for long shots and badgers. Usually one holds the light while another shoots, but it is also possible to hold the light in one hand while shooting with the other. Scopes work as well at night as they do in the daytime, perhaps even better.

For more practical practice for big game hunting I like to really concentrate on that first shot plus take standing shots without an artificial rest. Head shots at 50-60 yards aren't too difficult this way.

Virtually any handgun can be used for varmints with .22's of course being too light for badgers and coyotes. Rabbits go down with solid hits from anything we've tried. 38 Supers, .357's, and .44-40 put them down with authority while .44 magnums and .430's literally explode them. Badgers are usually shot with the .430, .30-30, or .223 super 14 T.C.'s. We've never lost a badger but some have been marginal with the .223 until switching to Hornaday 50 Gr SX bullets. I'm convinced coyotes should not be shot with anything smaller in caliber than the .30-30.

Normally a two hour trip through the desert will yield about 10 badgers and 50 jacks with about one-half of these being taken, and we can expect to pick up a coyote in the lights about every other trip.

Check with your Fish & Game Department to see if spot lighting for varmints in your area is allowable and prepare yourself for some good shooting and a lot of fun if it is.

## THE SHUR-LOC

By Ken Hooper, No. 821

I guess you could call me a gizmophile (Greek for gizmo lover), I have lots of them and some of them are better mousetraps. I saw the ad in *American Handgunner*, May/June '81, for The Shur-Loc adjustable T/C Contender hinge pin bushing. This is a T/C gizmo at a reasonable cost: \$14.95, complete with all the tools necessary for installation. Have I got 15 bucks for a potentially superior T/C gizmo? You can bet on it. Two weeks later I had it in hand.

I am impressed by the finish of the metal. It is cleanly machined and polished, with no burrs, it appears to be quite hard. The device is a nut and bolt, which act as the hinge pin, and have screw slots on both ends. There is an expanding collar between them. Both inside shoulders are tapered so that, as you screw the bolt and nut together, with the two enclosed wrenches, the center collar — expands. When properly fitted, it is just a bit longer than the original. This holds the side panels of my Pachmayr forend open enough so they don't rub the engraving on the frame. The two wrenches also have a small screwdriver blade and the main blade used for the bushing works on the forearm screw. They are a \$6.00 value alone. The instructions are complete and threads are already coated with non-permanent 'lock nut' compound.

The center collar expands to fill the pin hole in the barrel lug and locks in place. The thrust transmitted to it, is born on the tapered inner shoulders of the nut and bolt. This allows the hinge pin to be locked firmly to the barrel. The instruction says to spray it all with oil, but I found that it's easier to properly install if the collar and pin hole are dry. I feel that the outside of the nut and bolt, which act as the pin, and frame pin hole need be lubricated. The screw slots in the ends make this very

easy to maintain.

There are some theoretical advantages to this lock pin arrangement. It eliminates play in the barrel lug hole, as well as centering the lug hole in relation to the center of the rotating portion of the pin. The only excess clearance that then exists is between the pin and the pin hole in the frame. The bushing is made .0004" oversize on purpose, (they give simple instructions on how to fit it if it is too large). It slides right in my frame, a nice snug fit. I think that anyone with a well pounded frame pin hole would have no trouble, mine has not been pounded by heavy recoil. After firing several hundred rounds you can rotate it to a different position in the frame hole. This is like rotating your tires, you can equalize the wear on the bushing and frame hole by doing this at regular intervals. The center collar does a good job in gripping the barrel lug hole, but it easily taps out with your old T/C hinge pin and a soft mallet.

The company claims a 20%-30% increase in accuracy compared to the stock pin. I suppose that the more your frame has been pounded the more it will benefit. Over 300 Lee Machine Pistol Rest rounds I can say, that I found about a 10%-11% increase in accuracy and that it is constant with the three barrels I have. There is no big game handgun hunting in Washington state, so I have no big bore, heavy recoil calibers. I suspect that if it were fired extensively with a .430 JDJ or a 45/70 and then carefully checked, it might just bend. Maybe we can get J.D. to pound one excessively and check it with all the high tech gear I don't have? It's guaranteed for five years.

The Shur-Loc makes my Contender just a bit more accurate, it also makes me pay attention to this pivotal area of the pistol. I'm leaving it installed. If you are a gizmophile and want one the address is: Robert A. Carone, SHUR-LOC, R.D. No. 1, Dansville, N.Y. 14437. Be SHUR you say you heard about it in *The Sixgunner*.

P.S. Thanks to R.D. Herring for the valuable information.

## HUNT PREPARATION

By Wayne Randall, No. 320

This article is based on the assumption that you have already decided what and where to hunt and the guns you plan to use. I will deal with the following areas in preparation before leaving on your trip: Leather goods, equipment and practice.

Leather goods: Holsters and belts constitute a major portion of your leather goods. There are many different types of holsters. Basically they fall into three categories, Shoulder, hip, and crossdraw. I have used all three styles and I will comment on them one at a time.

Shoulder holsters with elastic adjustments were very uncomfortable for me to use. The elastic was always pulling at my shoulders and under my arms. I have modified a Safariland shoulder holster by removing the elastic and replacing it with a leather strap. This is much more comfortable to me. I also have a Roy Baker Hidden Thunder that crosses in the back. This arrangement works very well and doesn't tire the user out. I believe the Jackass Shoulder System is basically the same type rig.

Shoulder holsters can be worn either under a coat or over it. (Ed. — Many will not fit over a coat.) A lot depends on the laws of the state in which you hunt. Some states have strict laws against concealed carry. When worn under a coat the handgun is easily accessible, yet protected from the weather.

Hip holsters ride behind the hip on the gun hand side. While offering less protection to the handgun they are usually quicker to use. Hip holsters can be had with a full flap cover. This type completely covers the handgun and offers excellent protection. Hip holsters, when worn under a heavy coat, are slow to use. When worn in the open they are perhaps the fastest and the most comfortable for day long carry.

Crossdraws are worn on the opposite side of your gun hand. This style offers great protection to the handgun when worn under a coat and is also very accessible. When worn in warm weather the crossdraw can be somewhat protected by your offside arm. The crossdraw offers what may be the best compromise of the three styles.

Holster belts should be selected with the same care as your holsters. The belt loop in the holster must be completely taken up by the belt. If the belt is narrower than the belt loop, the holster will slide around and not be where it should when the time to draw comes. Buy a thick gun belt, as it will be stiffer and last longer than a thin pants belt.

You may want to consider cartridge loops for your belt. There are two ways to go. You can buy belts with cartridge loops sewn into the belt itself. This works well if one uses one belt with one holster. If you use your gun belt with more than one holster, think about using slide on cartridge loops. These can be positioned where you want and can be slid on and off as the occasion warrants.

One more item you should consider is a leather cartridge box. These are made to hold a box of rifle shells. They work very well for carrying items you should have with you at all times in the woods. Mine contains waterproof matches, space blanket, bandages, and a nylon rope. The rope can be used for dragging game or in an emergency it can be used to tie a splint or a tourniquet to stop bleeding.

Give all your leather goods a good coat of mink oil. This keeps the leather in good condition and also waterproofs it. You might consider taking along two sets of holsters and belts for each handgun. If one set becomes wet, you can use the other.

Equipment: A good tool kit can be indispensable to a successful hunt. Mine is contained in a plastic tackle box and has adjustable trays. I will list the basic tools that should be included. You may add others that suit your needs. A set of gunsmith screwdrivers, a punch set, plastic hammer, small vice, needle files, loctite, tube of glue, small pliers, miniature c-clamps, bore light, emery cloth, and rags.

A cleaning kit can be included in the tool box also. This should consist of slotted tips, bronze brushes, cleaning patches, solvent, and gun oil. A small can of WD-40 will prove useful as well.

A knife with a sharpening stone is also needed for your trip. The blade should be at least three inches long to be of use in cleaning your game. Think about taking along a hatchet and small saw. These will be useful in getting larger game back to camp.

Continued On Page 6



## Hunt

Continued From Page 5

Always carry a compass with you when hunting in strange country. It is very easy to get lost when hunting by yourself. Check your compass often so you know where you are. One thing I have learned about a compass is that they never lie. Several times I couldn't believe it was pointing the right way. When I followed my compass it led me back where I wanted to be. I'm a believer now!

A good pair of binoculars can help you be successful on your hunt. They can aid you in spotting game and judging the quality of the game you have sighted. A pair of binoculars in the seven to eight power range is about right. (Ed. — The miniature Bushnells are excellent and give full field of view even wearing glasses.)

You need some method of transporting your handguns. The zippered cases are fine for short trips, but may be illegal in some states. Foam lined hard plastic cases are preferred. The larger ones hold four handguns or two scoped ones. Always keep the case closed and locked and you probably will be within the legal limits of most states.

Practice: Serious practice is an important part of preparing for a major hunt. About two months before, start your practice with the gun and ammo you plan on using for the hunt. Unless you are very rich you will have to reload in order to practice as much as you should. Lead bullets work well for practice, but always shoot a few of your game loads to verify point of impact. Try to shoot 100 rounds a week. Dry firing at pictures of the game you plan to hunt. This will help you learn to aim at the vitals of an animal instead of the whole animal. Life size animal targets are available from several sources. These make excellent targets to practice on. Use target pasters to cover up your holes and you can save a lot on targets. These targets teach you to place your shots at various distances.

I hope these tips help you have a safe and successful hunt. Good luck!

## BELIEVERS

By Bud McDonald, No. 334

Deer camps are always special. Two men or Cox's Army, when the meat is on the pole, the fun begins. This year in our normal camp in southern Wyoming was as special as they come. Our group doesn't pack up and head for home when our tags are filled. We fish, rock hunt, explore, try out those new pistols and loads and generally just what we damn well please. (Who can do that now-a-days?) Good hunts are made up of good people and this year was the best yet. No growlers, grippers, tough guys, game hogs, cheap skates or "I'll hunt someone else do all the camp work" individuals in this group. Hell, no one snored even!! Wish I could say the same for previous hunts. Now if we could find a way for everyone to smell a little better after a few days in camp!!

Three guys I grew up with, including my cousin, made the long trip. The best friend ever, who lives in Wyoming already, does all the heavy scouting for us, so when we pull in from Virginia, no time is lost looking for deer. Time is very important when the trip one way is 37 hours.

The best bucks we'd ever gotten were on the pole, all over 26" (one was

28"), Ralph was catching supper, so Ron, Steve L and I decided to see what we could do about overcrowded conditions we noticed in a prairie dog town just below camp. Ron and Steve grabbed 22 mags (rifles) and I bundled my Hawkeye and 357 Herrett.

We set up just inside an irrigated hay field, and in fact, right in one of the ditches, then proceeded to pop dogs from 15 yards on out to 75 yards. The 22 mags were deadly on those little dogs and my Hawkeye was holding its own when I did my job. After 10 minutes or so, the dogs got wary and the only ones we could see were out at the 100 to 200 yard marker. As the wind was blowing about 20 to 25 m.p.h., the dogs at that range were impossible to hit. Finally we realized that we were wasting ammo, so we took a break.

Hunkering down out of the wind, Ron pops a big chew of Levi and Steve pops a PBR. I'm still glassing those dogs and remember the Herrett. It's the Super 14 with a 3x Burris on top. I exchange the Hawkeye for the Herrett and position it on the bank of the irrigation ditch. Although my two friends were impressed with the Hawkeye's performance, they set up to get a few laughs. Ron says I should point the barrel up to the rim to give me enough arc to get that 140 grain slug out to 200 yards. Steve tells me to make sure I hold in line with the dogs — I may hit one on the third skip! I didn't tell them that those 140's would be cranking around 2200 FPS coming out of the muzzle.

I lined up on the closest dog about 75 yards, held dead on, and squeezed off. SPLAT! The dog vaporized. Grumbling coming behind me, I reload and take aim on another further out. SPLAT! I do the same on another at over 100 yards, miss at 150 yards, adjust aim. SPLAT! I handed the Herrett to Steve and said, "Here. See what you can do." He did very well for someone not used to shooting scoped pistols. Ron tried with the same success. We had a ball, at long range, on those small targets. The 22 mags were forgotten, even on closer shots. Glad I made up a big batch of Herretts. We used almost every one I had.

Some of the last shots we took were really out there. The longest hit was 170 yards with most hits at 110 yards. Never found a whole dog either . . . just a bunch of pieces.

On the way back to camp, Ron said, "When you get back to Virginia, start loading those big pistol shells, so we'll have enough for next year when we're out here. They both are big bore believers from this point on, but it surely took a bunch of time on the old reloading bench to prove it."

### LYMAN HHI SPECIAL!

Composite Bullet Molds  
.357 - 170 gr.  
.44 - 232 gr.  
Regular Price \$69.50

30 Day Special \$50.00  
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## 1982 GUN DIGEST

1982 marks the 36th anniversary of the Gun Digest. If guns are your game, you can't afford to miss this entertaining reference book.

In addition to cataloging almost all of the guns available in the U.S., the Gun Digest provides ballistic tables, a catalog section on scopes & mounts and about 265 pages of excellent reading.

This year HHI member Hal Swiggett covers what's new in handguns other than auto pistols while J. B. Wood covers the auto pistol scene.

Of particular interest is Coopers article on the Bren Ten, Hamiltons on Handgun Accuracy, Simmons on Single Action Safety, Smiths on shooting the 1911's Spanish Cousins and a controversial article by Allen on To Smith or Not To Smith. A testfire on the 586 is also included. As usual, the balance of the Digest is filled with various hunting and gun articles. At four hundred forty-eight pages this year it still ranks as a big book and at \$11.95, it's still one of the best bargains in firearms literature.

## T/C VERSUS THE PRAIRIE DOG

By R. D. Herring, No. 773

I've been an avid prairie dog shooter for the past several years. In the past five years or so, my interest in shooting them with the Thompson/Contender has greatly increased.

Over the years, I've owned and shot the 5mm Remington. It's a good killer, but expensive, as it cannot be reloaded. The .221 Fireball is very accurate but seemed to lack "blow up ability" at longer ranges.

After reading and re-reading an article in the July-August 1975 issue of the *Handloader* entitled "K-Hornet in the Contender" by J. D. Jones, I had to have one. Doing some trading, I obtained a new .22 Hornet with a 10" Bull Barrel. After a trip to a local gunsmith who reamed the chamber to K Hornet — with as much enthusiasm as I had — I was ready to begin. First, mounting a 2-1/2" Bushnell handgun scope was in order.

I obtained K Hornet brass in two ways: [1] Firing factory .22 Hornet ammo in the K Hornet chamber and [2] Fire forming .22 Hornet brass using 3.5 grain bull's-eye with cornmeal on top to the bottom of the neck.

My accuracy load was the same as

J. D.'s, only I used R-P cases instead of W-W. My load is as follows: R-P cases, 7-1/2 Remington primer, 45 grain .224 Speer bullet and 13.5 grain W-W 296. Accuracy is dime size groups at 50-yards using sandbag rests.

For the past two years, I've shot prairie dogs at various ranges, out to approximately 120 yards. At the 120 yard shots, the prairie dogs do come unglued and are picked up 12" to 16" in the air on impact. It is no uncommon for closer range hits to be blown several feet by the .45 grain Speer bullet.

The .22 K Hornet is a most accurate cartridge for the Contender and relatively economical to reload. Ear plugs or muffs are a must with the K Hornet.

This past few weeks was also my first opportunity to test the .223 Remington in the "Super 14" T/C. Good luck was on my side as my moderate loads for my 700 BDL Remington also proved to be very accurate in the T/C. My .223 load is as follows: G.I. cases, 7-1/2 Remington primer, 21.0 grains IMR

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**Prairie Dogs** *Continued From Page 6*  
4198, 50 grains Hornady SX. The extra weight of the 14" barrel make it easier to hold on target, and Pachmayr grips help, too.

Accuracy at 50 yards was 1" groups. The .223 gave a good accounting on prairie dogs with good blow ups at the 80 to 90 yard range. As with the K Hornet, the 2-1/2 Bushnell pistol scope is used.

All of the hunting shots were taken using sandbags as a rest.

At this time, I have not had any opportunity to try these two varmint loads on anything larger than prairie dogs. Coyotes or wild dogs would be a good test for these cartridges. With proper bullet placement, I would expect satisfactory results.

**Editor's Note:** That K Hornet load is definitely hot. It must be worked up to slowly, if at all. I guarantee it to take apart some of the older rifles, and I do not recommend it . . . JDJ.

## GOOD GEAR

By John Taffin, No. 76

This past summer, a number of new items have found their way into my hands that have proven extremely useful, and in many cases indispensable. Many of these items accompany me on every range outing or hunting trip just as automatically as my handgun. Perhaps other HHI members will benefit from my experience with the following:

Bushnell 7 x 26 Custom Compact binoculars. To say these have become a constant companion is definitely an understatement. Every outing finds them either around my neck or in my shooting box. They are provided with a vinyl zippered pouch that measures 3 1/2" x 5 so they fit easily into a jacket pocket or readily tuck into one corner of a tackle or shooting box. Not only lightweight, these center focusing glasses have beautiful clarity, in fact they are so clear that both my wife and a friend who normally spot for me have elected to use them instead of the variable 20 to 60 power Silhouette spotting scope. Everyone who has seen these has had the same reaction: "I want a pair". Check out a pair of these lightweight binoculars, carry them all day without a stiff neck, and the \$225.00 retail price will seem well worth it. They've carried well on one horseback trip and also provide a very clear picture while spotlighting varmints. I like 'em!

### HORNADY HANDBOOK:

Handgunners finally have a reloading book with ballistics tables for handguns. The new Hornady Handbook, Third Edition in addition to the normal reloading information has trajectory and energy tables for both long and short range pistol. The long range tables are designed for the Silhouette Shooter with information for 50, 100, 150, and 200 meters plus a column for 200 yards. Hunters should also find much of interest here. Twenty-five meter increments up to 125 meters are used in the short range tables. Filling over 50 pages in the handbook, these tables are both extensive and interesting. Examples: The 30-30 150GR @2000 fps from a Super 14 has twice the energy at 200 meters as a .44 Magnum 240 @1400 fps. Most shooters would be surprised at this one glaring omission in the reloading section for T.C. Contenders is the absence of information for the .357 Magnum. Still, all in all, an excellent book and

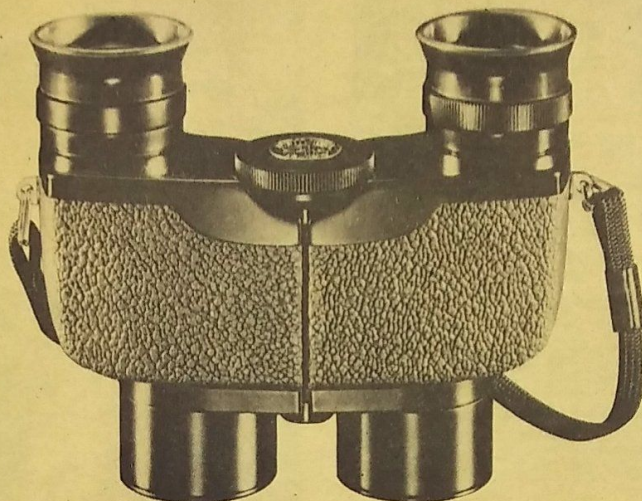
long overdue.

### SLINGS:

Normally I prefer to carry my scoped .430 12" T.C. in a shoulder holster with extra wide harness straps and fastened to my belt on both the handgun side and the off side. This has proven to be both practical and comfortable on many outings. A problem arose when I wanted to carry my T.C. plus a 10 Ruger. Adding the Ruger in a hip holster proved impractical and very uncomfortable so I chose to shoulder holster the Ruger and sling the T.C. A search of the ads in various gun magazines yielded two suppliers of T.C. Slings. Uncle Mike (Michael's of Oregon, P. O. Box 13010, Portland, Oregon 97213) and Cal Drake (P. O. Box 9217, Marina Del Rey, Calif. 90291) Both offer nylon slings that fasten to the barrel with a band, are fitted with swivels, the only difference being Uncle Mike's is designed to fit the Super 14 Grip Butt Plate and the Drake design is provided with a replacement studded screw for the Pachmayer Grip. With a little practice a sling can also be used to steady the handgun in shooting much the same as in rifle shooting. Since attaching this sling to my T.C., it has been used exclusively instead of a shoulder holster and has performed quite satisfactorily. Fifty rounds of .430's cause the barrel band to walk forward about 1" so this needs to be checked frequently. This is certainly no problem in a hunting situation.

### CASE-GARD:

For many years I meticulously packed my reloads back in the cardboard cartridge boxes with every other round facing up so they would fit, but ran into problems with some factory boxes for .357 brass that would not accept loaded rounds. That's when I discovered Case-Gard plastic boxes. By now I'm sure there are at least 100 of these in my reloading and storage rooms. With a hinged locking lid and a separate compartment for each round, these boxes provide both protection and convenience. Color coding is a possibility also as each size comes in three colors and I like tan for silhouette loads, green for hunting, and red for general purpose loads. These boxes are not only handy they are exceptionally inexpensive as I have found a number of 50 round boxes as low as \$1.19, with 100 rd boxes in the \$3.00 range. Now Case-Gard has come out with a very handy Shooter Accessory Box measuring 9" x 9" x 20" having a compartmentalized lid with a see through



BUSHNELL Custom Compact Binoculars

plastic cover, and the box proper has removable dividers. These boxes also come in various colors so it is easy to keep one packed for hunting and another for silhouettes, or as I do, keep the blue one packed with my ammunition and equipment and the red one with my wife's. Being plastic, after a day on a dusty range, I just empty them and squirt 'em out with the hose. Very handy! Practically all sporting good stores carry Case-Gard.

### M-12 OEHLER:

For many years a chronograph has been a much desired item but I always figured another handgun could be purchased instead. However testing so many different guns and loads made a chronograph an absolute necessity so I purchased a Model 12 Oehler. For a very reasonable \$99, Oehler provides the clock and two skyscreens with plenty of wire so the screens can be set at various distances from the shooter. To use, simply mount the skyscreens on a straight board or pipe at 5' or 10' spacing, shoot over them and read the four digit figure by running the dial through four groups of three numbers each. The number resulting is not the velocity as the clock is based on an octal system, so a code book is provided to decipher the number and come up with the true velocity. Being a math teacher by trade I was able to come up with a formula that allows me to run the figures quickly through a calculator and also come up with the velocity if the code book is ever misplaced. If you've shied away from chronographs because you thought they were either too expensive or too complicated, they are neither and Oehler (P. O. Box 9135, Austin, Texas 78766) makes some of the best including more expensive direct readout models.

### O.S.S.!

In the August 1980 issue of "The Sixgunner" an in depth report of Ohio Shooters Supply Bullets in .44 caliber was published. Now O.S.S. (7532 Tyler Blvd., Mentor, Ohio 44060) has added copper plated bullets to their line, something which was available in the '50's and '60's but which haven't been seen for a long time. If memory serves correctly, the original .44 magnum loads were copper plated, but a little fuzzy on this. Why copper? To cut down leading (and they really look good on a cartridge belt). O.S.S. provided a supply of their 245 grain Keith SWC's cast, coated, and lubed and these have been run through my custom 10" Ruger over 23.5 grains of

4227. They do shoot well, with no leading averaging 1406 FPS and 20 yard 5 shot groups of 1 1/2" (3 in 3/4"). These bullets were also loaded over 7.5 grains of Unique for use in a .44 Special Colt SA, also giving 1 1/2" groups.

### LYMAN:

Also in the bullet line, and especially the .44 line, is the Lyman .44 Keith SWC composite bullet. After the N.R.A. show, Ken Ramage of Lyman sent the necessary molds for making this two piece bullet. The core of the bullet is cast of pure type metal to reduce leading, then the nose is cast of pure lead for expansion and the two pieces are epoxied together. This is a slow process with a finished bullet taking about as much time as four conventional cast bullets. The results however are worth it. Loaded over 7.5 grains of Unique in .44 Special cases for my Colt SA 4 3/4", bullets expanded to .75 caliber at 20 yards and stayed together, making it an ideal bullet for hunting or defense in loads under 1000 FPS. When loaded over 23.5 grains of 4227 in .44 mag cases and run through my 10" Ruger, velocities averaged 1454 FPS and expansion was spectacular to 10" Ruger going into 5/8". This looks like an excellent bullet for slow moving slugs in the Charter Arms .44 Bulldog but mine was on loan to a friend backpacking for the summer, so I had no chance to test them out in that gun. One problem was encountered in that noses separated from cores much the same as bullets jump crimps under recoil. This happened three times and always was the fifth or sixth round. I'm guessing that this was a result of a poor job of epoxing on my part. There is a possibility that Lyman will offer .357, .44, and .45 composite molds through "The Sixgunner" to HHI members at a discount off their normal retail price of \$69.50. The Lyman core mould can be adjusted to make longer than normal bodies for use in the .430 or heavy bullet loads in .44 magnum. This should also be a dandy small game/varmint bullet in .357 magnum.

Two heavy .357 bullets are now available in the 200 grain range for those shooters who have found the standard 150-160 grain bullet somewhat lacking, especially for silhouettes. Revolver shooters check out the No. 200 358 GC as manufactured by N.E.I. and marketed exclusively by SSK. A 200 grain bullet starting at 1200 FPS has 50% plus more energy at 200 meters than a 158 grain bullet starting at 1400 FPS. Quite a few of the local silhouetters are going to this bullet. The other bullet which has been very successful in my 10" T.C. .357 is the RCBS 35-200 GC. with a muzzle velocity of 1560 over 17.7 grains of WW 680, this bullet and load gives excellent results. No hit targets have ever been lost, and I've managed to shoot a 37 x 40 and the three missed targets were entirely my fault. By the way T.C. makes two .357 barrels, one a 6 groove and the other a 8 groove with the 8 groove recommended for cast bullets. Mine shoots so well with cast bullets I haven't been able to come up with a jacketed load to match it.

One final note. Pachmayr now has grips for the Ruger Redhawk. They are very comfortable and although not advertised yet they can be ordered direct from Pachmayr for \$12.75 plus a buck for postage.







Jack, William, Allan and friends. Clean and sweet smelling to start off the day.

## HUNTIN' HOGS AT HALLS

By J.D. Jones

I would guess that as far as medium game is concerned hunting hogs and deer are the two most widespread types of hunting available.

Common sense tells me there have to be a lot more deer hunters than hog hunters simply because of the widespread availability of deer hunting. My correspondence runs slightly in favor of deer hunters. Hogs though, have the reputation of toughness and danger. There is also the excitement of a hunt with dogs with the accompanying running, baying, fighting and climax of the chase in either a harvesting of an animal or having to catch the animal barehanded — then catch the dogs — turn the hog loose and start all over.

Surprised? Most people who haven't done a lot of hog hunting are. Most well run hunting outfits operate in this manner. Hogs breed all year around and in many areas piglets through half-grown hogs wouldn't last long without a dog pack being muzzled. Some preserves catch and transport pregnant sows to non-hunted areas so the little ones have a chance.

Last spring I had the pleasure to hunt Hall Brothers Wilderness Camp, Rt. 4, Box 392, Savannah, GA 31405 with Allan Crawford. This area is very large, flat, swampy and a large part of it is accessible by boat only. Your hunt here can encompass a lot of different action. It was very dry when we were there and swamps usually waist deep in water were dry. Hogs were ranging everywhere. There were a lot of them and that leads to complications. Sometimes you have to spend too much time fooling with the dogs and little hogs. For an inexperienced hunter it's mighty exciting — for the guides and very experienced hunters, it's work.

The area is only about 15 miles from Savannah which is a coastal town steeped in history. It also has good restaurants. After getting together at a motel a few miles from Hall Brothers and turning the wives loose on Savannah for the day, Allan and I headed for Halls.

Skipping the usual arrival stories William Hall and one of their guides loaded us and the dogs into a truck and we started out. Twenty minutes

later we were in the thick of it — mud that is. Dogs were raising hell all over, we were all trying to run through the palmetto with mud sucking us down. That's the way we spent the morning. Every hog bayed was non-shootable. Here, the dogs wear expanded metal masks to prevent them from killing the smaller hogs. The Ketch dog was bigger than the rest and all he dog. At one point I dove into a mess of hog, mud, palmetto, a little blood, a lot of noise and came out with a wildly struggling dog. While I was trying to get binder twine tied to his collar, I felt something at my ankle. When I looked there was that damn pig whose life I was trying to save, chewing on my ankle. At about 65-75 pounds I was glad he was chewing on the Browning insulated instead of above them. As I turned to plant my other size 12 Browning on the hog I had time to notice William, Allan and the guide near collapse — more so from laughter than exhaustion. But by one o'clock the near collapse was all from exhaustion. The dogs were done. So was I. Had to get another pack after lunch and revitalization.

Allan was carrying a T/C .30 Herrett and using the 125 grain Sierra hollow point bullet over a healthy dose of H-4227. Normally, I would say the .30 Herrett isn't much of a hog gun, but with dogs a good shot who knows the animals anatomy can shoulder-spine, neck-spine or brain shoot them with just about anything. Without dogs, the .30H is best left at home.

I was carrying my old 5" Super .44 loaded with 21.0-296-315 cast bullet. I hadn't sighted in with it — just fired a couple shots at 25 yards and found it hitting 10-12 inches high. Hunting with dogs I usually shoot at under five yards and didn't consider it a problem at all.

Allan and his guide went to the left, William and I to the right in a long pincer movement. As usual, the action was about as far from me as it could get when it started and went further away. 200 yards from the real fighting we found Jack, the guide, desperately trying to save one of the dogs life. The hog had caught him in the neck and severed a major artery. There was as much blood around as I've seen from



Expanded metal mask prevents dogs from killing small hogs.



A little break in the action shows the cypress knees that could run your day if you fell on one.

almost any wound. The guide yelled to kill the s.o.b. before he chopped up any more dogs. Allan was trying to do that very thing.

I ran the next couple hundred yards to arrive just in time to find Allan already braced against a broken off tree with the hammer back; hog and dogs working it out in some fairly thick stuff.

The action broke toward us as the ketch dog — without his muzzle, as this hog was doing to die today — jumped into the fight. With about a dozen teeth in his ham, the hog broke out of the thick stuff toward us, then turned to face the pack. Allan had a good quarter through to the off shoulder shot. As he was squeezing it off, the ketch dog came in from the side. The hog wheeled to face him. Allan struggled to keep the sights on him as the T/C went off. The hog

wheeled away and Allan said, "Aw, dirty word" and reloaded. I knew the hog was hit, but couldn't tell how badly. The blood on the entrance started bubbling and I knew a lung was punctured. He started getting wobbly pretty fast, so I knew he had lost a lot of blood pressure and went down within 30 seconds. Allan didn't have the opportunity for another shot.

Leaving Allan with the hog and dogs, I went back to William and Jack who had cleaned out the dog's wound as much as they could and were sewing him up. Most all dog-hog hunters carry sutures with them. The crudest I've ever seen was one old boy that carried a pocketful of safety pins from about an inch to diaper pin size.

Autopsy showed Allan's bullet hit a small sapling, deflected, punctured a lung and cut the great aorta at the top of the heart. This gives an immediate





Muzzled or not — these guys want a piece of that hog. This is about the size of the one that chewed on my ankle.



First charge of the day!

zero to blood pressure as the heart is just pumping it into the chest cavity — and a good quick kill.

After taking the hog in and making sure the dog was boxed so he couldn't hurt himself, William asked if I'd like to try for their Runnin' Hog. Seems every time they got on this hog he just ran away. The dogs were gone the rest

of the day and the hunt was over. Deer hunters on stand had seen the hog. They said he was big and spotted.

Quickly agreeing, we loaded up and moved to Runnin' Hog's hangout in ten minutes. About 150 yards from the truck we turned the dogs loose; 50 yards further, stepping around some tall weeds, I spotted what looked like



Allan — shooting from here with the 30H — 125 gr. Sierra.



Did This.

woods beginning. Hog and dogs must have met head on. I think I mildly spooked the hog, but feel he didn't really know what I was. He ran back toward us; stopped to face the dogs momentarily about 35 yards away. He looked big. Gun in hand I looked for a clear shot both in front and behind the hog as I knew he wasn't going to stop that 315 grainer. William, anxious to get rid of the problem, whispered, "Can you take him from here?" I said, "Sure" and dropped the hammer as the dogs cleared him at that moment. The hog wheeled into the weeds.

William said, "I think you missed." I said, "No, he's dead — heart shot," and the dogs really opened up. Ten yards from where he had been standing when I shot, Runnin' Hog was down, dead and covered with dogs.

No wonder they called him Runnin'



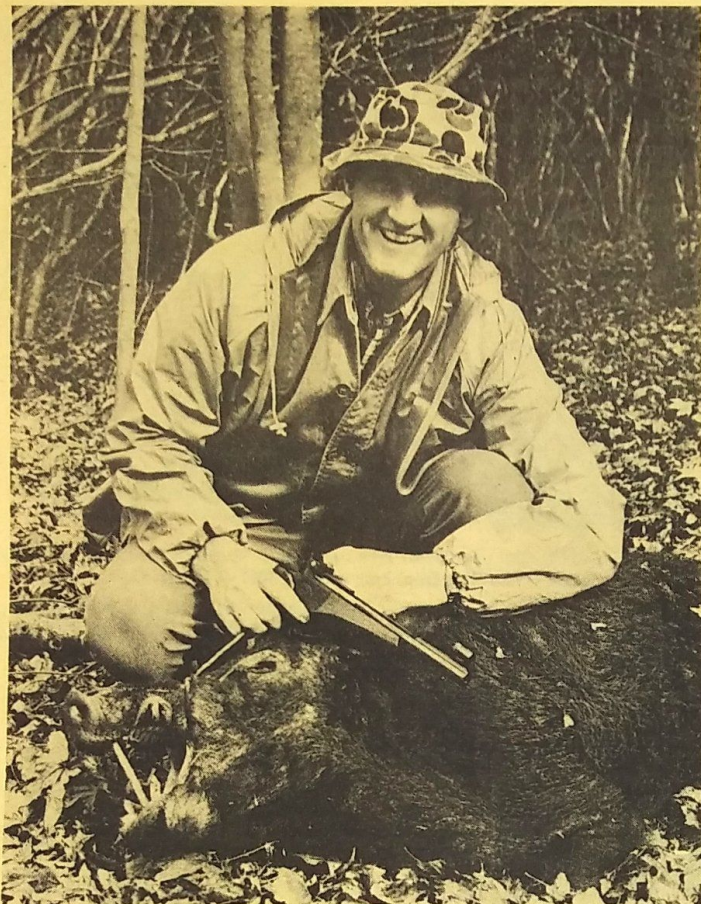
Before impacting on the hog. White spots superimposed on the hog are wood splinters. Hog is not hunched from impact — they fight from this position frequently. Unmuzzled ketch dog coming in!

the Daddy of them all — tall and spotted — at about 75 yards in the open. Thinking of the five inch shooting 10-12 inches high at 25 I stepped back and asked Allan for his .30. Looking back at the same time — it was useless — the hog had slipped into the weeds in generally the same direction the dogs had taken. William said to get a bullet in him if we could. We entered the weeds and at about 100 yards in William and I came together as the weeds were petering out and

Hog. This was the longest legged critter I'd ever seen. Deep chested. Very lean and thin across the shoulders — built like the deep chested hound worrying his carcass. Had he been built like a hog and carried good weight, I would guess he would have gone 350-400 pounds. Long and skinny — I'd guess him at about 175 and say when I saw him broadside in the open he looked to be one of the five biggest hogs I'd ever seen. William was very happy to

Continued On Page 10





Happy, particularly because it turned out well when it could have soured, Allan poses with his all mean hog.



Running hog where he crashed — should have stretched him out to show those long legs. The five inch .44 is the first custom gun done by Mag-Na-Port. It's been rebuilt twice and still going strong.

be rid of him. The 315 had apparently dead centered the heart and blew it. The entrance hole looked like a half inch drill hole in a 2x4. The off side had a ¾ inch exit and a 10 inch blood-shot area.

Hall Brothers Wilderness Area offers a lot more types of hunting than we saw. Sometimes it can be easy, sometimes rough. Generally, mountain hunting such as Telico is physically a

lot rougher. Guys on their own can stay on the place. Those with their wives are well advised to use a nearby motel.

Our January HHI Hunt would have been held here, but the dates I needed were already booked-up due to the Shot Show being held in Atlanta. We'll probably schedule a HHI Hunt there at a later date. It is a place to hunt that I would recommend.



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William stitches up a badly cut up dog as Allan reassures him. He wanted right back in as soon as they let him up.



# TEXAS TROPHIES

By Mark Hampton, No. 227

On July 29th, my wife, Karen, and I loaded the Jeep with guns, cameras, holsters and all that other good stuff and hit the road for Texas. We would be hunting with Jerry Campbell of Loma Alta Ranch. Jerry maintains a pack of well-trained hounds for his bobcat and Russian boar hunts, has hunting rights on 100,000 acres or more, and caters to individuals and small groups. He is very knowledgeable about the local game and its whereabouts, which makes him, to say the least, a valuable guide.

My primary objective for this hunt was to take a trophy Russian boar and a Mouflon ram. I would be using my custom 10½ inch RSBH on the hog and for the Mouflon my T/C Super 14 .44 Mag. supporting a Redfield 2½ would see action. These handguns have been modified somewhat to fit the shooting needs I desire. After evaluating several factory loads, I decided on shooting Federals 240 gr. J.H.P. in both hoglegs.

We arrived at our destination Friday evening and introduced ourselves to Jerry and his family. After eating a delicious supper prepared by his wife, Kathie, Jerry and I discussed a game plan for the coming day. Because of dry conditions, we would hunt with the hounds early in the morning while it would be relatively cool and if unsuccessful, would go after Mouflon later in the afternoon.

Daylight found us with a pack of hounds in the Jeep heading for a ranch that Jerry thought might produce a hog. Once on the ranch, the dogs were turned loose and the hunt began. We followed the dogs in the Jeep as they hunted their way around a pond, or tank as they say in Texas. No fresh scent was picked up so the dogs worked down into a ravine. Forty-five minutes past and still no hot track.

As we climbed out of the Jeep for a short rest, the dogs started cold trailing on the hillside in front of us. Jerry thought it was probably a bobcat since the hounds were having so much trouble getting something started. Finally a race materialized and the hounds were heading around the ridge which led behind us. We climbed in the 4-wheel drive and proceeded to cut them off at the pass. When we reached the other side of the ridge the dogs were baying. Jerry said their voices seemed muffled and sure enough they were barking inside a hole. The cat had eluded his canine adversaries. Instead of climbing a tree, Mr. Bob chose to live a long life. Highly disappointed, we loaded the dogs and went to another ranch.

We entered the new territory and the dogs were turned loose once again. They had time to hunt their way up one canyon and if that failed to produce we could wait until tomorrow. This particular canyon held two tanks, one of which we hoped had a fresh hog track. Jerry, my wife, and I were observing old hog signs when I heard one of the dogs open up. We all jumped in the Jeep and drove up the canyon where we could hear better. By this time the hounds were in hot pursuit and singing their little hearts out. A few short minutes passed and their voices changed from a running yelp to a baying moan.

Looking down from the rim of the canyon we could see the hounds had a

semi-circle formed around mesquite trees. "This better not be a coon," Jerry said. Just then a large black object came from behind the trees. We hurried down the hillside to get a closer look as the long-barreled Ruger got yanked out of its George Lawrence residence. I quickly realized this wasn't just any Russian boar. It was the ole' stud-horse himself. Weighing well over three hundred pounds I suddenly felt undergunned. I was waiting for the opportunity to punch his lights out but the dogs kept interfering. When that chance did arrive I put a 240 gr. slug right behind his left shoulder. Flinch, would be a good word to describe how the boar reacted. He wheeled away from the dogs and headed toward all of us. I thought I was in big trouble since I was the closest to the action but the big hog changed his collision course ten yards from me. At this time he presented a beautiful broadside running shot. I dumped two more loads in the beast, one of which struck the shoulder on the right side and the other one inch behind it. I felt like I was shooting at a Wells Fargo armored car as the boar hadn't even stumbled. Fifteen yards later the boar fell over and when he did, I was there to put a finisher behind his ear. Weighing three hundred and twenty-five pounds and sporting two inch tusks, here lies my trophy Russian boar.

That same day there were no Mouflons spotted but we did see several whitetails. Having never hunted exotics before, I had informed Jerry that shooting fish out of a barrel was not my bag. He assured me that his exotic hunting was far from that. They were free-roaming animals that inhabited several large ranches.

Early the following morning we were driving over a large tract of land that supposedly had Mouflon on it. We would drive awhile then stop to glass out a canyon or two. Doing this for over three hours and not seeing any rams, I began to wonder if the Contender was going to see any action. Around 11:00 that morning we spotted



Mark with his 300 pounder. The .44 is a 10.5 inch Ruger and Federal 240s did the job.



Mark and his 150 yard Mouflon taken with the Super 14 .44 Mag and Federal factory ammo.



Hogs, Dogs and Handgun Hunting — a rough combination to beat.

our first sheep. It was a group of bachelors feeding along a creekbed. The wind happened to be in our favor so our stalk immediately began. By the time we got close enough to observe them, seven of the rams were lying down while one remained feeding. We couldn't get in a position without spooking the sheep to see which one had the best headgear. Jerry and I decided it would be to our advantage to sneak around the creekbed, which made a half circle eighty yards in front of the rams. This would put us in a position not only to determine horn size but would offer a good shot as well. After doing this the wind would no longer be in our favor. We eased up over the creekbank and without hesitation the rams were up and running. They hightailed it until they reached the ridgetop one hundred and fifty yards away. I looked at Jerry as he suggested we start all over. At this time I asked him if I could try a shot. He looked at me kind of cross-eyed and replied, "Go ahead if you think you can hit anything." Asking for his cowboy hat I laid on the ground and rested the handgun on top of his Stetson. Only one ram offered a shot by not stopping behind a clump of trees and he looked to be the biggest. I placed the crosshairs a few inches below the top of his back and touched her off. As the magnum roared the

Mouflon went down kicking. Jumping up quickly I could see disbelief written all over Jerry's face. If I could have looked into a mirror I probably would have seen the same thing. As we walked up to the ram I could tell he wouldn't make the record book of exotics but he was very respectable. Because of the shot and the honest fair chase hunting, he will be a trophy I'll long remember. And thanks to handguns like T/C, one hundred and fifty yard killing shots are no longer impossible or luck.

My wife and I had a great hunt and a wonderful time with the Campbells. His hunts weren't geared up for mass production as he only accepts very small groups. There were no phony set ups and nothing to discourage a sportsman from taking an exotic animal. If anyone is interested in contacting Jerry Campbell, he can be reached at Loma Alta Ranch, Rt. 4, Brownwood, Texas 76801.

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# IN THE GRAVEST EXTREME

Massad F. Ayoob is without a doubt the leading writer in police firearms usage today. IN THE GRAVEST EXTREME is a simple explanation of the role of the firearm in personal protection. I think this book important enough to devote a great deal of space to it. Each and every gun owner should consider it required reading. It's written in a no B.S., straight forward manner. Ayoob is an ex-street cop, is a firearms expert who knows both the system and what he's talking about. His introduction to the book is important — here it is.

## INTRODUCTION

When I decided to write this book, I resolved not to fill it with grisly cases of criminals shot by citizens in self-defense. Those who believe that the private citizen should not be permitted to possess defensive firearms rely heavily on anecdotes of murder for shock effect; Carl Bakal's "No Right to Bear Arms" is a case in point. Actually, almost every incident Bakal and the others depict can be argued either way. Their opinion is that each atrocity could have been averted if the assailants could have been prevented from having guns; my contention is that almost every one could have been prevented or mitigated had the intended victims been armed and able to fight back against their murderers. An exception is the accidental shooting, a statistically unlikely occurrence that can, in my opinion, be eliminated by proper training.

This book makes no attempt to convince the private citizen to acquire or carry firearms. It speaks to those who have already made the decision to do so, and endeavors only to advise them in the legal, ethical, and practical use of the deadly weapons they already own.

Perhaps it should be clarified at this point that the author believes personally that the citizen has the right to kill in defense of innocent life; the dead attacker waived his own right to live when he threatened to wrongfully deprive a victim of his. It is questionable whether anyone has the moral right, although the legal right still exists in many places, to use deadly force solely in defense of property. A house-breaker should be shot only if he presents a deadly danger to the innocent people therein, not to prevent his making off with the family silver. At the same time, one can understand the reasoning of a shopkeeper who kills a robber to prevent his escaping with stolen money, if the increasing depredations of such criminals have made it impossible for the merchant to get insurance, and the stolen receipts literally represent food out of his family's mouths.

Still, some states forbid anyone to kill over their money or anyone else's; so long as such laws are accompanied by a system that guarantees reparations for losses to criminals they should be universal and will eventually become so.

This book was written to correct the dangerous misconceptions on the part of many as to when they can exert the deadly force of the guns they have decided in advance that they may use

for self-protection. Too many people believe they can shoot suspected criminals when, in fact, they may have no right to do so. Too many people are incapable of using their guns in a combat situation with sufficient expertise to either prevent an armed criminal from taking innocent lives, or to be sure of not hitting bystanders with their own stray bullets. Both knowledge and ability should be prerequisites for the privilege of carrying a gun in public. It is my personal opinion that every applicant for a carry permit should pass a written examination on self-defense and lethal force laws, and a close-range qualification run over a combat pistol shooting course.

Some gun owners may consider this a suggested abrogation of their Constitutional rights. On the contrary, it is the failure to institute such controls that may eventually terminate the privilege of carrying concealed weapons for personal safety. Every well-intentioned citizen who shoots a shoplifter or petty thief — or a bystander, with a wild bullet — causes a public clamor to take away the privilege of keeping guns for personal defense, not only from him, but from me and from every other responsible citizen who chooses to arm himself.

It is a privilege that cannot be denied to the public by those who refuse to exercise or understand it themselves. The rate of crime against the person has increased at a rate that far outpaces the numerical and technical growth of the crime prevention community. The police establishment does not pretend that it can protect every citizen from every fatal or crippling assault. Indeed, there are many state and local governments whose ability to protect their constituents has actually declined. For the past few years, for instance, lack of funds has prohibited New York City from hiring new policemen, and attrition of resignations and what not has reduced the ranks of New York's finest from 35,000 to approximately 24,000 men. Yet the administrators of that city advocate reducing the privileges of private firearms ownership. The government that cannot protect the public must not strip them of the right to protect themselves.

And, in truth, the firearm is the only really effective means of defense against vicious, homicidal assault. Not for nothing are guns called equalizers. Nothing else can serve this function for the individual, law-abiding citizen. Clubs, knives, unequal physical strength, a gang's force of numbers — these are the equalizers to which the criminal resorts. They are, by their nature, weapons to which the average man or woman has no recourse, unless he or she either possesses brute strength, or travels in a pack.

It will be said by some that this book teaches the reader to kill criminals and get away with it. I prefer to think that it teaches him to stay alive in certain desperate situations; the emphasis is not so much on the taking of life as the relieving of threat to life. Far from encouraging the reader to take life, it advises great practical and moral restraint in the use of the lethal power the reader already possesses. I believe that the taking of one citizen's life by

another is an unnatural act, justified only as a last desperate escape from grave criminal danger. I think this philosophy will be evident in the following chapters.

Nor do I believe that this book will be of use to anyone but law-abiding citizens interested only in self-defense. The practical techniques are not assault-oriented, and in any case, if criminals read to improve their professional skills, they would long ago have absorbed the police procedural textbooks and become even harder to apprehend than they already are.

This book is one answer to our society's collective fear of individual attack. Some may be shocked that a book could be published teaching ordinary people how to use deadly force, for any purpose. Perhaps, in the last analysis, the only really shocking thing is that such a book needed to be written.

Ed: The next sixteen chapters cover the whole spectrum of self-defense — lethal force through the role of women and guns, calibers for self-defense, basic gunfighting techniques through the aftermath of a defensive shooting, plus more.

If you are not a law enforcement officer — and maybe if you are — I'm betting this book will change your attitudes a great deal toward the possibility of having to use a gun in self-defense.

The book is available from GRAVEST EXTREME, P.O. Box 122, Concord, NH 03301 at \$7.95 per copy pre-paid. I'd almost bet you can get an autographed copy if you ask for it. JDJ

## I LIKE SPORTS CARS BUT;

London — A tiny sports car leaves a lot to be desired as a midnight trysting spot, two secret lovers have learned.

Wedge into a two-seater, a near-naked man was suddenly immobilized by a slipped disc, trapping his woman companion beneath him, according to a doctor writing in a medical journal here.

The desperate woman tried to summon help by honking the horn with her foot. A doctor-ambulance man, firemen and a group of interested passers-by quickly surrounded the couple's car in Regent Park.

"The lady found herself trapped beneath 200 pounds of pain-racked, immobile man," said Dr. Brian Richards of Kent.

"To free the couple, firemen had to cut away the car frame," he added.

The distraught woman, helped out of the car, sobbed, "How am I going to explain to my husband what has happened to his car?"

## HHI T-SHIRT CONTEST

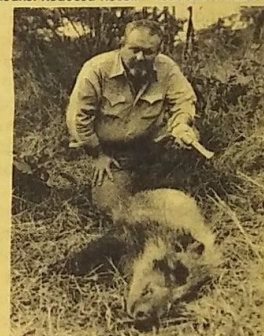
Everybody wants one. But I can't come up with a design I like. I have no prejudices as far as a T-shirt design. You don't have to be an artist — an idea is good enough. Then maybe I can get an artist to come up with a decent design. Also want to get something going with a decal. If your idea or drawing is used, I'll contribute \$50.00 cash American toward your next gun, ammo or whatever. (HHI, P.O. Box 357 Mag., Bloomingdale, OH 43910)

## NOVEMBER HHI HUNT

Telico Junction Hunting Preserve — November 8, 9, 10. Steve Wynn is running this one. Don't know if I can make it or not. So far, nine guys scattered from California to North Carolina are going to have a fine hunt. Still have room for a couple more. Call Steve at (419-339-3941) around 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time for arrangements. TJHP is between Nashville and Chattanooga in the beginning of the foothills of the Smokies. They call them foothills 'cause that's the only way over them — on foot!

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## EXPLORER II

By J. D. Jones

Nowadays it seems like you can't buy much for a hundred bucks. Then every once in a while something comes along that turns out to be a good deal. H & R has been very, very successful in covering the "good gun for the money" low price market with revolvers.

Well, look out — here comes the Charter Explorer II. At 100 bucks it's an offshoot of the Explorer rifle and might just outshine daddy in the long run.

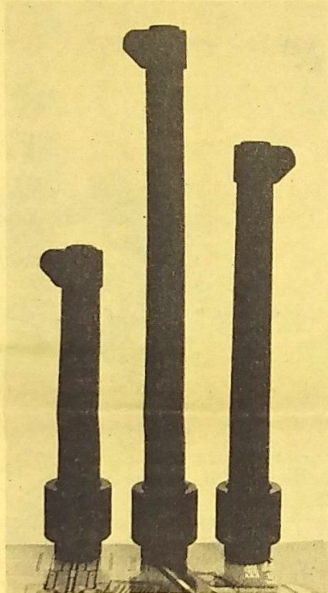
For openers, it resembles the Bolo Mauser which has always had fantastic eye appeal. Next, how about moderately priced, quick interchangeable barrels of 6, 8 and 10 inch length. It takes all of about 30 seconds to swap from one barrel to another. Has adjustable sights too. No problem to sight in a barrel, put it on again later and dial in the original sight setting to end up sighted in. How 'bout two magazines with the gun. One in the well, one inside the grip.

The gun is light — goes just a hair over two pounds with the ten inch barrel on it on my postal scales. The barrels are aluminum with a steel liner. The receiver is also aluminum. The bolt and parts including magazines that need to be of steel are made of steel. The trigger itself is a steel part and the grips are plastic. The safety is large, easily operated and positive. The magazine latch is large and easily operated. Magazines drop free of the gun. The grip is fairly large and hand filling. The rear sight, while adjustable is a compromise notch width that seems to be better suited to the short barrel.

My first impression was that it was going to be a son of a gun to shoot because of a lot of light on each side of the front post and a fairly long hand trigger pull.

Well, a match gun it ain't — but it will hold its own with a lot of more expensive guns and beat quite a few of them in the accuracy department. Someone was kind enough to leave the range littered with 20 gauge empties and the Explorer II with any barrel is deadly on them at 30 yards. One hundred yard pop cans aren't a sure thing, but after sighting in with Remington standard velocity I averaged about 50% on them.

This gun is quite large due to its design. Its largeness, particularly with the 10 inch barrel will make it a better home defense gun than many smaller guns while retaining the advantages of a handgun for this role. A two hand

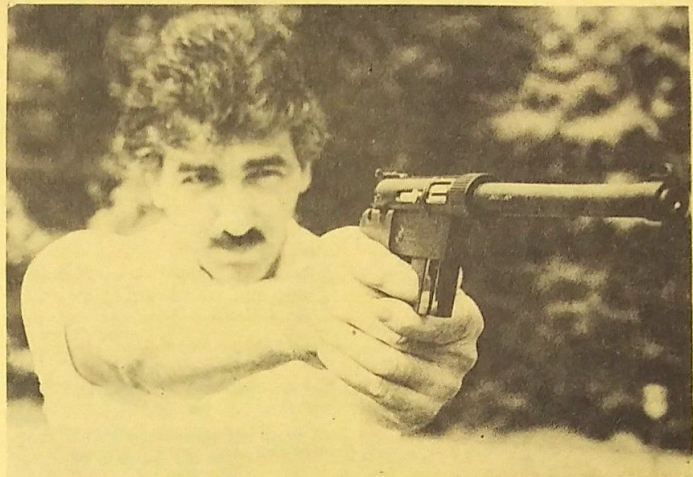


Short (6"), Long (10") and Medium (8") Explorer Barrels.

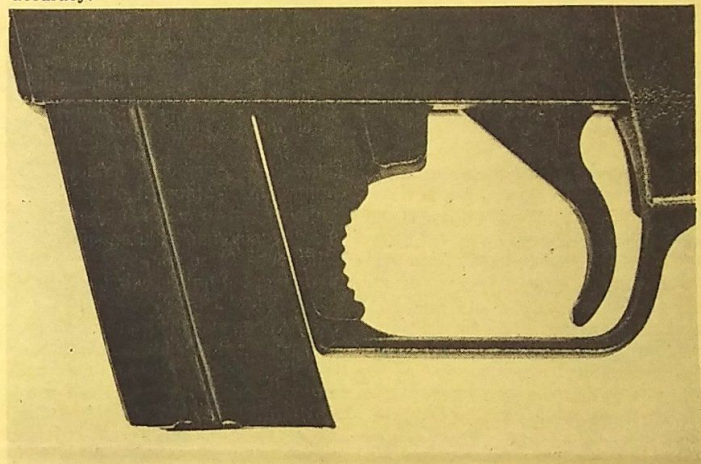
grip — one hand on the barrel — one hand on the grip and go button make the Explorer very readily pointed quite accurately at close range even by those unfamiliar with guns.

The reliability factor of many inexpensive guns is justifiably questioned. It is just plain fact that some of the really cheapies just don't work reliably. Those guns are not usually made by firms like H & R or Charter. The Explorer II is derived from the Armalite-Explorer I and the basic action has been around close to twenty years. It works flawlessly. There have been zero malfunctions with the test gun with .22LR standard or hi-velocity ammo. Several boxes of Yellow-Jackets, Expiditers and Stingers all digested without malfunction. At this point I've put over 500 assorted rounds through it without cleaning or a malfunction. I usually figure it takes 500 rounds to break in a .22 auto.

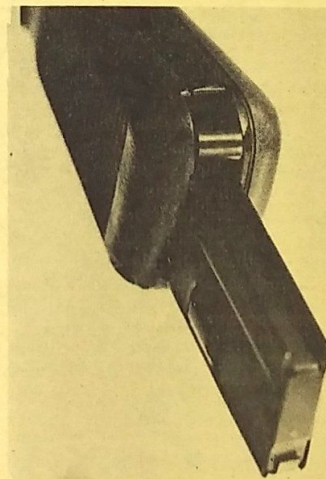
The Explorer II obviously isn't the gun for everyone. It does represent an excellent buy. It's very lightweight and compact when broken down. Just the thing for a pack or for a "take along" gun when fishing. It'll do the job for small game, plinking and home defense. For survivalists it may just be one of the best when viewed from a lot of angles. At a hundred bucks it's a bargain.



Ten inch barrel is long — gives highest velocity although not necessarily best accuracy.



Large, easy to use magazine release of the Explorer can be reached with the trigger finger.



Extra magazine is carried inside the grip.

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

There is a new combat type double action racy lookin' fast shootin' .45 about to make its debut. I've shot the prototype and feel the basic gun system has potential if it's put together right.

Right now this gun doesn't have a name. The manufacturer is looking for an appropriate name for a no nonsense combat gun.

Send your ideas for a name to HHI (P.O. Box 357 Mag., Bloomingdale, OH 43910). I'll forward all the correspondence. If your idea is used, I'm sure the manufacturer will make an appropriate award for its use. Let your imagination run wild. Send in one, a dozen or a hundred ideas. They will all be considered. Most likely one lean, mean, hard sounding easy to remember word will be the winner! Good Luck!



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# BIG BORE BROTHERS FROM NAVY ARMS

By John Taffin, No. 76

Have you ever looked at a handgun or rifle and immediately had your mind go back to older times? Smells of wood fires, vast prairies, buffaloes, all these came to mind as I opened a package from Navy Arms.

Navy Arms is known for many replica black-powder six-shooters but the one I wanted, to go along with my program of testing as many .44 Revolvers as possible, was their 1875 Remington copy. Specifically ordered in .44-40 caliber and nickel plating, I can almost see Indian Scouts reflected in the finish. If I only had a bib front button down shirt and a big Sharps rifle to go along with this Remington I'd be ready to head for the hills.

The 1875 Remington was produced in very small numbers when compared to the Colt S.A. Only about 25,000 being produced with 10,000 of these going to the Egyptian government. Originally chambered for a .44 Remington round, the .44-40 and .45 were added in 1879. Looking much like the Colt SA except for an under barrel web, the Remingtons seen in most western movies are actually Colts with a web added. With a serial number range of 11,000 on my test gun, the replica Remingtons, made by Uberti in Italy, will probably surpass the original Remington production.

Just how close to the original is this Replica Remington? Luckily I have a friend who has a very low serial numbered original Remington that has been in his family for generations. In comparing the two, except for the Lanyard Ring on the original, the two look identical. Both are nickel, with wood grips, both are supplied with a pinched front sight and V-rear. In fact except for the obvious age of the original, and the different metal markings of the Replica they look identical.

Internally there is one difference, the reproduction is equipped with a hammer block safety that is brought into play when the hammer is placed in the safety notch. While this is better than the original safety notch only, I prefer, and feel safer, using this .44-40 as a five-shooter with the hammer down on an empty chamber. Also the firing pin is the newer "floating" type as now provided on all Colt S.A.'s.

Anyone who is a regular reader of **The Sixgunner** knows I'm a sucker for a single-action, perhaps even single action silly. The Navy Arms .44-40 is no exception. I liked it immediately. Its finish is beautiful, the grips fit perfectly, the action is smooth, it locks up tight, and the balance is superb. The trigger pull felt good and a later measurement showed it to be a nice 2 1/2 lb. pull.

When I dug into my stash of .44-40's which were reloaded for my Colt's, it was found that all four boxes were too long for the Remington cylinder so I had to start from scratch. No way was I about to buy factory .44-40's at \$20.00 per box so I had to run some loads through my Colt's first to come up with some brass.

Four years ago in a National magazine a test reported 3-5/8" groups from a rest at 25 yards for four shots

using factory .44-40's. So when I headed for the range I didn't expect much. I was pleasantly surprised. Even with my .44-40 Colts, no serious shooting for groups had ever been attempted. They were considered strictly fun guns for busting rocks and rolling tin cans.

All loads were assembled using Unique as this seems to be the best powder for standard loads in the .44-40. By no means should this try to be made into a .44 Magnum or even a .44 Special. Someday I will remember an Abilene or Ruger cylinder to .44-40 and see what this old Moss-back is capable of in a really strong sixgun, but this Remington, while certainly stronger than the originals, is certainly not in the Magnum class.

Even in a rifle the .44-40 is still behind a .44 Magnum Sixgun. However until recent factory loadings upgrading the .44 Special and down loading the .44 Magnum, the best defensive factory .44 available was the .44-40.

Four different loads with three different bullets were tried in the Navy Arms .44-40 plus a Colt Bisley which originally was a .44-40 but now has a .44 Special barrel, and in a Colt New Frontier with an extra cylinder. With the published 3-5/8" group in the back of my mind, I thought my first group was a fluke, but results were gratifying to say the least with all groups running under 1-1/2" except one load (429421/7.0 gr. Unique) in the Navy Arms .44-40. Here are my test results. All groups five shots shooting from a padded rest at 20 yards using WW cases, CCI standard primers with all loads in the 850-1000FPS range.

Especially notice the group from the old Bisley with 42798/9.0 Unique! Why were my groups so much better than those obtained with factory .44-40's? In slugging the bore I found a diameter of .431 in the Navy Arms .44-40; with factory .44-40's running .426-.427 there is no way to get a tight group with anything but reloads using bullets of the proper sizing diameter.

With .44 Specials pushing 250 grains bullets at 1200 FPS and .44 magnums driving the same bullets over 1500 FPS, the .44-40 with a 200 grain bullet at 1000 FPS, possibly 1100 maximum is way behind. This is not a serious hunting handgun, but it sure is a lot of fun.

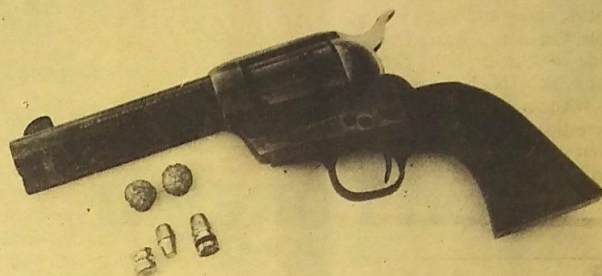
When one considers the groups were fired from a nickel plated sixgun on a bright sunny day using a V-notch rear and a bright shiny pinched front sight, this .44-40 Remington is a good shooter indeed. A number of jacks fell to the 42798/9.0 GR. Unique load. It does not perform dramatically like the .44 Mag, but it puts them down right now with solid hits. I would have liked to have tried it on badgers but no really good shots presented themselves and I didn't want to wound one and lose it down the hole.

As I said this is not a big game handgun, but I certainly would not hesitate to take a close shot on a deer with the emphasis on close. One problem with the sights coupled with my eyes is the bullets hit 6" above

Bullet	Charge	Navy Arms .44-40	Colt .44 Bisley	Colt .44 New Frontier
42798 Lyman	10.0 GR Uniq	1"	1-1/8"	7/8"
42798 Lyman	9.0 GR Uniq	1-1/4"	5/8"	1"
429215 Lyman	8.0 GR Uniq	1-1/4"	1"	1-1/4"
429421 Lyman	7.0 GR Uniq	2"	1"	1"

Bullet	Charge	Navy Arms .45	Colt SA .45
454190	9.0 Uniq	1-1/4"	1-1/4"
452423	9.0 Uniq	1"	1"
454424	9.0 Uniq	1-1/4"	1-1/2"
200SWC	10.0 Uniq	1-3/4"	1-1/4"
200 JPH	10.0 Uniq	1-1/2"	1-1/4"



Colt SAA .44 Special and a variety of cast and recovered Lyman composite bullets.



Navy's Remington Replica. A touch of nostalgia with modern metals and performance.



In comparison, the Colt New Frontier, Navy Remington and Colt Bisley.

point of aim at 20 yards.

It was unnecessary to whip up any new leather for the .44-40 Remington as it slips nicely into holsters made for 7-1/2" Colt S.A.'s. Unnecessary, but it deserves an old style holster when time allows.

After I had finished testing this .44-40 and began gathering my notes together for this article, I received another pleasant surprise. Another package came from Navy Arms. In an identical box marked .44-40 Nickle; the packing slip was also marked 7-1/2"

Nickle 44-40. At first I assumed a duplicate shipment, but in unwrapping I found an identical sixgun chambered for .45 Colt.

Finished just as nicely as the .44-40 twin, the .45 also has a good trigger pull and while the action is not quite as smooth, the lock-up is very tight. Having at least 500 rounds of .45 Colt loaded in various configurations, for my Colts and Rugers, I supposed I just needed to grab some appropriate boxes, and head for the range. Alas

Continued On Page 15



## JANUARY HHI HUNT

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From out of the past —

### Big Bore Continued from page 14

nothing I had would fit. As with the .44-40 every round was too long and even the No. 452523 Lyman designed for the auto rim and which will fit short cyclindere S & W .45 Colts was too long when crimped in the crimping groove.

So into my stash for some new brass. This had been put back long enough that the price on the boxes was \$4.55! A search of various bullets yielded eight different .45's, finding some I had even forgotten I had. Five were chosen: three Lyman designs — 454424 Keith, 454190 Standard round nose, both at 250-260 grains, and the aforementioned 452423 at 232 grains; and two factory bullets — Speer 200 grain jacketed mag hollow points and 200 grain lead SWC's.

Since concentrating on loading .44's for so long I'd forgotten how relaxing it was to load the Big .45. After full house loads of No. 2400 and No. 680 in .44 Mag. cases, the .45 Colt brass looked almost empty with its charges of 9 and 10 grains of Unique. My first reloading efforts 25 years ago were with the 454190 bullet cast from a SC mould over the kitchen stove and using the now long gone No. 5066 powder. Many pleasant memories came back, I must be getting old!

The Navy Arms .45 was paired with a 1950's Colt SA .45 which also has a 7-1/2" barrel. All loads were fired from a padded rest at 20 yards, WW cases, CCI standard primers. None of these loads were chronographed but are probably in the 900-1000FPS range.

As with the .44-40 Remington, groups are very good especially considering the sights. Both of these Navy Arms Replicas would benefit from good adjustable sights but that would spoil the romance and nostalgia connected with them. Higher front sights would help as the .45 N.A. shoots high just as the .44-40, with the .45 hitting 8" above point of aim with 250 grain bullets and 5-1/2" above

with 200 grain bullets. Since the front sights seem to be screwed into the barrel, replacements shouldn't be to hard to come by.

Both of these Remington Replicas seem to be good shootin' well made, faithful copies that should give years of good service with reasonable loads.

Note: These replicas faithfully duplicate the originals — even to the "battle" sight which was intended to give an approximately 100 yard point blank belt buckle hold on a man with original ammo. The "pinched" foresight can be removed and a higher front sight made for serious use.

## WANTED!! YOUR STORIES MORE ARTICLES NEEDED

### WRITERS GUIDE

Your fellow HHI members want to read your stories. Writing is not hard. Just write the story the same way you would tell it. It doesn't matter if it's a short or long story. It's fine if you have good photos, but they are not essential.

Stories can be submitted in longhand or typed. Please use only every other line either way. This is important.

Don't worry about spelling or punctuation. Just tell us those shootin' and huntin' stories and experiences. Other people want to know what you are shooting and doing!

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## O.S.S. AWARD

Ken Whitworth was awarded 1000 cast bullets of his choice by Ohio Shooters Supply for his article on Deer Hunting with a .430.

## PRECISION LOADERS LOG

P.L.L. awarded Charlie Able and Al Illig each a 50 page P.L.L. for their articles in the August Sixgunner. Two more will be given for each of the next five issues. For information on the Log — P.O. Box 8185, Long Beach, CA 90808.

## FIRING LINE

Here is my renewal check. I really enjoy *The Sixgunner* and find a lot of useful information in it. I really like the 7MM on the 225 case and will try to write up something on it soon. I hope to try it on a deer or bear.

Can you give any information on using handguns in Africa or Australia? I'd like to go next summer.  
M.R. Thomas, No. 1052

ED: We've published quite a bit on African hunting and will do more as the information comes in. Right now only South Africa and Zimbabwe are open to handgun hunting. HHI is planning an African hunt next year. Keep in touch about that. For the best service I know of in travel reservations with guns write George Daniels, International Sportsman's Adventures Ltd., 72 W. Adams, Chicago, IL 60603. Also ask for his safari information. Australia is a no-no for handguns without a hell of a lot of red tape and maybe getting a little sneaky.

JDJ

One Request — When possible, explain some of the technical data for us "new" fellows.

Gary K. Root, No. 1023

Enclosed is my \$15.00 for one year subscription for *Sixgunner* and membership. I have subscribed to many gun magazines and after a year or so given up due to lack of interest or the magazines became boring. Many of the scribes today lack field experience and write from paper ballistics and backyard shooting. I like sixguns for the following reasons.

They are the most powerful handgun, I believe barring none, for their size, portability and handiness. Here in Wyoming we pack heavy sixguns whenever time and conditions allow and shoot them extensively. I have followed the theories of Elmer Keith and follow and believe them very closely. I have successfully taken big game with a sixgun and have the greatest confidence in their killing power.

For the past 20 years we have worked exclusively with the .45 Colt in all available guns on the market and have successfully loaded them way beyond .44 Mag velocities and energy levels in the heavy frame guns. Not in the Contender... All of this has been done in sixguns. I have an article near ready. We are currently working with an arms company to bring out the old .454 Magnum. This is the predecessor

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of the .454 Casull also which I have shot and am acquainted with its inventor Dick Casull also of Wyoming.

I hope through your magazine we can share some of the information we have come up with in the past two years of experimenting. If you wish to print this letter, help yourself as I would be very happy to correspond with anyone interested in loading the .44 Mag or .45 Colt to full potential. I know someone out there can help us out and fill some of the voids in our work. We are still learning.

**John Linebaugh**  
Box 1263

Cody, WY 82414

ED: We want the information and think it will prove to very interesting. Anyone wishing to correspond with John can do so at the above address.

JDJ

Just want to tell you I've had a very enjoyable morning reading all my issues of *The Sixgunner*. I've read some of them so many times I think I'll wear the print off soon.

The main reason I'm writing is because I want to make a comment or two and ask a question or two. My question is this. Any chance that in the future HHI will offer belt buckles, decals and small pins such as IHMSA does? I know when I wear my IHMSA buckle or pin on my shirt I get a lot of people asking questions about it. I think that there would be a lot of people who would be into handgun hunting if they knew about us (HHI) a little bit more. I even have a IHMSA decal stuck on my toolbox at work and people have asked me about it. Perhaps if enough of our members would write and let you know we could have buckles and pins made. I think it is a good idea.

Now as for a comment on guns. I've just re-read the June 1980 *Sixgunner* and your column saying the S&W Model 29 is overrated. I agree.

I have been working part-time at a gunshop near my home here for almost 17 years. I work as range officer because we have a 50 foot pistol range. I think that S&W's quality control has really gone bad. I've seen guns that were superb and in the next box one that was a dog. I know some of the real old 29's around are just great. I don't have one currently because I think they are over-priced as well as not top quality.

I have a new model Ruger Super Blackhawk. On November 18th of this year will make four years since I bought it. I have put just over 16,000 rounds through it. About 90% of those have been my favorite load, a 250 grain hardcast Keith Bullet with 23 grains of WW 296 and a CCI 350 primer. As for cases, I use whatever I can get. Mostly Winchester. Most 44 shooters reload so they save their brass.

Once in a great while I get a customer on the range who drops his ONCE FIRED 44 Mag brass on the floor. One time I came in one night and a guy I knew just casually gave me five boxes of 44 brass he was saving. He didn't load, but he knew I did. Most of the other calibers with the exception of 44 Specials, I find on the floor by the bushel. I have several coffee cans loaded with 38 Specials and 9MM Luger brass tucked away for a rainy day. I don't have a .357, but I do save brass for friends who do reload it.

I mentioned the 44 Special.

Well, I lucked out on that too. I have a S&W Model 1926 target model in 44 Special. It has factory installed (by

Smith) King front and rear sights. When I got it last year it was like brand new. Just a small amount of bluing was worn off at the muzzle from being in a holster, but not a scratch on it. I wrote to Roy Jinks and got a very nice letter telling me the gun left the factory on July 18th, 1946. My two loads for the 44 Special are; for a light load a 250 grain Keith Bullet with 7.0 grains of Unique, for a heavy load 16 grains of H-110 with the same bullet. I find H-110 gives me more power and velocity with lower pressure than Elmer's load of 17.5 grains of 2400.

Well, this will be it. Thanks for taking the time to read this.

**Richard Manka, No. 331**

It's possible HHI can come up with decals, pins, buckles, etc., if we can come up with some quality products at a reasonable price. I've not been satisfied so far with quality-cost comparisons I've seen. Anyone out there know where to go for small quantity orders?

JDJ

J.D. — Congratulations on your scores at Bisley; really incredible work with a borrowed gun. The Kengill looks interesting to say the least. Is there any chance of getting hold of one on this side of the Atlantic? Any idea what the cost would be?

**Mike Grove, No. 212**

The Kengill is very interesting. Actual cost of getting one into the country would be around \$1500 minimum. That's why I don't have one! If anyone is serious about getting one, I'll bring it in at cost.

JDJ

I just wanted to write to say how much I enjoy reading *The Sixgunner*, more so than any other. I have hunted small game for about ten years with a variety of handguns and started last year deer hunting with one; no luck, but I will certainly keep trying. Thank you all very much and keep up the good work.

**Scott Crellin, No. 396**

I wrote to *The Sixgunner* in May telling of my adventures with the T/C and prairie dogs. Your article in *The Handloader*, July-August '75 prompted my building a .22 K Hornet 10" Bull Barrel T/C two years ago. That combination has accounted for many prairie dogs and other pests.

You mention in your article that you were testing other cartridges for maximum performance in the 10" T/C. Specifically, I am interested in the results of the wildcat .218 Bee — .218 Mashburn Bee or .218 Ackley Bee. Would you share these results with me? How would this wildcat Bee compare with the .22 K Hornet or the .223 in the T/C?

**R.D. Herring, No. 773**

R.D. — The standard .218 Bee in the 10" T/C will do 2800 with the 45 grain Speer to tie the K Hornet. The thin brass of the .218 combined with its excessive taper gives very poor case life at this velocity.

Opining it up to the 218 Mashburn Bee (I have the reamer) will allow around 2900 FPS with the 45 Speer — (15.5 — WW — 296, Rem 7.5 Primer) with decent case life. We took the 45 Speer up to an average of 3051 FPS with essentially one shot per case permissible. Sorta expensive to get three grand out of a 10 inch.

WW-296 and H-4227 were the best powders for the .218 Mashburn Bee. Accuracy was excellent as was killing power. If it wasn't for the thin weak brass, I would favor the Mashburn Bee

over the K Hornet — as it is — everyone should have one of each.

The .222 and .223 work adequately in the 10" T/Cs, but are at their best in barrels of 12–14 inches. The .222 Magnum is quite good at 14 inches, giving close to 2800 with a 55 grain bullet. Essentially the same as a .223, only a little better.

I've just chambered a 14" barrel for a wildcat. .225 I call the 226 JDJ. It's set up to use 60 grain bullets and I'm guessing it will do 3100 F.P.S. with a 55 grain. No chrono data yet. Maybe for the next issue. This cartridge is a load and fire form number.

JDJ

**Mike Slaybaugh AX 2**

CFAO/NAEK/AIMD

F.P.O. Seattle, WA 98770

Is back in the Navy, stationed at Okinawa, misses his handguns and hunting. Would like to correspond with Stateside Sixgunners!

In the 1978 Annual Edition of "*44 Mag*", there was an article entitled "*The .44 Mag — a Gripping Affair*," by John Lachuk.

Needless to say, I felt that this was one in depth story of the various grips offered by both commercial and individual manufacturers.

Well, a set of Cobra "CN" grips by Pulju Enterprises caught my eye. So, I ordered a set of Goncola Alues, oil finish, finger grooved grips. They retail for about \$30.00. I made a phone call and expected them in about six weeks. Then 12, then 16, 20, 24 and eventually 6 months passed along with several more phone calls. Finally they arrived. There's a saying that "the only difference between little boys and big boys is the price of their toys," and you can believe it. I tore into the package like a real "youngster". But what did I find? A set of grips complete with coarse cross grain scratches, gloss finish instead of oil, complete with runs and missed spots. However, they have one redeeming factor, they fit good. So, I will keep them, the fit being the most important aspect and everything else being secondary. The finish can (and will) be redone.

Would I buy them again? No! I believe that there are many other suppliers and manufacturers out there who no doubt deliver a good product in all respects.

If anyone knows of someone who puts out a good set of grips, how about letting us know so we can all learn from the experience of others. And last, I will attempt to cover the area of firearms engraving in future issues of *The Sixgunner* for those who might be interested in the craft.

P.S. If anyone in the Chicago area does good firearms polishing or a "French Gray" please contact me. (312-724-8238).

**Robert E. Maki, No. 1057**

I have a question I would like your opinion on. I am thinking seriously about shortening the barrel on my

Ruger Super Blackhawk .44 Mag. It is an early model (not flat top) which I have had since 1964. Other handguns have come and gone, but this is my favorite (and still very accurate).

About all of my hunting with the Ruger consists of whitetail deer hunting from tree stands (where barrel length doesn't matter as much) and chasing wild boar with dogs (where I believe a shorter barrel will be handier to use.) I've read all the pros and cons over the years on barrel length and have about decided to put the axe to my barrel, I just haven't decided on the exact length. I'll admit my main reasons for shortening the barrel are to make the gun (and holster) more compact and for looks (the short barrel looks better to me).

I don't think the velocity loss would be significant for my kind of hunting. One thing I think could be important is the sight radius. I don't have any trouble with my eyes (I am 42 years old and still don't wear glasses) but I plan on keeping this gun and the sight radius may have a bearing if my eyes change in future years.

I like the 5" barrel length but there doesn't seem to be much available in the holster line for this length. If I went with a 4-5/8" barrel I would have more to choose from in holsters. I don't know if 3/8" difference in sight radius would matter or not.

I am also going to install a front sight insert and was wondering which color you have found to be best? I just installed a Millet Industries rear sight with white outline but haven't tried it yet, so don't know how I will like it.

When I cut the barrel, I'm going to make a custom front sight and I was wondering if the same blade height will work with the shorter barrel, or if I should start with a higher sight and file it down as needed. I would appreciate any suggestions you might have on this subject.

**Charles H. Murphree**

I think you've got the basics right. There is very little difference in velocity between a 5.0 and 7.5" barrel. Some loads show more difference than others — nothing you hit with either will ever think about it. I've been using 5.0 for more years than I care to remember and have probably shot 40+ animals with it. I can't see much difference in accuracy due to the shorter sight radius at normal hunting ranges of up to 100 yards. I've gotten two running deer at around 100 with a 5" Ruger. As you get older eyes generally accommodate the shorter sight radius better than the longer ones. I have a "Hot Pink" front sight insert that does not shine, is highly visible and doesn't change point of impact with light changes. You can use the same front sight (7.5") on a Ruger cutting it back to 5 or so. I simply don't see holsters as a problem. Some for 4-5/8" will fit a 5", others can be purchased long and cut off.

JDJ

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