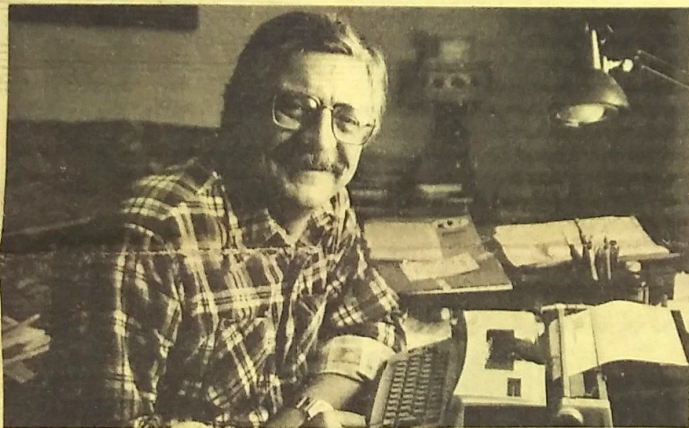




THE SIXGUNNER



MY CORNER

By J. D. Jones

Tom Frick, No. 23, is the champ on signing up new HHI members. Congratulations and thanks. That fact led to a little contest. \$50.00 cash or SSK merchandise (winner's choice) to the HHI member that signs up the most new members between receiving this and August 15, 1980. Have it guys!

Requests for HHI "usables-collectables" has been hot and heavy since issue one. OK, it's work, and expensive to finance, but it's here. After a lot of thought and research, the Custom Knife described elsewhere, was decided on to give the best value and opportunity of increasing value to HHI Charter Members. I hope to develop this into a series that will increase in value at the rate equal to the Mag-na-port Customs. Why a knife? Simple — it's impossible to do a worthwhile gun for under \$500.00. Custom Limited Edition Knives have shown astounding value increases over both the short and long haul. The knife is more affordable to more members than a gun. In addition, a few guns will be made for those who want them — may number probably on the order of 25 or so.

WW has a new .45-70 300 gr. H.P. round. I've just received a few of them and initial shooting was very satisfactory.

Still not satisfied with the .458 x 2". Haven't done much with it due to time

demands. Maybe by next issue it'll be sorted out. No accuracy problems.

The new address of General Sporting Goods Corp. is 798 Cascadilla Street, P.O. Box .30-06, Ithaca, NY 14850. GSGC is Norma Ammo, Precision Sports (hunting, shooting, outdoor products) and Hasselfors Stainless Marine. Write Greg Pogson for Norma and B.S.A. info. Precision Sports is new. You'll hear a lot more about them.

It's probably no secret that I've felt for years the M-29 was the most over-rated pistol around. Well, S & W hasn't changed my mind about that, but they've just announced something that brings them up a notch in my respect. Hammers and triggers in the stainless guns will no longer be made of stainless. Hoo-Ray! From now on, the hammer and triggers will be carbon steel, hard chrome plated. You for a change will be getting the best of modernization. You'll get a smoother, lighter, crisper, less creepy action and probably superior rust resistance. How 'bout that for an increase in quality for a change! Personally, I still prefer a standard steel gun Metalife SS'd or Black Chromed, to stainless. S & W is also introducing a 9MM 125 gr. H.P. Nyclad round. Also announced are a

Continued On Page 2



ONE! TWO! — CARIBOU!

By Fred Guggenmos

No. 723

One early morning in October I woke up at 5:30 a.m. to a bright clear day and decided that it would be a perfect kind of day to try and scare up some critter to take movies of. I had this new movie camera with a heck of a good zoom-telephoto lens on it. All I had to do was find some "Game" to photograph. I dressed and shoulder holstered my protector; a Ruger .41 magnum pistol, as no one ever went out in these parts without an arm of some sort. The "bear" is the big threat in Alaskan Bush country, and a .41 might not stop a charging bear, but it will run off most that would challenge you. I also rigged the movie camera and set out on my way for a fun day.

I traveled to several areas, over the tundra covered hills, with a 125 Kawasaki dual range. I suspect that bike of being able to crawl a tree in low range, at about three to eight m.p.h., so I was ambling along over that tundra very comfortably when I spotted a porcupine in the top of a tree. I stopped to put the lens on it and soon became bored as that character didn't have a desire to move much at all. I moved on and after riding the ridges for about an hour and a half I stopped to take a rest. As I scanned the area, enjoying the vast wilderness and pure serenity I spotted a gray object on the

side of a hill about 500 yards away. I couldn't tell what it was, but it didn't fit into the landscape so I got out the camera and put it on full zoom telephoto to take a better look. There in my lens stood a beautiful Bull Caribou, and by this time it had also seen me and got up from where it was resting in the tundra. I was in my glory filming, and the caribou; curious and dumb as they usually are, came toward me. . . closer and closer and I suspect its motives were to see what I was and what I was up to. I sat steadfast on my bike almost laying on the handlebars enjoying the filming session to its utmost and holding the camera steady with my position. When the bull got about 100 yards away he slowed down and started angling uphill leaving me still 80 yards downhill. He must have gotten my scent as he stopped, so I stopped filming and waited for his next move. I got tired holding the camera up to my eye so I put it down and hollered at him and he just stood there! I finally got frustrated waiting for him to move, so I pulled out the Ruger and took a bead on him with the intention of scaring him into a move; but before I could shoot, he darted up that hill and was soon to be out of sight. I couldn't let that happen and the

Continued On Page 2

125 SWHP .38 Special Plus P and 125 SWC Nyclad rounds. A new caliber for S & W is a standard .45 Auto 230 FMJ round. Personally, I haven't fired a round of S & W ammo in at least 7-8 years. If anyone has any experience with the Nyclad bullets, let's hear about it. My knowledge's pretty well limited to police agencies going nuts over it because they can't get a barrel-bullet match as with conventional bullets. Roy Jinks, no slouch as a handgun hunter, has assumed new expanded responsibilities at S & W and hopefully some of their problems with customer service and quality or lack thereof will improve as a result. How about it, Roy — any chance of returning to the old fashioned, but far superior cylinder stop — at least in the M-29?

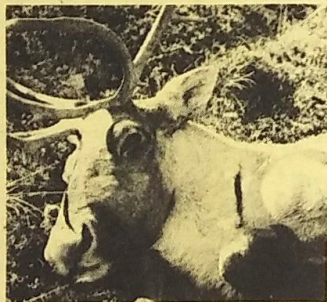
Bushnell just announced 8 x 30 and 7 x 50 armored binoculars. For all Bushnell info: H. Palmer, Bushnell Optical Co., 2828 E. Foothill Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91107. See if you can con him out of a Bushnell patch, too!

May 15 has come and gone and the Wildey didn't show. Maybe it was 1981 Will was talking about.

Soap Box Time:

Give the devil his due — Carter tried. The aborted rescue attempt of the hostages was costly in lives and prestige. Seems like during WW II everyone that needed help sure got it. Money, food, guns and lives were supplied by the good ol' USA. Since then we've given more billions than I can count and as far as I can see, all these give-aways have gotten us in grief. I'm not particularly an isolationist, but it doesn't look like our friends are really good friends. In essence, our "good guys" policies haven't worked. With elections — maybe the most important presidential elections any of us will see — coming up, our votes are important. We can't go with the anti-gunners, Kennedy and Anderson. Carter isn't tough enough for the job. Who's left? ???

One-Two Continued From Page 1



The .41 Mag gave an instant one shot kill at 80 yards with this neck shot.

photographer in me stepped aside and let the hunter in me take over. I had tags and license as the season was open and now my natural reaction was to fill them. When I was on target, I was sure I would miss but when I let it go, the bull dropped in his tracks. I couldn't believe my eyes! I dropped the bike and the camera and started running to where he dropped. The bullet had entered just below the head in the neck and killed it instantly! I looked back at my bike and could hardly see it, and that's when I decided to pace it off. . . It was a full 80 paces and I jumped for joy and kissed my Ruger in thanks!!! Quite a gun! - Damn! Hot Damn. . . I forgot all about movies for awhile. I was so excited I left the



OUTSTANDING AMERICAN HANDGUNNER AWARDS

Warren Center . . . 1980's Outstanding American Handgunner.

During a prestigious ceremony held in conjunction with the NRA Annual Meetings, Warren Center, inventor of the Thompson/Center Contender and other firearms, was named 1980's Outstanding American Handgunner.

Mr. Center was presented an award statue depicting a handgun hunter in the act of aiming. The statue itself, made of cast bronze and with marble base, weighs approximately 65 pounds and is truly a work of art.

J. D. Jones, Chairman of the

Foundation and Stephen Vogel, President of the Foundation, made the presentation to Mr. Center.

Others in contention for the award were: John Ashbrook (Congressman), Joe Bowman (Exhibition Shooter), John Bianchi (Bianchi Holsters), Bill Davis (Competitive Shooter), Frank Pachmayr (Gunsmith), Al Pfitzmayer (Big Game Hunter), Robert E. Petersen (Chairman, Petersen Publishing Company), Ted Rowe (President, Harrington & Richardson), Michael Yacino (Executive Director, Massachusetts Gun Owners Action League).

Grits Gresham of Sports Afield was Master of Ceremonies of the program and Steve Symms (Congressman-Idaho) was the featured speaker.

Each of the Top Ten was presented a handgun by one of the leading firearms manufacturers/gunsmiths.

The Foundation wishes to express its appreciation to those firms and individuals who made the gala event successful. Individuals and firms wishing to become associated with the Foundation should contact: OAHAF, P. O. Box 45-70, Bloomingdale, OH 43910.



How's that for a rack on No. 2? Check the entrance wound in the right front shoulder.

caribou where it was laying and went to get my pal Dave to help me get the animal cut up and hauled back to our area via the bikes.

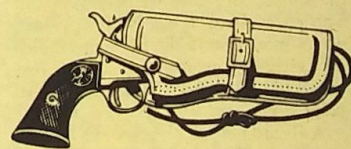
Dave was still in the sack, so I excitedly told him of the event, what and where, while I grabbed some line and a hunting knife, telling Dave at the same time to "get with it". . . I decided to go on ahead and dress out the caribou, while my friend Dave was to get ready and follow me as soon as possible. The location of the kill was about seven miles as the crow flies from our quarters, or about 12 miles climbing hills with the bikes, I arrived at the location in no time, still running on adrenalin from excitement, but did manage to remember to take some neat pictures. I then started to do the work before me and as I got about halfway through the job I heard Dave's bike

coming in the distance. I was squatted next to my kill. It seemed like forever before Dave got within sight, and when he did, I was surprised to see that he scared up another caribou, a bigger one than I had already downed, and he was running right to me! At 50 feet broadside I could not resist: You guessed it, I drew down on him and he too dropped like a ton of bricks. Dave said, "I didn't know YOU were going to shoot him, or I would have!" "Well," I said, "What the hell did you expect? That I would just let it run into me!?" Dave did look like he had just lost his best friend, and we both laughed. Then Dave asked me how in the hell we were going to get all that meat out. My answer. . . "You haul and I'll cut!!" At 4:00 p.m. we got it all hauled out!! We were proud, happy and dead tired. We had claimed all along that we

were the best shots around, especially with a pistol and among our 119 guys at Sparrevohn, Alaska there were no more doubts.

My family was living in Anchorage at the time and having a rough time making ends meet, so my wife was overjoyed at getting the winters meat supply. Not one morsel of those two caribou was wasted!!

I am now in the group of hunters that's enthusiastic about handgun use and I prefer handgun hunting to rifle hunting under most circumstances. My next big-game will be a moose and a black bear. I know I can do it, as I stay in practice and I shoot a lot of silhouettes to keep me on my toes. I have replaced my .41 Mag with a S & W Mod 29, .44 Mag, 8 and 3/8 inches and it handles beautifully at any distance. I really love handgun hunting. . . it's like a whole new world of Sports for me!!



THE SIXGUNNER

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HOW BULLETS KILL

By Larry C. Rogers, M.D., F.A.A.F.P., No. 48

I had a chance to talk to J.D. on the phone right after I joined HHI. He's a heck of a nice guy to talk to. I'd urge all of you to call him and shoot the bull awhile. You'll learn a few things plus it will keep J.D. busy and out of trouble!

After J.D. found out I was HHI's token doc, he immediately recruited me to do this piece. It seemed too much like work (I've treated a fair number of gunshot wounds in my family practice business), that I side stepped a little and wrote two hunting articles. But now to the work or suffer the admonitions and misfires incurred by J.D. in my future hunts.

Now do bullets kill? Seems easy doesn't it. Slam, bam, thank you ma'am; that's how bullets kill. Wait a minute friends! It's not that simple. Different bullets can kill different ways. Even the source of the bullet, i.e., the type of gun, determines in part how death comes. Let's look at the different possibilities—sort of a select-kill.

High velocity bullet damage had been out of the handgunners domain. Now with the IMHSA target tamers taking to the woods with their hand-cannons, let's see what they're doing when they get a real 40 x 40. Once a bullet gets over the 1200-1400 fps range it starts setting up large shock waves in the air. Remember the pictures of how they look like waves in the ocean. When these fast steppers hit animal tissues — skin, muscles, and bone — these same shock waves are transmitted through the animal's body tissues. How far outward and deep they go depends mostly on the speed of the bullet and partly on its weight.

What these shock waves do is unreal. They literally set the tissues in vibration in unison. The vibration is so fast that the tissues sort of beat themselves to death. Think of the deer you shot with your rifle in the ham (who you? heresy!!). The bullet made a fairly stable hole in the meat, but spreading out from the hole the meat ranged in consistency from watery jello to cheap hamburger. That's the effects of high speed bullets on tissue. They kill by causing massive blood loss and shock in muscles (a ham hit deer will die, but it will take awhile) or more quickly if placed closer to nerves that control vital body functions. My last rifle killed deer (don't burn me at the stake J.D.) showed the classic example of shock wave kill. I hit him in the chest. He ran about 50 yards and died. When I opened his chest I literally poured his lungs out. They were like warm jelly. He ran until his heart ran out of blood and he drowned in his own body fluids. Another good example of shock wave kill is that of a hit close to but not at the spinal cord causing instant death. The cause here again is those shock waves interrupting the nervous control of vital functions — stopping breathing, the heart beat, and other body functions.

As I said before, shock wave kills are usually by the boys using the big stuff — .30 and .357 Herrett, the 7mms, and other single shots and turnbolls to mention a few. Of the five deer I've killed with pistols — three with .44 Mag. and two with .357 Mag. — shock wave damage to the tissues has been almost nonexistent. A few of my close range groundhog kills have shown evidence of some shock wave damage by my .357 and .44's, but it's only ex-

tended an inch or so past the bullet hole.

The slower handgun bullets (less than 1200-1400 fps) kill by somewhat different means, though similar to high velocity bullets. These bullets are too slow to cause much of a shock wave phenomenon. Occasionally it is seen at close range in the lighter bullet weights in 9mm, .38 special, .357 mag., .44 special, and .44 mag. The great majority of handgun bullets, however, kill by disruption of the vital processes of the body organs. One way is by penetration of the major organs — heart, liver, brain, lungs. This causes rather rapid blood loss from the highly vascular organs, decreasing the circulating blood volume, creating circulatory shock, and thus, death. This is usually not as speedy a kill as a high velocity bullet. Just think of the heart or lung shot deer that ran forever before he fell from that .357. The slug caused bleeding, but due to its slow speed most of the blood loss was from the slug's tract through small arteries and veins and not any area of shocked tissues. About the only instantaneous kills this way are from the penetration of the spinal cord causing spinal shock (usually instant death) or penetration of the largest arteries of the heart, lungs, or liver with large enough blood loss to cause death within seconds. You say, "wait a minute," what about that whitetail I hit that went down like he was poleaxed." I've hit a few that went down that way with my .44. But think back. The deer was probably still alive breathing his last few breaths when you arrived. Remember, I was talking of instantaneous kills, not knock down. The former is rare in handgun kills.

Handgun bullets can kill without penetration, but they do so in a less than humane way. This has been one of my pet peeves, too. Light, small caliber bullets, especially hollow points, that are popular with nimrods have a nasty habit of penetrating 2-4 inches, expanding rapidly, expending all of their energy rapidly, and blowing up. These superficial wounds do cause death, but major blood vessels are not reached by the light bullets; so death is slow, often violently cruel and inhumane. I can see no sense in using these small, lightweight caliber bullets. It's amateurish trick shots that show the hunters lack of knowledge of the tools of his trade.

A heavier bullet, even in small caliber, at sufficient velocity (greater than 1000 fps at impact) will penetrate much better for a more humane kill. Those of you that are in the middle of the road — 125-140 gr. .357 and 20-225 gr. .44s. My experiences with these are limited and not particularly satisfying. I shot one spike deer with a Hornady .44 200 gr. (23.5 gr. 2400) at 140 yards. There was complete penetration at the diaphragm, but the deer did not go down. He ran about 50-75 yards, but was too weak to go further. A finisher was required.

One other area related to killing effects of bullets is the so called knock down energy of a bullet. This really interests me and has determined what bullets I use while handgun hunting. The knock down power or striking energy of a bullet is directly proportional to the speed of the bullet, its weight, and the surface area of the part of the bullet striking flesh. The latter two seem to be more important than

speed. I measured a few bullets in my collection used frequently by others — a Sierra 125 and 150 gr. .357, a Sierra 240 gr. .44, and a hard cast 250 gr. .44 (429421). All three Sierra bullets, even though different caliber had almost identical surface areas at the nose. The Kieth SWC, however, had 65% larger surface area. These bullets have demonstrated their anticipated effects on game quite well to me. A large eight point I shot in the chest with the 150 gr. Sierra stood after the hit about 30 seconds before gradually falling to his knees. It took about two minutes for him to die. The entire right lung was penetrated, but was basically intact with a hole through it. He bled out through his lungs, but it took a while. The 240 gr. Sierra took a spike through the diaphragm at 75-80 yards. He was knocked over, really more of a strong push. He couldn't rise, but took several minutes to die. A finisher was required. The 250 gr. Kieth was a different story. A four point shot at 40 yards straight on in the chest was penetrated through the right lung like the 150 gr. Sierra did the eight point, but in this case the buck was thrown to the ground. It took only 20-30 seconds for him to die. He never moved.

As you can see, in handgun killed game the best idea is to put down the game so you don't have to run over half the country if further killing shots are needed. Heavy, large caliber bullets penetrate deeper into animal tissues and cut a larger hole for more blood to escape from. They also provide more knock down power than lighter bullets. The whole idea here is to give yourself the best possible odds for killing. With handguns, bigger is better.

So here you have the ways high velocity and low velocity bullets kill. Some of the ways are similar, i.e. blood loss and circulatory shock due to low blood volume. But there are subtle differences too, especially in the enormously rapid amount of blood loss and tissue damage done by the shock wave effect of high velocity bullets. Slower handgun bullets can cause loss of large amounts of blood, but it will take a lot longer time.

We, as handgun hunters, have challenges to meet. One is of the hunt itself to be stealthy and wise of the ways of the woods. But the other, and most important, is to arm ourselves with adequate firearms and ammunition to assure quick and humane kills and to truly be handgun hunters.

FIRST BOAR

By Bob Zdanko, No. 98

In February, I went on my first boar hunt in Tennessee. Boy was it ever a thrill — those boars are mean and tough. After hiking all day — following our dogs and guide — we found a pair of Biggies, but in a very precarious place. They were along the edge of a short slope into a "canyon" 80 feet straight down! The dogs were on the "pigs". One was immediately cut by the slashing teeth and almost as fast lifted upward or pushed over the edge by the enraged boar. (The dog survived the fall by hitting branches of the trees below and landing on a thicket of laurel bushes.) The boar then disappeared by charging past us into the low laurel shrubbery behind. Twenty minutes later the two boar were spotted by the dogs again — this time in the thick of the laurel. While the dogs kept the attention of the boars, I "duck walked" between the low cover to within 25 yards. The

dogs were being called off as I drew my 7½" RSBH from my "Hunter" western style holster — drew a bead from my crouched position and let one round go at the large male pig. I hit him in the shoulder with my hand loaded 240 grain W/W SWC lead w/gas check bullet over 25 grains of W/W 296 with a CCI Mag primer. Surprising the hell out of me, he **did not** go down, but first ran 40 yards. Right to within three feet of the edge of the "canyon". The laurel was too thick to see it happen, but by the marks on the ground, the pig dropped dead at full gallop — dropping as I said within three feet of the edge, spewing blood as he **slid over the edge**. At first, I thought all the way down, but looking over the edge, five feet down, on the only outcropping of stone within 25 yards either right or left was my boar, resting on a 5' x 5' rock ledge. After hauling him out — he weighed in at 248 pounds with a huge head that had one ear partially missing and beautiful tusks. Without a doubt a beautiful hunt — can't wait to get my trophy head back from the taxidermist. The meat is great, and the memory of the trip and the friends I was with are even more wonderful. Can't wait to get more vacation time for handgun hunting.

I have a request and an offer . . . If anyone knows where I can get a supply of W/W 240 gr. lead SWC gas check bullets which have just been discontinued.

The offer is that I will ship any handgun to Mag-Na-Port for customization for any Long Island HHI member with no charge for packing or for booking in and out of our state and federal books. The owner just pays for his custom work and U.P.S. fee.

For either of the above, please contact me: Robert Zdanko, c/o C.R.H. World of Guns, Inc., 453 Hempstead Turnpike, West Hempstead, L.I., NY 11552. Telephone (516) 481-2888.

Frontier Selected As Official Ammo

Hornady Manufacturing Company, Grand Island, Nebraska, is pleased to announce that their Frontier Ammunition Division has been chosen as the supplier of ammunition for the 1980 International Practical Shooting Confederation U. S. Championships in Hampton, Virginia, this fall.

This decision was made by the IPSC match committee based on wide acceptance of the Frontier 45 ACP ammunition loaded with Hornady's new 45 cal. 230 gr. full metal jacket-flat point bullet and 9MM ammunition loaded with the Hornady 9MM 124 gr. full metal jacket-flat point bullet. Shooters at the match will also have the option of using 357 magnum ammunition loaded with the Hornady 160 grain full metal jacket-flat point bullet.

Shooters who are competing in IPSC matches and would like more information on the ammunition or bullets that will be used in the Championships can write to Hornady Manufacturing Co., P. O. Box 1848, Grand Island, Nebraska 68801 — Attention: IPSC Ammo.

MAG-NA-PORT WINNER

John Taffin won last issue's Mag-na-port job with his article on how to make holsters.

PERFORMANCE OF LARGE CALIBER PISTOL BULLETS IN SOFT MEDIA

By David J. Waarvik No. 311

With the ever increasing interest in practical pistol shooting and particularly handgun hunting, I decided to conduct some experiments to determine the penetration capabilities of pistol bullets in soft media. My choice of water soaked, folded, tightly packed newspaper in three-pound coffee cans (with plastic lids) lined up end to end, was intended to duplicate muscle tissue as closely as possible, and yet economically. Digested wood pulp in some kind of a tank (such as described by Mr. Earl Etter in the Jan.-Feb. '70 issue of the *Rifle* magazine, Page 44) would have been more convenient, if I had had access to pulp. Instead, I used fresh cans for each shot to maintain uniformity. All tests were fired at fifteen yards and loads 1, 2 and 3 were fired from a S & W Model 29 with a 4" barrel. Load 4 was fired from a RUGER Super Blackhawk with a 7½" barrel. Loads 5 through 13 were fired from a COLT GOLD CUP modified with a heavy recoil spring and a self-designed slide-acceleration limiting device to retard unlocking and slide movement. Since the loads were for the purpose of testing bullet performance, they are **NOT RECOMMENDED** nor should they be presumed safe in any other handgun!

The Rifle loads were fired into the same media for reference or a comparison test. One additional pistol bullet test was conducted with load 13 by shooting at 30 yards into a row of dry Wards and Sears catalogs, held tightly together in a cardboard box. This was to (and did) confirm my observations over several years as a protection officer (game warden) with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, where I found, partly by administering Coup de grace to moose which had come out losers in collisions with logging trucks, that the brain cavity, protected by heavy bone, thick hide and hollow hair, is rather difficult

to penetrate with a .44 Magnum pistol bullet. I've personally only killed one moose in a hunting situation with a handgun (.44 Mag.) and the bullet's performance on bone was not impressive. But I digress.

Each coffee can being 7" deep; every 7"+ of penetration indicates penetration of the bottom of the can and the plastic lid of the next. This explains the tendency for penetration to be measured in 7" increments.

My observations in these limited tests seem to indicate that the practical effectiveness of large handgun bullets is quite as great as many rifle bullets for hunting if a couple of points are kept in mind.

1. It is not safe to assume that large-bore pistol bullets can be relied upon to penetrate bone and that by the same token;
2. Bullet placement, while important in any hunting situation, is of paramount importance in handgun hunting and much more difficult.

I have not addressed the question of hydrostatic shock as I don't feel it is any more relevant to killing power than a slap on the face. I also disregarded the kinetic energy argument since that subject was so eloquently covered in the Jan.-Feb. '74 issue of the *Rifle* magazine, Page 35, "Stopping Power Is A Well-Placed Bullet" by Harold O. Davidson, that little remains to be said on the subject. A great deal of research, however, could probably be done on a comparison of various rifle bullets and their ability to penetrate media of varying resiliency but not pine boards or sand piles.

Note in these tests I found only a few handgun bullets that would expand, and expansion was had only at the expense of greatly reduced penetration. The loads I used were as follows:

Load	Caliber	Bullet	Charge	Powder	Primer	Case	Barrel
1	.44 Mag.	200 Gr. Speer J.H.P.	18 Gr.	SR4756	CCI 300	Rem.	4" Rev.
2	.44 Mag.	240 Gr. Sierra J.H.P.	23 Gr.	H-110	CCI 350	Rem.	4" Rev.
3	.44 Mag.	265 Gr. H'dy. J.S.P.	23 Gr.	H-110	CCI 300	Rem.	4" Rev.
4	.44 Mag.	240 Gr. Speer H.J. — S.W.C.	23 Gr.	H-110	CCI 350	Rem.	7½" Rev. C. @ 1287 FPS
5	.45 A.C.P.	185 Gr. Sierra J.H.P.	7.5 Gr.	Unique	CCI 300	R-P	5" Auto.
6	.45 A.C.P.	185 Gr. Sierra J.H.P.	8.0 Gr.	Unique	CCI 350	R-P	5" Auto.
7	.45 A.C.P.	185 Gr. Sierra J.H.P.	8.5 Gr.	Unique	CCI 350	R-P	5" Auto.
8	.45 A.C.P.	190 Gr. Sierra (*185 Gr. J.H.P. with B.B. shot in nose cavity)	7.5 Gr.	Unique	CCI 300	W-W	5" Auto. C. @ 843 FPS
9	.45 A.C.P.	190 Gr. (*Same as above)	8.0 Gr.	Unique	CCI 350	W-W	5" Auto.
10	.45 A.C.P.	190 Gr. (*Same as 8 & 9)	8.5 Gr.	Unique	CCI 350	W-W	5" Auto.
11	.45 A.C.P.	200 Gr. Speer J.H.P.	7.5 Gr.	Unique	CCI 300	W-W	5" Auto.
12	.45 A.C.P.	215 Gr. Cast Lyman #452374	7.5 Gr.	Unique	CCI 300	R-P	5" Auto.
13	.45 A.C.P.	250 Gr. H'dy. J.H.P.	7.5 Gr.	Unique	CCI 300	W-W	5" Auto.
14	.30-06	180 Gr. H'dy. Spire Point	.57 Gr.	IMR 4350	CCI 200	Federal	20" (1903A3)

The penetration and expansion of the various loads I tested were as follows:

Load	Penetration	Recovered Diameter	Recovered Weight
1	44/200 7"	.625"	128.5 Gr.
	7"	.605"	128.5 Gr.
	9"	.612"	126.9 Gr.
	11"	.617"	126.4 Gr.
7	45/185 7"	.856"	185 Gr.
9	45/190 7"	.844"	181 Gr.
10	45/190 9" (for largest fragment)	.687" (for largest of 9 fragments)	124.5 Gr. for largest fragment
11	45/200 7"	.770"	200 Gr.
2	44/240 28" +	.429"	240 Gr.
3	44/265 28"	.430"	264.5 Gr.
4	44/240 28"	.429"	240 Gr.
	28"	.429"	240 Gr.
5	45/185 16"	.452"	185 Gr.
6	45/185 21"	.452"	185 Gr.
8	45/190 16"	.452"	190 Gr.
12	45/215 18"	.452"	215 Gr.
13	45/250 21"	.452"	250 Gr.
	14"	.452"	250 Gr.
14	.30-06 14"	.862"	152 Gr.
	180 Gr. 21"	.724"	146.2 Gr.
	14"	.913"	125 Gr.
*** Load 13 (Test 2):	3/4"	.960"	250 Gr.

*Recovered from snow behind cans.

**Nose flattened to body diameter.

***Fired @ 30 Yards into a row of dry Sears & Wards catalogs in a cardboard box — Penetrated about 600 pages.

Well, to make a long story short . . . there was a lot of smiling from me, and a lot of head scratching from everyone else.

Oh yeah, the rifle boys brought over their pickup and took us to the check station. Thanks, guys, and see you next season with your handguns.

MY FIRST WHITETAIL (HANDGUN STYLE)

By L. D. Sunby
No. 800

Back in November of '78, my friend, Lloyd Turner and his son, Jim, and of course, myself, were hunting White-tails near Horse Creek in Northeast Oklahoma. On the third day of the season at about 11:00 a.m., we were just about to re-group and try somewhere else. As we were walking in file along a path, Lloyd, who was behind me, hollered, "There he goes!" I looked back and saw a small buck hit-tailin' it across an open pasture. Lloyd fired two rounds of .30-30 from Jim's rifle, after quickly trading him a Super Blackhawk. I moved west toward the field to try and get a better look. By this time, that ole buck was 300 yards north of me, heading toward some ole boys with rifles. They shot, missed, ole buck went east about 400 yards from me. Lloyd and Jim went north through the treeline to head him off.

The rifle boys were watching through their scopes. Everybody knew where everybody else was. The buck was the only thing getting stalked. He went

into the trees and we all thought he was gone for sure. A couple of minutes later, he came back, running flat out, straight toward me and 400 yards away. Now don't get ahead of me. The rifle boys and Lloyd and Jim were looking across the pasture at each other with the ole buck running between them, so they couldn't shoot.

At about 150 yards away, I hollered "He's mine," and about then, ole buck stopped. We were looking right into each others eyes. Quickly, I figured "100 yards away, about the same distance an IHMSA pig would be. He's a small target." Taking aim, (sights were set at 50 yards for brush country) I cocked my Old Ruger Super Blackhawk, put the sights on top of his head, gave it a slow squeeze . . . "Quit shaking, gun" my first deer with a handgun — maybe! FIRE! The sights came back after recoil, ready for a second shot but, NO DEER! "Did I get him," I wondered. Couldn't have, head shot at 100 yards.

Lloyd and Jim were already heading that way. I holstered my Ruger in my Don Hume shoulder rig and ran. Yep! I got him! Beautiful shot, right above the left eye, and broke off that side of his six point rack. As we were field dressing him, I asked Lloyd why he didn't use his Ruger and I laughed.

Revolutionary Priming Device On New "O" Style Press

Pacific Tool Company has announced a new advanced design for "O" style reloading presses. It features a totally open working area as well as the first totally automatic priming system.

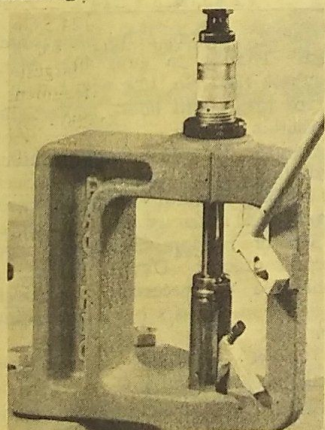
Called the O-7™, The New Pacific design combines all the well-known strength advantages of an "O" type frame with added speed and convenience which have never before been available in a manually operated press.

The first difference reloaders will notice about the O-7 is its angled frame. Pacific has "rotated" the front of the "O" 30° to one side. This moves the frame out of the reloader's way, and opens the interior of the "O" for better access to all reloading operations as well as improved operator visibility.

Within this new open design Pacific has installed the first totally "hands-off" priming operation. Tradenamed the "Positive Priming System (PPS™)", it totally eliminates individual primer handling and drastically reduces priming cycle time. During a single stroke of the operating lever the primer arm moves under the automatic primer feed . . . picks up a primer . . . moves into the ram cavity and up into the die where it is seated. When priming is completed, the PPS arm can be quickly lifted out of the way of other operations without the use of tools.

Cast from a special high-strength strontium alloy, Pacific's O-7 can handle heavy-duty bullet swaging and case forming without springing or alignment problems. To verify this, Pacific tested O-7 prototypes by sizing thousands of test reloads at ram pressures which exceeded 8,000 pounds.

Other important design features on the new O-7 include special handle and linkage construction which allows the operator to apply maximum energy with minimum effort during the last half-inch of the lever stroke when sizing operations are at their most critical point. In addition, the handle is offset to allow more access to the front of the press. Base design has also been improved to allow more contact area between press and bench for solid mounting.



The O-7 Press has a suggested retail price of \$59.95 and can also be purchased as a "package" including a set of Pacific Durachrome dies or as part of a complete reloading kit with Pacific dies, powder measure, scale and other accessories.

For additional information on the O-7 Press and other Pacific Reloading Products, write Jim Smith, Pacific Tool Company, Box 2048, Grand Island, Nebraska 68801; phone 308-384-2308.

That's their side of it. One of the first one hundred was received and quickly mounted for test. The press release is accurate in every respect. But didn't praise the auto prime feature enough. It's the best I've used on a press. But — it doesn't say the primer tube holder gets in the way seating bullets. I scribed mine and removed it for bullet seating. Takes 30 seconds or so to remove and another 30 to reinstall — no big problem. But the press bolts down with two bolts. I think it should have three for added stability on flimsy benches and a minor modification in the casting would enable it to be moved about .5" further back on the bench. But, buy an extra primer arm. The few bucks is well worth the convenience in going from one size to another. It's a good rig that should be considered if you're in the market for a reloading outfit.

HHI HUNT OCTOBER 4 & 5!

HHI's first "get together hunt" will be October 4 & 5 at Shawnee Ridge Hunting Preserve, Stout, Ohio. (28 mi. from Portsmouth, OH). Accommodations limit the maximum number to twelve. Come in on Friday, leave Sunday evening. Fifty bucks for room and board. Boar \$240, Sheep \$240, Goat \$220, Fallow Deer \$600. Walk, stalk, sit or dog 'em! Taxidermy available. Meat quartered. No butchering service.

I'll play guide and photographer as well as supplying a fair amount of fairly exotic guns and ammo for whoever might want to use them. Accommodations are good and anyone who thinks Ohio is all flatland hasn't hunted here!

For additional info on the preserve itself, call Paul Richter, 513-549-2346. To confirm your spot, call me at 216-264-0176. If this works out, we'll try to set up hunts in various parts of the country. I've met some of the finest people in the world through HHI and I'm sure they would enjoy meeting each other.

P.S. I'm not a booking agent and am not making a dime on the hunt — it is necessary to co-ordinate the hunt. A \$50.00 deposit is required and the last day possible to get in on it is July 10, 1980.

Hope to see you there.

JDJ

SWAPPAHUNT

Within 20 miles of my house is some super groundhog hunting area, long range or walking hedgerows and "catch 'em" napping. I'll extend an invitation to any member (non-resident hunting licenses are inexpensive and the license year ends 8/31/80) who, with some advance notice, wants to venture to this part of Pennsylvania for a Saturday of groundhog hunting. I'll be glad to accompany them and might even drag the .44 Super Blackhawk along myself. Feel free to contact me at: 11 Shasta Lane, A.O., Macungie, PA 18062. Telephone (215) 395-2704.

Earl Nothstein
No. 42

DOWN-DEAD BUT NOT ALL MINE!

By Charles Able No 556

I got up about 4:30 and put on the coffee. While the coffee was brewin' I went into the den and got my Ruger .44 and some shells ready to go rabbit huntin'. After getting the first cup down, I went outside to see how the weather was. Still and no wind. I knew it was going to be a good day for jacks. I went back in for more coffee and was trying to make up my mind where I wanted to go this morning. Last Saturday morning the Jal road was pretty good to me, allowing about 22 or 23 jacks. But, I decided to go out in the foothills west of town this morning and see what would happen. Fired up with two cups of coffee and a full thermos, I selected my old flat top Ruger .44 and two boxes of shells with 18.0 grains of 2400 under the Lyman-Keith 250 grain 429421. I had been using this load on jacks all summer and it did a good job.

I got up in the foothills a little early so I parked and got out the thermos. As I was working on the coffee I saw a jack out about 35 yards. It was still too dark to shoot, so I stayed with the coffee and meditated on my sins some more. After about 10 minutes I could see the jack pretty good and decided to give him a try. I eased out of the truck and using the two hand hold and the hood for a rest, I put his shoulder on top of the post and started the squeeze. At the shot I could hear the thunk that we all like to hear. I put him in the back of the pick-up as I use them for cat food at home. I've got three cats that I raised on jacks and they sure do like them. Well, I worked on the jacks till about 8:00 and got 17 of them.



Should have had 21 but four bad shots — one at long range was "iffy" and the others were all my fault. About 8:00 I came up to a clearing and some 60 yards on the other end of it was a buck deer. We saw each other at about the same time. I stopped the truck and just looked at him. He was a nice — looked to be six or eight point. Right then and there I made up my mind I was going to shoot a deer with a pistol. Not this one for it was the middle of summer. I thought to myself I sure would like to get out of the truck and line up on him; not to shoot, but just to see if he would stay there long enough to do so. But if I did, and he did, and someone came down the road he would think I was; so I didn't!

Anyway, I went on with my jack hunt and headed back to town about 10:00. I ended up with eight more jacks

and five more misses. The 25 I did get would put the cats in chow for a week or so. I kept thinking about that buck and wondering if I could bag a deer with my .44 7½". The next week I met a man at the range who was shooting a Ruger .357 with a very long barrel. We got to talking and looking at each others guns. His .357 was a Ruger with a 12" custom barrel. I put two cylinders full through it and sure liked the way it felt and handled. I did pretty good with it on beer cans and made up my mind to take my .44 deer hunting with a long tube on it.

Then I did some horse trading with the local gunsmith. In this case my horse was a 4 5/8" Ruger .357 and his was a long tube put on my .44. I didn't like the alloy grip frame on the .44 and wanted one of steel. My gunsmith went along with that. I wanted a 12" barrel and he talked me down to a 10". He went to work on it and I went crazy waiting for him to get it done. In about four weeks that seemed like four months he called and said it was ready to shoot. I got there quick — it took me about two minutes to make the 2 miles to his place.

He had the steel grip frame and the long tube installed. It was still in the white but I sure did like the look of it. It felt good too. He said that we should go out and shoot it and if it did OK he would put a paint job on it to finish it up. Away we went. Picked up some feed for it and met him out at the range to try it out. I set up a box at 25 yards and loaded it up. At the first shot the bullet going down that long barrel felt like it was going to pull the gun out of my hand! It could be felt going down the tube and the bullet hit the box going sideways. I shot it some more and all of the bullets keyed. We looked the gun over and couldn't find anything wrong with it. I told him that I thought I knew what the problem was — that 18 gr. of 2400 was too light a load.

I went home and got part of a box of .44 Magnum factory made that a man had given me. I also had some brass sized and primed ready to load, so I loaded up some using 20 gr. of 2400 under the 250 Keith. The first three shots with the factory loads at 25 yards would have all hit a 50 cent coin. Put five of my handloads in — never did like loading six — and got a 2.5 inch group at 25 yards with the first cylinder full. I knew then I had a shooter but did not know what load I was going to end up using. I took it back over to the smith so he could paint it. When I got it back I tried several loads and decided to stick with 20-2400-250. Using a rest I could keep them in six or eight inches at 100 yards, but I had to use a rest. I tried shooting off hand at a hundred and I was very bad — shooting about 12 to 14 inch groups. I knew I had to use a rest to do my shooting if I wanted to do any good.

I did a lot of shooting with the 10 incher the rest of the summer. I could see it all happening — that big 10 point standing there at 30 yards and me and my 10 inch with a sight picture on his chest ready to drop hammer. That's enough to keep a fellow awake all night! I knew I needed a rest to do any good on any long shot. I made up my mind I was going to sit down and wait

Continued On Page 6

for my deer to come to me. I made me a shooting table to shoot off of. It was 8 x 12 inches and I made the legs adjustable. I had it in my mind to take it over on the hill with me and shoot my deer off of it. So, the rest of the summer I used it to shoot off of. When deer season finally got here my dad and I (he's a .270 man) were off to the hills. Dad told me that I should take my .300 H & H along, but I told him it was .44 Magnum or nothing; my mind was made up. Well, opening day found me, the .44 and the rest over on the hillside waiting for one to come by. It was almost noon before things started to happen. There was a lot of shooting going on and I saw some horns going through the top of some bushes across the canyon. Turned out to be a nice buck with a big rack. He was coming my way. I got so damn excited I thought I was going to shit in my pants while trying to get a sight picture on him and having trouble with my rest and him runnin' like hell!

I got off one shot as he came off the hill at about 100 yards. He went down in the canyon and I knew that he was going to come right by me on his way up the hill I was on. I got to my feet looking for him. Then I saw him about 50 yards down the hill from me still running like hell right at me and then I did something that I was not planning on. Like a kid playing cops and rob'rs, I just pointed the .44 at him and shot all five of my shots as fast as I could as he went by no more than 20 feet away from me! Never touched a hair on him! I was so damn mad at myself I did not know what to do. All that work and I blew it, but good. I was sitting there feeling sorry for myself when Dad came up. He had seen the whole thing from where he was sitting. All he said was "Don't feel too bad, it wasn't the first time for buck fever and it probably would not be the last." He knew I was feeling very low. We sat there and talked a bit and after awhile I decided the world

hadn't come to an end after all. We ate a bit of lunch and Dad suggested going for a walk to work out some of the cold. Dad said that he knew where there was a spot that might have some deer in it. The wind was up and most of the deer were bedded down by midday.

We walked for about a half hour with the wind in our faces and all at once a little buck jumped up about 25 yards down the hill from me. He had heard us and jumped up but couldn't locate us. He was looking downhill and was below me. I got out the .44 and got a good sight on him and let it go. Down he went. When we got there where he was standing there was no deer. We looked all over, but still no deer. All at once Dad said "There goes one down the canyon." I told him to go to it — I was looking for the one I had hit. When he got in position to shoot he said it was the deer that I had hit — he could see the blood running down his side and wanted to know what I wanted to do about it. I told him, "Shoot the son of a bitch, he's getting farther away each jump and I don't know how bad he is hurt." At the shot he rolled like a ball. It was hard for me to give up the idea that my deer was not laying right here dead. But, as the old saying goes — one in the hand is worth two in the bush. Dad was half way down to the buck before I gave up and headed down. It was the buck I shot alright. He had one three inch hole through his chest where the .270 had come out. He also had a .44 hole high on his back just over his spine. If it had been one inch higher it would have missed him and one inch lower would have killed him.

He was a nice four point and he was a lot bigger dragging uphill to camp than he was after we got him there. He was decent — dressed out to about 90 or 100 pounds.

When it was all over I had had more fun than I have had in a long time. This was my first time on deer with a pistol but it sure wouldn't be the last.



SSK Industries introduces two new products for T/C shooters. A full length solid rib for Super 14s houses a Micro rear sight in conjunction with a Lyman 17A or a variety of other front sights. Prices start at \$80.00.

In addition, a scope base that will stay on any caliber T/C is now available. During testing, a Pachmayr grip was broken off a T/C, but the mount and scope stayed on! Shown are Bushnell rings on the 10 inch .430 JDI.

It is necessary to drill and tap two holes in the barrel for calibers developing more recoil than .357 magnum. It is possible to use three rings on any 1" tube handgun scope now made. Any ring that will fit a Weaver base will fit. Base only — \$27.50.

Write or call SSK for info on the new .44 Mag 315 or cast bullet mould now available, as well as converting your .44 Mag. to .430 or your .30-30 to .30-40 Krag.

.30-30 ACCELERATOR IN A T/C?

By Gary S. Geraud
No. 467

Following the success of their .30-06 accelerator cartridge, Remington Arms Company has introduced their unique cartridge concept in yet another chambering. The new offering is the .30-30 Winchester accelerator. For those not familiar with the accelerator cartridges, a brief explanation may be in order. Basically, what Remington has done is to substitute a 55 grain, .224 caliber bullet, in place of the usual .307 caliber bullet used in the .30-30. They have accomplished this by using a specially designed plastic sabot. The sabot is simply a plastic collar that surrounds the smaller diameter bullet. The outside dimensions of the sabot is .30 caliber. Upon firing, the plastic engages the rifling as would an ordinary bullet. When the bullet leaves the muzzle, the sabot is shed. The bullet then continues down-range on its own.

This is not really a totally new concept. The military has experimented with sabots in several configurations. Army engineers at one time developed a sabot for a bullet that they had designed that was pointed at both ends. It was felt that such a bullet would exhibit superior ballistic efficiency.

However, the rear point of the bullet did not provide an adequate base for the expanding gases to act upon. The engineers then set about to develop a sabot, with a flat base, to envelope the novel double pointed bullet.

Remington has a different application in mind. Their marketing concept is to provide increased versatility to a single chambering. The same gun could conceivably be used to hunt big game as well as varmints. I personally feel that this idea has a lot of merit. I'm sure there are a lot of hunters who use their T/C Contender or Merrill .30-30 for Deer and Antelope and would make use of the new accelerator cartridge for their varmint hunting, rather than go to the expense of an additional barrel chambered for a suitable .22 centerfire caliber. My initial questions were, how accurate is the cartridge, and what velocities can be achieved? I'll admit that I am quite fascinated with the idea of using the .30-30 case capacity to propell a .224 caliber bullet in a handgun! I think of it as sort of a "factory wildcat".

This ammunition soon found its way into this part of Wyoming and for the

price of \$10.25 a box, I was able to acquire 40 rounds of the new fodder. A large cloud of dust marked my path to the Saratoga shooting range. With amazing speed and dexterity, I set up my Oehler model 12 chronograph. After firing twenty rounds over the skyscreen II detectors, I came up with the following velocity results:

Gun:	T/C Contender .30-30 14" barrel
Temp.:	45°
Velocity:	
Average.....	2,982 f.p.s.
High.....	3,025 f.p.s.
Low.....	2,923 f.p.s.
Variation.....	102 f.p.s.

The second box of ammo was used to explore the accuracy potential of the accelerator load. With the aid of a sandbag and a Redfield 4x scope, a three shot group measuring 1.375", center to center, was not difficult to obtain. It looks to me as though Remington might have a winner! I have written the factory to see if the plastic sabots will be marketed as an over the counter reloading component. I also requested factory loading data. As soon as I receive a reply, I'll pass the information along in the next issue of **Sixgunner**.

MINNESOTA HANDGUN HUNTING

Handgun hunting of big game is now legal! Thanks to guys like Mike Slayback HHI No. 129, who put in a lot of long, hard hours getting this legislation through.

Now the .357, .41 and .44 Magnums and other calibers as may be specified by the Department of Natural Resources may be used to harvest deer and moose.

Senator Florian Chemlewski and Representative David Battaglia sponsored the necessary bill which passed both Houses by a resounding margin.

The NRA's Institute for Legislative Action sent Mailgrams to all NRA members. Pro and Anti-Gun organizations used direct telephone to attempt to gain support for their views.

Thanks Mike — and all the rest of you who worked hard for this one.



DO IT YOURSELF ACTION JOBS



S & W-K&N FRAME D. A. SPRING KITS.
Do it yourself action jobs \$10.00
S & W-J FRAME SPRING KITS \$7.65
S & W-TRIGGER REBOUND SPRING PAK
(4 different strengths)..... \$7.65
RUGER Security Six, COLT-MK III Spring
Kits (Specify Kit)..... \$7.65
NEW MODEL RUGER S. A. Trigger Return
Spring (Reduces pull 40-50%)... \$7.10
T/C SPRING PAK (10-30 oz. Trigger return
spring, Heavy duty hammer spring,
& Heavy duty bolt spring)..... \$16.00
COLT-.45 Auto Combat Pak (Heavy duty
spring kit. Specify which model)..... \$15.00
WHITE OUTLINE SIGHT BLADES for
Ruger, Colt, Micro, Interarms adjustable
rear sight blades. Specify..... \$6.10
PEEP BLADES-Colt, Ruger, Micro. Plain
\$6.50. One or two white lines for elevation
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SECURITY SIX-Hot Pink Replacement
front sight blade. Specify barrel length.
..... \$15.00
CUSTOM T/C BARRELS-.17 Rem., .338
JDJ, .375 JDJ, .430 JDJ, .45-70, 50-70
and others from..... \$140.00
Rechamber. 44 Mag to .430 JDJ or .30-30
to 30-40..... \$30.00
2 Cavity Mould 315 gr. (Lino). 44..... \$30.00
2 Cavity Mould 315 & 350 gr. 430..... \$35.00
METALIFE SS REFINISHING-Handguns
only..... \$85.00
COD'S OK - Dealer Inquiries Invited

SSK INDUSTRIES

Route 1, Della Drive
Bloomington, Ohio 43910
(614) 264-0176

ANOTHER KIND OF THRILL

By James F. Yeoman, No. 216

This is possibly the highlight of my handgun hunting. No, I did not collect a record book trophy. No, I did not make a spectacular shot. In fact, I received a bad case of buck fever and it was not even deer season yet.

I guess I'd better get to the meat of this story before you think I'm crazy. In 1978, our Michigan deer season opened on a Wednesday. I had decided to hunt with a handgun only for the first time in my life. The Marlin .35 Rem. was going to stay at home, and I intended to rely solely on my T/C in .44 Mag. I had shot it a lot and was confident of my proficiency with it.

The Saturday before November 15th I had the "bug" so bad that I grabbed the T/C and screwed on the external choke. After grabbing a handful of hotshot reloads, I headed for the pines behind the house. I've collected a few rabbits and worried a lot more of them back there in my favorite pines. There is always deer sign, but very seldom do I ever actually see a deer.

I just wanted to walk and carry the T/C to practice "snap sighting". To give you an idea of just how bad the cabin fever was, I must tell you it was raining. I wore a rubber poncho to try and stay dry. I was sure I would not see a thing as the pine branches and rain combined to make a lot of noise on my poncho. I was maybe halfway through one of the denser rows when I noticed a new stump ahead of me. When I got to within 20 feet of this stump, it swished a tail.

I stopped and froze. I could not believe my eyes! Right here in front of me was a deer, not 20 feet away! It had its head down, looking under the low pine branches. Something had spooked it into that spot, and it was trying to see where "it" was.

I thought my heart was pounding fast then, but when that buck raised its head and swung around to look at me, I almost fell down. He had a big and beautiful eight point rack. He just stared at me for what seemed to be hours.

I knew then that I was dreaming because I don't think I had taken a breath or blinked for at least 3 hours. My dream buck looked under the trees for a few more seconds, and then incredibly laid down. As he kept looking under the trees, I looked straight up. The rain drops hitting me in the eyes told me I just might really be awake and this might really be happening. Then the T/C came to my mind and I raised it slowly to just see how it felt to be where I never thought it would be.

I knew I had No. 6 hotshots, and I knew deer season was 4 days away, and

most of all, I knew I could never shoot this spectacular trophy and still live with myself.

I had a feeling in me that I cannot describe. PURE DELIGHT. He looked at me several times and I marvelled at the thought of this animal, so keen of sight and smell, not to mention hearing, being so unaware of a man not 20 feet away. I made a couple of clicking sounds with my mouth and his head would snap around with bug-eyed surprise. I had had all the excitement I could stand, so I said "Heads up Bucky" and took a step to the right. I raised the T/C as I did this. He went from laying down, feet under him position, to a full leap in a split second. I could not believe anything could move so fast. That buck with so big a rack disappeared in a flash in the thick pine grove.

I guess I don't have to tell you I was done for the day. The adrenaline was flowing so fast I could hardly walk.

I spent many hours in that pine grove that season and never saw Bucky again, but every time I got to that special spot, the excitement would return. I feel that if I ever lose the shakes and the excitement of seeing or being close to a wild animal, I will give up hunting. I am not a crazy kid, but I sure love the thrill of pitting my skill and stealth against the game of Michigan.

I want to compliment everyone on The Sixgunner and say you have started a much needed organization that I am proud to be a member of.

SNAPSHOTS

By Steve Wynn, No. 4

The selection and use of the moderate, 28mm to 35mm, wide angle lens as the first and often best choice for every day use on the 35mm camera is not just a hit and miss selection. Many pros carry heavy bags of equipment ready to substitute in an instant, but more often than not, you will find that the camera around their neck is equipped with a wide angle lens ready for the grab shot that may mean the difference between the front page coverage for them or nothing at all.

The wide angle and its slightly greater depth of field allows one to point, focus and shoot in slightly less time.

The greater depth of field (area that is in focus) gives the photographer a little bit more leeway in how accurate he has to be in focusing. In dim light, it may mean the difference between an acceptable photograph or one that is out of focus.

With the wide angle's greater field of view, it lets the photographer move in a little bit closer and still get everything in the picture. It also may mean getting everything in the picture or not getting anything acceptable.

For the hunter, it also has its highlights, and downfalls. It will not allow you to get a real good photograph of a deer or other animal twenty-five yards away, without a lot of surrounding background and foreground. For a photograph like this, you need a telephoto lens. But, it will let you really set up the photograph to best show the hunter and his kill.

Once the animal is down and the hunter is ready to have his kill recorded you can go to work. With the ability

to work closer you can eliminate most of the trees that otherwise might look like they are growing everywhere but where you want them. A fringe benefit is that by photographing something at a closer working distance, any of your hunting buddies will be less likely to inadvertently walk in front of the camera at the exact moment that you push the shutter.

To set up that "perfect" photograph, first clean up any branches or tall blades of grass that will be between you and the subject. If left where they may be, the distraction from the picture will tend to lower the quality of the photograph.

If possible, some people prefer a photograph of the animal where the blood will not show. So, if this is the way that you lean, go ahead and turn the animal, if possible, or wipe off what you can. Myself, I could care less how much blood shows in my shots of my kills. But then again, I also tend to make photographs of the heart and lung damage caused by the particular load that I am using.

Place the legs under the animal if you can, or roll him up on his chest. Positioned as such, most animals look better than if they were just lying on their side.

If you are photographing deer or other horned animals, make sure that the background is free from trees or bushes that may detract from the horns. Try and plan your shot of the animal so that the horns are photographed in front of short grass, sky, or something where they won't be swallowed up.

Now, position the hunter so that he is somewhat low and behind the animal. Now if you have a wide angle, with its greater field you should not have any trouble keeping both the animal and the hunter in focus — with the hunter back about two feet or so behind the animal. Positioned like so, when possible, will make the animal look all the bigger and will really draw attention to the animal, and is sure to attract attention.

A good, strong point that I would like to make, is that unless you are absolutely sure that you have the perfect composition for the photograph. Move things around a little bit each time and shoot a couple more pictures after you think that you have taken enough. You will be much more pleased with making a decision about which photograph is best than having to decide which one is the worst of the worse. Shoot a lot of photographs, even if they don't mean too much to you at that immediate time. Chances are that they may carry a much deeper meaning later on than you have ever thought possible. Sometimes the most important shot may be one where you "just happened to snap one" and your most expensive photograph may be the one that you did not take.

"A picture is worth a thousand words."

NEW! World's Smallest Pistol Scope.

HANDGUNNER II
By HUTSON
Tiny But Tough!
Only 5 1/2" long/1.7X/Internal
click adjustments/Patented unlimited
eye relief/Fits T/C rail mounts for
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NRA SHOW

The NRA Show occasionally — as last year when the "Phantom" Redhawk was introduced — is the vehicle for introduction of new guns.

Not so this year. Most were shown publicly during the Denver NSGA or SHOT Shows. However, it was my first look at several of the new guns.

Probably of most interest to handgun hunters was the Dan Wesson .44 Magnum revolver prototype. It definitely looks good. A few guns will be assembled and used to see if any "bugs" crop up. **The Sixgunner** will have one of the first assembled available for torture.

It retains the interchangeable barrel system and has an entirely new frame and action. I doubt if any parts other than possibly sights and stocks will interchange with the .357. One option will probably be a recoil reducing muzzle rise dampening device.

Next H & R has a couple new models in .22 LR and .22 Mag featuring adjustable sights in both S.A. and D.A. mode. I was particularly impressed with the Model 904 6" round bull barrel and 903 Slabside bull barrel. Both versions are available in .22 Magnum also. If they shoot as good as they feel, they'll do very well in small game and .22 Silhouette. Time will tell, but my guess is that they will be competitive and the price is right! Around \$125.00.

The new Charter Explorer II target pistol is a highly modified Armalite .22 rifle featuring quickly interchangeable barrels, quick detachable scope and "Bolo Mauser" looks. Again — it's not in production, but it's just around the corner. Looks alone will sell a lot of these guns.

The 8" Python was prominently displayed. Seems to me a lot of fuss is being made over a simple addition of two inches of barrel length. It'll help a little in Silhouette, but I doubt if I'll trade my six inch in on an eight inch. Any Python should be ordered with the optional Elliason rear sight. It makes the standard, which certainly isn't bad, look poor in comparison. Also new from Colt as an accessory or option is a terrific looking flat, deeply checkered mainspring housing for the .45 Auto. Looks and feels great. It's also practical as those deep serrations bite in and don't let the grip slide in recoil.

Power Custom has a dandy new rear sight for the XPs. It's fully adjustable with four separate "stops" dialed in with a wheel. Typical Power excellence. Expensive, 60-70 bucks, but in a class of its own.

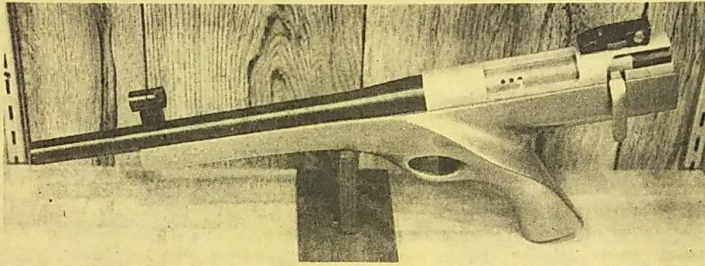
Another in a separate class is the Wichita MK-40 ALUMINUM receiver bolt gun. Yep, aluminum — with a steel insert for bolt-barrel lock up. It'll be available in too many calibers to list and weigh very nearly 4.5 pounds with a 13" barrel and fibrethane stock. The barrel runs about 3/4 inch diameter at the muzzle. Like the original Wichita, this one will also be glassed into the stock. Power's rear sight will be standard. Price: \$495.00. Availability: maybe by around the first of October.

Redfield's new 4X was displayed and should be being shipped by now. These Redfields are tough. Excellent optics and put together for heavy recoil. T/C displayed a 4X and also a 14" 7MM on a .223 case. Both will go into production shortly. T/C will also offer dies to solve the problem of "which 7MM on the .223 case?"

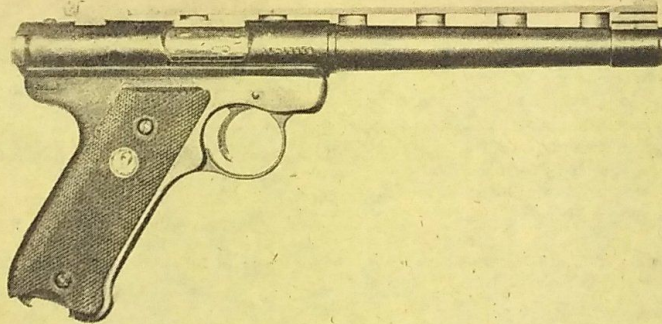
The Llama .44 Mag didn't seem to



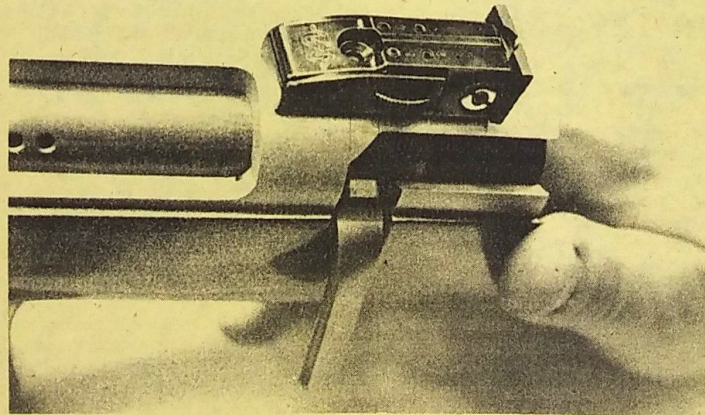
Seth Wesson holds the new Dan Wesson .44 Mag prototype. Paul Brothers (HHI No. 677) is the designer of the .44. Jones, left, was highly impressed with the gun.



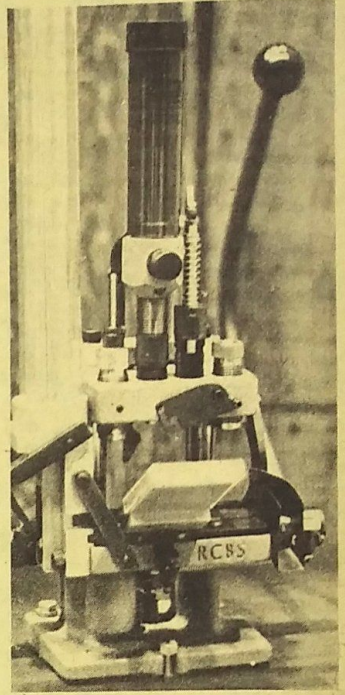
Wichita MK 40.



Simmons rib for Ruger Auto.



Power Custom's new Silhouette sight.



R.C.B.S.'s "Li'l Green Machine".

be displayed although their DA .45 Auto was. No one I spoke with seemed to know much about either one.

Ron Fine of Mossberg advised the Abilene's production will be coming along shortly and no particular problems arose from moving machinery and setting up.

Bushnell introduced a unique hand-gun scope. The Centurion is a 1.3X/2.5X with a one inch tube. The front end unscrews for 1.3X and in place produces 2.5X. No resighting or adjusting of any kind necessary. Inside the exhibition hall the scope looked good and I couldn't detect any lessening of brightness with the power booster in place. Bushnell also has a new spotting scope for hunters. The Stalker is a 20X number 9.25 inches long and weighing in at 24 ounces. Should be a good rig for hunting and at \$149.00 retail, is moderately priced.

R.C.B.S. showed their "Little Green Machine" progressive loader. Don't get anxious — it's a prototype, but from the looks of the crowd around it a terrific amount of interest existed and I would guess it'll be marketed in a couple of years. Deceptively simple, this tool must have taken an awful lot of time and money to be as refined as it is.

Looks as if ribs for handguns are getting popular. Simmons Gun Specialties has several vent ribs for handguns. They will put them on most handguns for \$86.00. (700 Rogers Rd., Olathe, KS 66061).



BOAR TUSK TROPHIES

By John P. Reinhart
No. 495

Don't have an extra hundred bucks for getting that trophy Boar's head mounted after the hunt, or just don't need another one to find a place for? Be sure you bring the head home, anyway, at least the skull. The tusk of wild boars are coveted hunting trophies that can be quite decorative and impressive when removed and displayed properly.

In my collection of boar and wart hog tusks, some are silver capped, some are displayed under glass as you would display arrowheads, and some are still laying around loose, waiting for a home. In a display which expose the entire tusk, they are then shown to full advantage while in a head mount, only about one third of the tusk are visible if left in the proper position. In Europe, tusk mounts are used almost exclusively.

These steps should be followed in preparing tusk for mounting:

Step 1: Skin out the snout and the jaw. It is best to do this up to the line of the eyes. The tusk channels will now become visible, indicating how deep the tusk are imbedded in the bone.

Step 2: Saw off the skinned-out nose and jaw. Be sure to saw the pieces long enough so as not to injure the imbedded portion of the tusk. A bone saw is best for this, but a hacksaw will do just as well.

Step 3: Boil sawed-off pieces in water. Test periodically until the tusk become loose. Shouldn't take too long, from 20 minutes to maybe an hour or two. When they are loose, pull them out. It may be necessary to push the tusks out of the bone backwards through the open distal end of the tusk channel on some heads. Hold the bone and the tusks with a rag as they may be quite hot. Don't use metal tools for extracting as they may scratch, chip or crack the tusk.

Step 4: Once the tusk are pulled out, they will be hollow and very fragile at this point. Remove whatever is left on or in the tusk at this time. Leave the tusk to cool and dry for a few days. Once they have thoroughly dried, they must be filled in order to strengthen the tusk and reduce the chance of cracking. I have had good luck using bathtub caulking. Some people use paraffin or like material. Fill the individual teeth and let set up for a few days.

The tusks are now ready to be made into a real trophy.

About the cheapest route to go is a display under glass. Your local hobby shop will have various sizes of display boxes for small items such as arrowheads, butterflies or Wild Boar tusk. Stick in a couple of snapshots from the hunt with a couple of cartridges or other memento and you have yourself a unique and personal hunting trophy for the wall of your den or office.

If you want to spend a little more money, a set of silver capped tusk are nice. They can be capped individually or together, whatever your preference. The biggest problem with this is finding a jeweler who will work with silver and is willing to work with you. If you are fortunate enough to have one close, silver capped tusk pendants are very attractive. You might even want to add some scrimshaw art work to the tusk. For obvious reasons, smaller tusk,

By continually grinding them against each other, the boar keeps them razor sharp

1½" to 3" long are better for jewelry. This is a more realistic size that you are likely to collect from the average boar shot these days in the states.

These are just a couple of ideas for trophies. Mounting tusks on wooden plaques is another. Your imagination is your only limitation (besides your pocketbook). Good Luck.

the longer tusks are set in the lower jaw

SHOOTING FOR LESS MONEY

By Richard A. Hall

It's rough being not-so-well-to-do, or wealthy, as one must make do what with he has in his possessions, or do without.

I've never seen a 1917 Smith & Wesson or one of the Colt New Service revolvers, except in gun magazines or the like. Friends have never even heard of them. A lot of older handguns just never turn up on the counters at any of the gun shops that I stroll into, and if they did, I couldn't afford them, anyway.

The same story holds true for the factory made bullets for the reloaders like me, who cannot afford to shoot them every day to sustain the practice, which we handgunners never seem to get enough of.

Maybe it's better that way, being poor, so that if one must practice with his pet handgun, he must cast his own, or do without. Besides that, the homemade cast bullets even have a deadlier look to them than the factory ones do, the Keith type, anyway.

Once one has the basic press, dies, shellholder, powder, primers, lube and resizers, bullet molds, and the proper reloading books, he is richer than the wealthiest man. Not only does he get loads for his guns at a very modest price, he also gains wisdom and experience in the bargain.

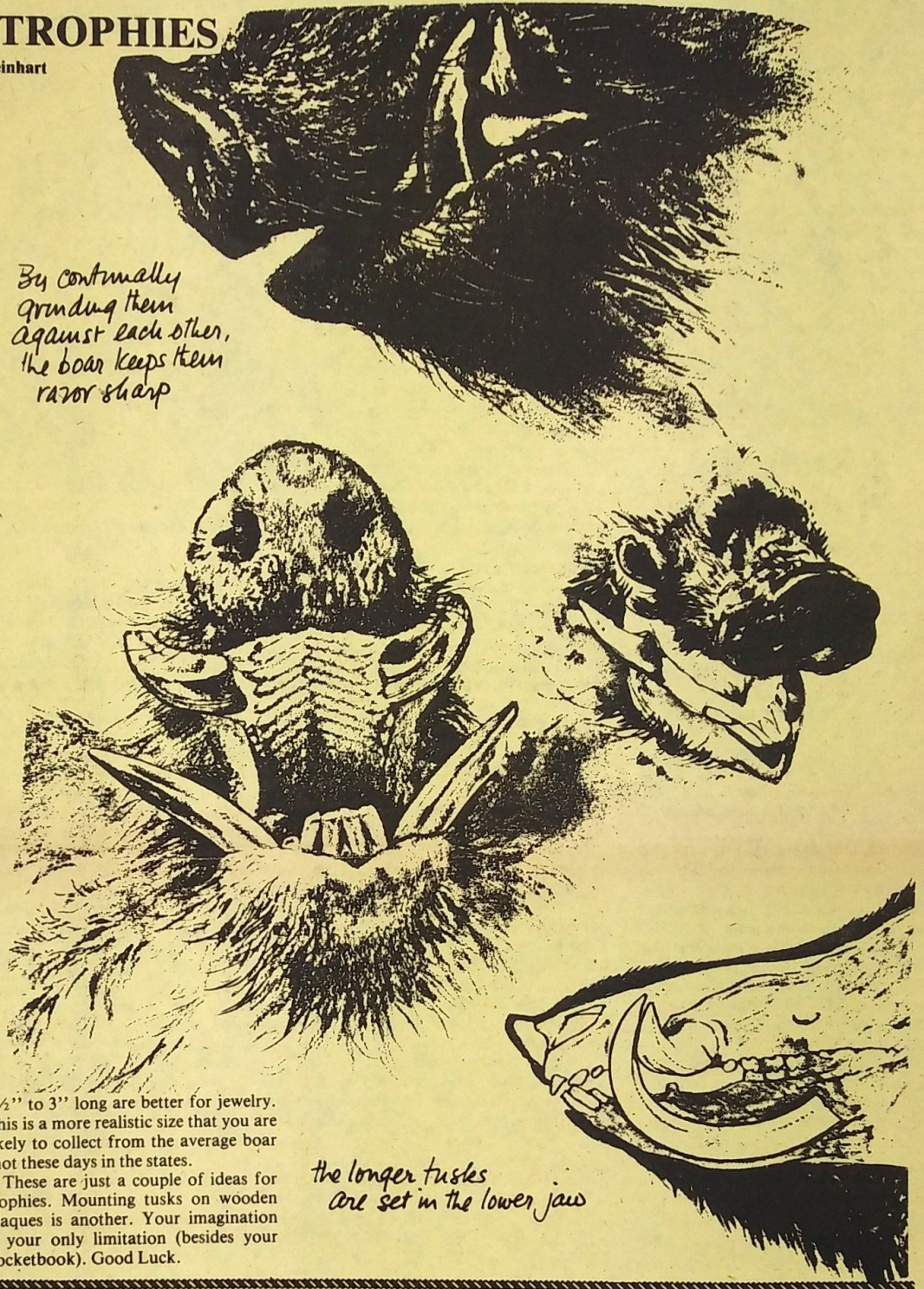
When we are able to purchase a new handgun that we have yearned so much for, we usually are left with very little money to purchase ammo for the gun. At the most, maybe two boxes of factory stuff will come home with the new gun, if we are lucky.

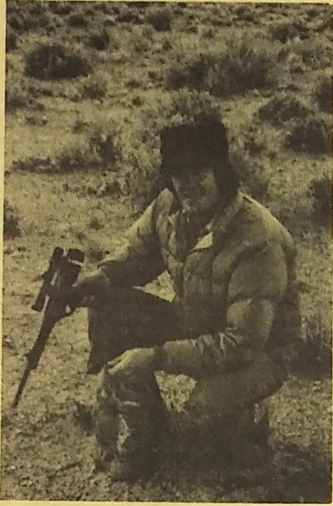
That is why I quickly got into reloading. One hundred rounds of factory

shells usually shot up, just to know the new gun! Then friends drop in, and you show them your new prized gun, and there is no ammo for them to try it out, either. It kind of cheapens the whole affair, right then and there, whereas if you have the makings for some home-brewed loads, the day is saved.

Today, with inflation getting higher and higher, reloading is the only route to follow if you shoot the center-fires. The rim-fires aren't getting any cheaper, either. If you're interested in shooting the bigger bores, you might as well put forth the extra money now, and save yourself some money in the future.

Handgunning is still on the ground-floor, so to speak, and now is the time to jump on the bandwagon, as it's really getting big. You can thank your forefathers for that . . . they shot reloads, too.





Pistols and Prairie Dogs

By Johnny Lemke, No. 753

Winter in Wyoming can be a long drawn out affair. By the end of February, it gets so that every day that the weather is bad seems twice as long as the one before. This is the time when shooters spend the long hours dreaming up the things they are going to do when the weather breaks.

My brother David and I were no different this spring. Over the winter we had acquired two XP-100's in .221 Fireball. We then scoped them with Leupold M8-4X EER scopes in Redfield mounts and rings.

During January and February we would load a few rounds to take with us when we went out to practice on our silhouettes. Using this process, we finally came up with a load that would shoot very accurately in both guns. The load consisted of 15.0 gr. of IMR4227 behind a 52 gr. Speer hp in Remington cases and CCI-BR4 primers. At 50 yards, this combination will shoot 5 shot groups at around 1/2".

As is usually the case, we had everything in order, the guns, scopes, loads, anxious shooters, but we still had lousy weather. The old saying goes: Where there is a will, there is a way. Well, we found a way. We spent countless nights during the late winter months driving the Big Muddy creek shooting jack rabbits. We found out just how good a stock XP will shoot. If we could get a jack rabbit to stop in the spotlight, he was as good as gone.

When March rolled around, we started having some nice weather but the Prairie Dogs still wouldn't come out. About this time, I started working up loads for our two Unlimited guns, both chambered in 7mm IHMSA. I worked with bullet weights ranging from 140 gr. Nosler SB up to 175 gr. Sierras, to develop data for an article I was doing for **Handloader Magazine**. In the process, I found that we could push the 140 gr. Nosler out at 2412 fps by using 33.0 gr. of H-322 and CCI-200 primers. That's when we got the idea of trying our Unlimited guns on Prairie Dogs.

The last weekend in March started off with a bang. The weather was beautiful and a few Prairie Dogs were out. We spent most of Saturday afternoon scouting around, trying to find some dogs to shoot.

It seemed that every dog that was out had the same thing on his mind . . .

RUNNING. The score that day was great for the Prairie Dogs: Dogs-18, Dummies-3. David had a big lead after Saturday, 2 to 1, plus the fact that one of his kills was on a big male dog at 142 steps while he was still running. He still says that it was skill, while I was glad I had my boots on.

Saturday was beautiful, but Sunday was even better. When we left the house, our wives were mumbling something about the mental capacity of someone who would go out in the middle of winter to shoot poor helpless Prairie Dogs. We just put on our ear protectors so we couldn't hear them anymore, and kept on loading equipment in my old Bronco.

When we got to the flats beside the Big Muddy Creek, it became apparent that we had hit the jackpot. From our location, we could count no less than a dozen dogs sunning themselves. We quickly set up and started out shooting session. Every time a shot was fired, all the dogs would disappear, but in 5-10 minutes, one would come back out. Most of the shooting was done at between 200-250 yards. Those Leupold scopes sure paid off that day.

The shooting was quite a bit different than we were used to. Before, all we had used on dogs were our Ruger M77V in .220 Swifts. At the range we were shooting, if you missed one with a rifle, it was almost a disgrace. It soon

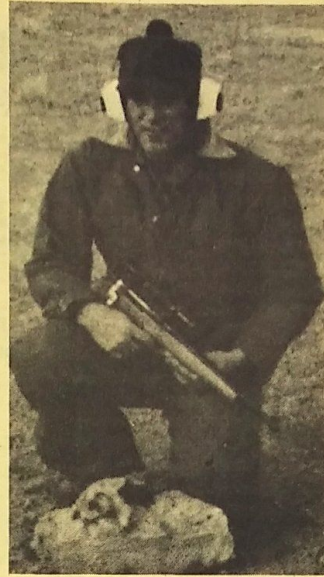


.357 MAGNUM FOR DEER?

By Richard Templeton No. 038

This story started out in my head as an expression of my opinion of the .357 Magnum as capable handgun cartridge for deer size animals. What it looks like it is going to wind up being is a too long story of how I came to my opinion of the .357. It just didn't seem right to say one way or the other without an explanation and by the time I finished that, I might as well tell the whole story, so here goes.

I live in Central West Texas, where almost all deer hunting is done on private land which must be leased from the rancher either on a season or daily basis. Myself and several friends have been hunting in the same two-section pasture for about three years now, and have had pretty fair luck finding bucks to shoot at. In this part of the state, a large whitetail buck will dress out around 115 to 125 pounds with the average being much less than that. For several years I have carried a Ruger three screw .45 Colt with me when I was hunting deer and have made numerous very final finishing shots on local deer with a 255 gr. cast semi-wadcutter ahead of 9.5 gr. of Unique. This load develops around 1,000 fps and whatever is on the receiving end is not aware that it is not a .44 Mag. I never was quite able to bring myself to leave the scoped rifle at home until I began to consistently score fairly high in IHMSA competition with the Ruger and a couple of TC's, but often carried both a rifle and a handgun as some shots on our lease could be far out of range of any handgun and deer are not so plentiful that you would want to pass one up. This story has to do with one of those days last year when I had both with me. The handgun was an 8" Dan Wesson .357 carried in a homegrown shoulder holster. It was loaded with six rounds of 158 gr Speer



Lucky Dave and his 142 step running dog.

became apparent that it was different with pistols, even scoped pistols.

At last count, we had 18 dogs for 78 shots between us. That isn't too bad when you consider the range, at a

JHP's ahead of 14.5 gr 2400. The rancher where we hunt used to raise sheep until booming coyote populations began to kill as much as 65 to 70% of his lamb crop. One spring as he rounded them up to work the lambs, he was so upset by the drastic losses, he sold all he could find and while at the sale, bought 7 or 8 old mean Angora rams, which he released on the ranch to harass the coyotes. That was several years ago and we had been seeing the rams occasionally for a couple of years. They had turned completely wild so that they were almost as good at disappearing as the whitetails. Very seldom would we see them any closer than 600 to 800 yards across a canyon, and then only for a few seconds. The rancher told us that we could shoot them if we got the chance as they had become somewhat of a nuisance. One afternoon toward the end of the deer season, as we were working the rim of a canyon looking for a buck, I spotted five or six of the old rams bedded down on the other side of the canyon, not more than 150 yards as the bullet flies, but a lot further around there by foot. I made up my mind to try to sneak up on them and take one with the Dan Wesson as a couple of them had horn spreads of well over 3 feet with one that had about 1 1/4 curls on the long spiraling horns. I left the rifle leaning against a tree and took off around the rim of the canyon. When I got around there they were becoming a little nervous but had not run or seen me as yet. I was downwind and if you know anything about goats, you know how I could tell where they were before I found a spot behind a bush to watch for the biggest of the lot. I had to move my position two or three times to get a good view of them and never saw more than one or two at a time, from a distance of about 60 yards. The one with the biggest horns finally gave me a look at the back of his head between two cedar bushes and the Dan Wesson roared. All of the goats scattered, including the one I had shot at! I was reasonably sure I had hit

target about the size of a beer can. Not only that, but how do you get the damn things to hold still?

I have read a lot of articles about how you need to use light explosive bullets on varmints. I have shot a lot of dogs in the last two years with my .220 Swift and at the range we were shooting they completely disappear. That isn't the case when they were shot with 140 gr. Noslers out of our 7mm IHMSA's. The side that was hit first was still together. It was the backside that disappeared. We found that hits anywhere on the body would kill almost instantly.

In some later shooting with the .221 fireball and the previously mentioned loads, we found the opposite to be true. A hit in the upper half of the body produces instant kills, while hits in the lower half usually lets them get back to their holes. Due to this, we have started restricting our shots with the .221's to 150 yards or less and try for head or shoulder shots only. At the longer ranges, we use our bigger pistols or our .220 Swift for the really long shots.

Take some friendly advice: The next time you go varmint hunting, take your pistol along and use it for your close shots. Your score might not be as good as with the rifle, but I'll bet you have a hell of a lot more fun. **GOOD SHOOTING!**

him as I was prone across a rock on the rim of canyon so I got up and moved to a point where they would have to pass me to get out of that canyon and into the next. As they crossed a small clearing about 40 yards below me I put another slug into the ram which had the big horns. Before and after the second hit which was in the front shoulder, he continued to walk, not run, with the rest of the bunch, single file down the trail. As they broke into the last clearing I could see from my perch, I hit him again in the top of the neck and he finally went down. When I got to where he lay, he was still not dead and his throat had to be cut to finish him off. I recovered about 80% of the bullet in the neck, but the one in the shoulder was lost although it did not exit the other side. The first hit in the back of the head glanced off a horn and entered the neck right at the base of the skull and is probably still in the head today. That old goat was "tougher than an old goat" and the meat was not even worth saving, but I still have the head. The tip of one horn is broken off about six inches from the end and the spread still is about 40 inches.

The moral of this long tale in my opinion is that unless you have almost perfect shot placement, which is never guaranteed and usually a cinch that you won't have a chance at the best shot, the .357 is not enough gun for medium-size big game such as deer. I will take a bigger slug such as the .45 Colt or .44 Mag anytime or a faster moving slug such as .30 Herrett of .30-.30 in the T/C Contender. As a final note, I carried a rifle to that same lease only on opening day this year and hunted the rest of the season with a .30 Herrett or a Ruger .44. I never did kill a deer but I intend to try again next year. I won't hunt with a rifle until I get a deer with a pistol. Most of the other hunters think I'm crazy but you all know what that is like I'm sure. After all nobody can hit those steel rams 200 meters away with a handgun! Can they?

ANOTHER WALK IN THE WOODS

By Jon Palisin, No. 569

The 1979 Pennsylvania buck season would soon be here, and I was as ready as I would ever be. I figured I'd use my Ruger Super Blackhawk .44 along with the Hornady 200 gr. JHP over 20 gr. of H-110. Then I spotted a T/C .35 Rem. Super 14 at the local gun shop. Easy as pie, I strayed away from the .44.

My wife bought me a Leupold M8-2X and after a little practice with factory loads, I was ready. I had my doubts because of the single shot compared to six with my wheel gun, but after coming this far, why not give it a try?

That first morning brought nothing but pain until about 9:30 when things started to settle down. After seeing quite a few skinheads during the morning, I decided to head for the car for lunch, only to find that my buddy, Bob and his boy had both connected with two nice bucks.

After lunch, Bob said he would set me in the same spot he was in earlier, since this was the first time for me in this area. When the afternoon started to come to an end, I still couldn't put any bones on any of the deer I had seen. I figured I'd move back toward the car when a few quick shots came from the direction where I had been sitting in the morning. Sure enough, four deer started to appear in the pines, the last one being the buck I was waiting for.

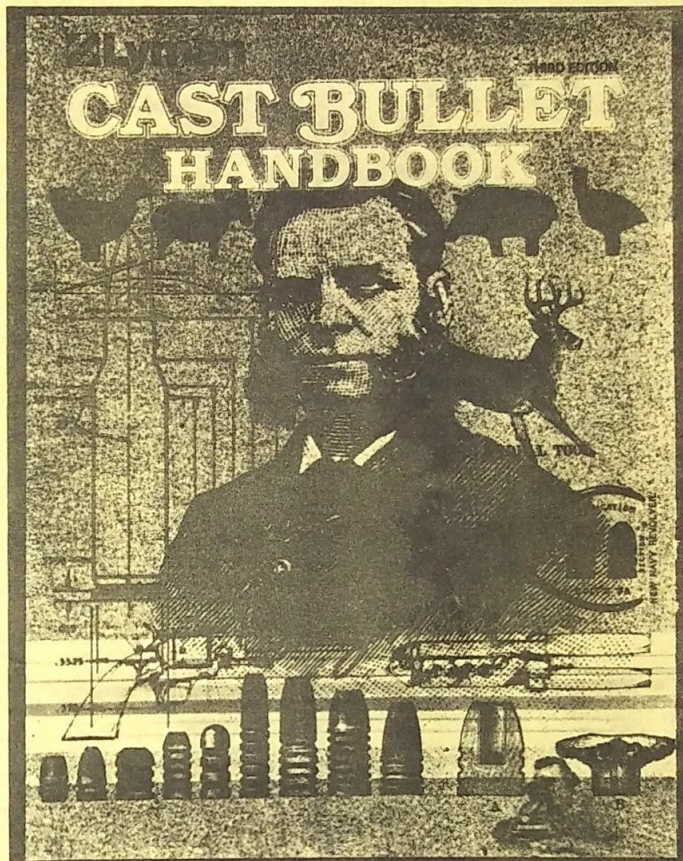
The three doe went their own way

with the buck just sneaking through the brush, trying to hide that rack of his. I brought the T/C up and cocked it, which must have gotten his attention because he stopped dead in his tracks — right in back of a tree. Why they do that all the time, I just don't know! We were both waiting for each other to make the first move. He moved just enough to give me a perfect shot right on his front shoulder . . . or so I thought.

I squeezed the T/C off nice and smooth and when it came down out of recoil, all I saw was that white flag waving goodbye. I couldn't believe it! I just blew the perfect 30 yard shot. After checking out the area and finding out they're now minus a few pine trees, thanks to my expert shooting, I returned to my spot and sat the afternoon out until quitting time. After going over my thoughts for the day, I felt I was pretty lucky and pretty honored to have had a shot at such an intelligent animal and being able to participate in such a great sport.

Next year's season will hopefully find me in the same spot, only my .44 SBH will be on my side with the T/C getting a rest, waiting for that trip out west.

Upon returning home to the family, I was greeted with those sweet words, "Well, another walk in the woods?" But let me tell you one thing . . . it was one of the best walks I've had in a long time!



Lyman New Cast Bullet Handbook

It has finally arrived and it's been worth waiting for. It has an 8.5 X 11" format and is 417 pages long. That's about **Gun Digest** size.

I feel this handbook is without a doubt the best reference work for both the beginning bullet caster and the average bullet caster — and it doesn't stop being of value there.

The Ideal Company was founded in 1884 by John H. Barlow and sold to Lyman in 1925. Obviously nearly a century of company experience enabled Ken Ramage to assemble a super set of facts regarding bullet casting and cast bullets in general. I've been casting bullets since I was a kid and this book is one reference even a non-cast bullet user should have in his library.

The special subjects of metallurgy of lead alloys is well covered by Dennis Marshall. The "how to" of bullet casting, sizing and lubrication are extensively covered. An eleven page section on accuracy tips and techniques is particularly helpful. I'm somewhat disappointed in the length of the section on hunting with cast bullets and it has very little to say about handgun hunting bullets. However, a section on special purpose projectiles details the relatively new Lyman composite cast pistol bullets. In case you aren't aware of them, they are available in No. 358624 (170 gr.), No. 429265 (232 gr.) and 452626 (245 gr.) for .38 — .357, .44 and .45 caliber respectively. Design-wise, they are the very successful Keith bullets with one notable exception. It takes two moulds to make one bullet. Right — cast a gaping, hollow, base or body section if you prefer of lino-type. Cast a 'Keith' type nose section of pure lead. Glue 'em together with a good epoxy. Size and lube. Load and shoot. The front end will expand, assuming you put a little velocity on the bullet while the rear performs two important functions. First, it's hard

enough to prevent skipping and bore leading. Second, it provides control for the rapidly expanding pure lead nose at impact. Its performance seems closer to that of jacketed bullets than cast. That's oversimplified a little, but certainly manufacturing of this bullet is within the capability of any shooter. Lyman has tested these bullets extensively and is convinced there won't be any surprises from the field, but also asks for performance comments from shooters.

A large portion of the book is devoted to rifles. For the first time, data is given for full charge or near full charge rifle loads with cast bullets. In addition, ballistic tables giving velocity, energy, drop, mid-range trajectory, bullet path, time of flight and wind deflection is given from the muzzle to 600 yards for many popular calibers.

The handgun load section is essentially that found in the already published excellent **Lyman Pistol and Revolver Handbook**. In essence, this book covers a wide variety of material with flair, style and excellence. Not to mention the 5000 plus loads it details.

This **Handbook** would be available at your local dealer for a suggested retail of \$12.95. If you're in a hurry, send 14 bucks to Paul Beck at Lyman Products Corp., Rt. 147, Middlefield, CT 06455 for the book and Lyman's complete propaganda package, also known as a catalog. You might suggest **The Sixgunner** hinted if a buck didn't cover the postage, Paul might cover it in his expense account!

For those real cast bullet fans, the **CAST BULLET ASSOCIATION, INC.** (5222 Trent St., Chevy Chase, MD 20015) publishes a bi-monthly newsletter called **The Fouling Shot** that is the most up to date and sophisticated info on cast bullets. Costs \$10.00 a year, and it's well worth it.

NOTICE— FFL DEALERS

Due to ever increasing costs and supply problems — H & H Cartridge Corporation announced today — "SUPER VEL" handgun ammunition will be sold to dealers direct.

"SUPER VEL" ammunition will continue to be available to F.F.L. dealers only on a limited basis. Please send current signed F.F.L. We will ship on your written or verbal phone order, cash or U.P.S. collect only. Freight paid on \$200 order or more.

Your distributor may still have "SUPER VEL" in stock.

Indiana orders — call collect:

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812-663-8653

Other than Indiana — Toll free:

800-457-9750

Super Vel.



H & H Cartridge Corporation
P.O. Box 104
Greensburg, IN 47240



HANDGUN HUNTERS CHARTER MEMBER COMMEMORATIVE

In response to the letters and phone calls requesting "collectables" and "useable collectables" by the members, I have reached an agreement with noted custom knifemaker, R. W. Wilson, to produce one hundred knives to honor HHI Charter Members.

The basic design of the knife is a joint effort of R. W. and myself. Each knife will be a custom, individually ground by Wilson himself. Each knife will be of the same basic pattern but each will be an individual custom knife.

The date 1980, the HHI logo and the specific knife number will be on both sides of the blade. Wilson's logo, style number and 440C — the type stainless steel used will also be identified on the blade.

The knife handles will be made of ivory micarta. One side will bear, in scrimshaw, the inscription:

HANDGUN HUNTERS
INTERNATIONAL
CHARTER MEMBER
COMMEMORATIVE
John Doe No. 318

The opposing side of the handle will bear the purchaser's choice of any handgun and any animal head scrimshawed into the ivory micarta with other appropriate scroll work for appearance.

A black belt sheath will be supplied with each knife.

Each knife will be packaged in a solid walnut display case. The bottom will be routed to encase the knife and the inside and outside of the top will have the HHI logo burned into it.

Specifically, the knife is made of 440C stainless steel heat treated to 58-60 on the Rockwell 'C' scale and mirror polished. The handguard and four pins affixing the handles to the blade are brass. Overall length is approximately 8.5 inches with a blade length of approximately 3.75 inches. Thickness of the blade is about 3/16 inches. Width of the blade is about one and 1/16 inches. The handle features a thong hole.

It is expected the value of these knives will increase tremendously in a rapid manner. Price will be \$210.00 with a \$75.00 deposit required with the order. As only 100 knives will be made, they will be distributed in the following manner:

Charter members 1 through 100 will have the first opportunity to purchase their corresponding knife number. This opportunity will terminate July 15, 1980.

Other orders will be accepted on a first come, first served basis and the lowest number knife available assigned to the first order received. You will be notified of your number after July 15, 1980 if you are not one of the first 100 Charter Members.

The purchaser of one of these knives shall have the first opportunity to purchase the corresponding number of any future HHI numbered items — assuming his membership has not lapsed.

CUSTOM KNIFE ORDER FORM

Name _____

HHI No. _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

SCRIMSHAW

Handgun _____

Game Head _____

A HUNTERS HERITAGE

Tom Frick No. 23

What makes a handgun hunter? What started me in this mania? The books, magazine stories or the challenge? The thrills, frustrations and satisfactions?

Armchair hunting, sitting up late nights reading have occupied many more hours than actually out in the woods and fields. I've read the books and articles of all of them: Keith, Nonte Skelton, Jurras and many more; even some by ole J.D. himself.

But still why hunt with a handgun? It's easier to shoot a long gun. My eyes see better through a rifle scope and it is difficult to stalk within pistol range of a squirrel or 'chuck. I've taken a lot less game with a handgun but there's been a lot more satisfaction in taking it. One really seldom needs to hunt for the meat today but lunch on a pistol is a gourmet's delight! Also the hours spent sixgun hunting have been a therapy much needed in today's busy, hectic world of business. Two days

romping the hills of Tennessee after boar did my stomach more good than a winter of bland diet and nerve pills.

But all this is after the fact. What caused the initial interest. Why? — Cause Pop did it. When I was just a short fry, Pop always wanted a fine pistol. He talked and dreamed about a "Woodsmen" or a "K-22". He'd always had an old H&R revolver around. Back then you could plink in your back yard in town and nobody cared. The local cop would even stop by to shoot some.

One day, sixty-eight bucks were saved up and Perry's Hardware got in a K-22. Pop had his dream! I was too small to shoot much but helped him go through about a million old cans, and many cartons of long rifles. Riverbank dump rats were prime fare.

Fox squirrel season finally arrived and we took the old '40 Ford woody out to Hugo's woods. I took grandad's old Western Field scoped .22 and Pop carried the new Smith. Three times he pointed out bushytails but my young, myopic eyes saw nothing but leaves, so three times he K-22'd the foxies. I remember other times: a running shot on a cottontail, a 50 yard instant kill on a railroad groundhog. That old 5-screw Masterpiece put a lot of meat in the pot. By the way, Pop always shot a pistol one handed. Just didn't know any other way.

We used to hunt together a lot, Pop and I. That old sixgun usually went along. When I was older there were rare occasions when the privilege of carrying the S&W was turned over to me. I couldn't shoot it worth a darn but I learned to like the warm heavy feel of a sixgun on my belt.

Years passed and times change; college, job, new family. We haven't had the time to go hunting together often enough lately. A couple years ago we went out again on opening day for squirrels. Didn't see any but I was carrying my own K-22. We surprised a fat old grizzled chuck snoozing in the warm autumn sun. I busted him twice with the target 22's loaded in my M17, but he only flinched. I don't think they even woke him up. Quickly I dumped the cylinder and slipped in a pair of hi speed HP's from my belt. The first one knocked him clear off the mound and put him into permanent hibernation. Haven't used standard vel 22's on game since.

Pop's retired now; got him a new house on a beautiful lake up in the North Woods Whitetail country. Come November, me and Pop are going hunting again, for those wily hatracks this time. Handguns only of course, .44's.

So here's to you, Pop. Thanks for the heritage of the handgun. And here's an HHI charter membership for you in appreciation. I wish it coulda been No. 1.

Little Magnum VS Whitetails

By Jimmy Smith, No. 402

The morning began to break clear and cold, instead of the thunder, lightning, and rain we had for the previous two days. For moments after the first light, I had seemed to forget what I was here for. A shot fired far off in the distance suddenly snapped me back to reality. It was opening day of deer season here in my home state of Tennessee. All summer I had been watching the buck I was here to try for this morning. I was wondering if

he would make his usual rounds this morning, when suddenly here he came, slowly walking down the edge of a field terrace, his antlers shining in the early morning light. He seemed more tense than I had noticed before, like he knew something was wrong, but couldn't decide what.

A mere 125 yards separated us. What a time for my rifle to be at home. The more I looked at him, the farther the distance seemed to get between him and the .357 Mag. Colt Python I held in my hand.

The buck slowly walked on toward my stand, stopping, listening, looking, and forever testing the wind with his nose. Then, as suddenly as he had come, he was gone. The next few minutes seemed like forever. Had I lost my chance? Could I have been so dumb to think I could get close enough to a deer to take it with a handgun? Then, there in the edge of a small break in the trees, there he stood. Not like I had hoped he would be but moving almost straight away from me. The front sight seemed to take forever to settle in its place in the square frame of the back sight. Remembering to squeeze the trigger, ever so slowly, everything looked right.

The stillness of the early morning was shattered with a tremendous roar, the orange flame flashed from the muzzle, the dull thump of the 158 gr. soft point striking flesh, as the Python bucked under recoil. Moments later, the world seemed amazingly quiet as I stood over a beautiful seven-point Whitetail buck.

Regardless of how many times this scene is repeated, the excitement seems to always be the same. It tends to make you want to stand quietly and say a few words of thanks.

Although, personally I am, have been, and always will be a varmint and small game hunter, I have also found time to do a "little deer hunting". Most of the deer I have killed or seen killed have been well inside of 75 yards. At these ranges, I believe the .357 Mag. to be a quite capable deer cartridge. The buck described earlier was shot high on the right back ham at a slight angle going away from me. The bullet used was a 158 gr. Winchester soft point fired from a six inch barrel Colt Python at 67 paces. It ranged up through the middle of him and exited just behind his left front shoulder, leaving an exit hole about the size of a quarter. As anyone can see, this was not a 20 yard broadside shot. I believe any caliber that has this much power is more than adequate for Whitetail deer.

Please don't misunderstand my intentions. I don't mean that the .357 Mag. is the only caliber handgun everybody should use. I have used and will continue to use several larger calibers. Quite possibly my favorite is the .44 Mag. What I am trying to say is that if the only handgun you have, or that you happen to like, is a .357 Mag., you shouldn't feel under gunned if you're after Whitetail deer.

I know what some people are thinking by now; but I'm afraid it's not quite right! I have taken over 40 head of deer with bows, handguns, rifles, and shotguns. I believe that gives me a right of an opinion about one of my favorite handgun calibers — the .357 Magnum.



.44 SPECIALS LOVERS — REJOICE!

By John Taffin, No. 76

The Colt New Frontier in .44 Special is back. When Colt first went back into production of the single action in 1976, rumors abounded that the .44 Special would be back. I placed my order at that time for both a single action and a New Frontier in my favorite caliber in any available barrel length. The .44 SA came through in 1978 and after nearly five years of waiting, I have received what must be one of the first .44 New Frontiers produced. Back in the early 60's, I foolishly passed up several New Frontiers in .44 Special because they were so expensive. After all \$150.00 was a lot of money, what with three kids to feed and college tuition to pay. It seems even worse when you compare it to a Ruger Super Blackhawk at today's price. The Ruger retails for \$207.00, the Colt is a staggering \$475.00. But it's a Colt. It's a real single action. It's in .44 Special and it's beautiful!

How does it compare to the earlier post-war run of single actions from 1956 to 1974? I have several of these to compare with, two in .45 Colt and three in .44 Special. On the outside the new issue New Frontier has a better finish, a nicer blue job and it has a beautiful case hardened frame. I also have a new run .44 Special SA and a .45 New Frontier that both have very vivid case hardened frames, but the SA has a very thin blue job on the barrel. Nobody, absolutely no gun maker can case harden like Colt. Case hardening well done is very attractive, poorly done, it is awful.

The finish is better on the new models, but the action on this New Frontier is pretty bad. The new hand design which does not require the hand fitting of the old style, does not provide the smooth operation that SA users like. My old style SA's are very smooth of action, but this new one will require gunsmithing to even make it acceptable. The cylinder also does not lock up quite as tight as the older models. The tightest SA I've ever had in this respect is a Great Western .44 Special. The cylinder gap is a very tight

.004. This .44 New Frontier even jams sometimes on cocking which is an indication of poor fitting. I have not encountered this problem in the other two New Model Colts, but I have run into the same problem with New Model Rugers. It's a simple fact of life that revolvers are no longer put together by old line gunsmiths. It is a rare piece from any of the big three (Colt, Ruger or S & W) that doesn't require gunsmithing after it leaves the factory.

There are two other minor cosmetic problems with the New Frontier. The frame screws do not fit flush in the frame and the ends protrude out the other side of the frame. Also the grips are not very good quality wood and they do not fit real well and are chipped at one escutcheon hole.

In spite of this I'm not complaining. I'm so happy to have a .44 Special New Frontier that I can put up with minor inconveniences. Grips don't make any difference as they will be replaced with ivories or I will make a pair of fancy wood grips for it. Gunsmithing is also a minor problem. The important thing is that the .44 NF is now being manufactured and is available.

Why all the excitement over a .44 Special? After all it's not a Magnum. But the .44 Special is the best all around cartridge if you are a hand loader. The Special is accurate and powerful. .44 Special sixguns are lighter and slower than the .44 Magnum. With a load of 7.5 gr. Unique behind a 250 gr. cast bullet it is the ideal defensive load or outdoor load. There is no better DA revolver available than a Smith & Wesson .44 Special whether it be original or conversions. My favorite sixgun is a fancy ivory stocked Ruger .44 Special conversion with 4-5/8" barrel. The .44 Special New Frontier with 7-1/4" barrel is the ideal sixgun for the hunter. I'm tempted to cut the barrel to 4-3/4" but I will probably keep it as a 7-1/2" for the extra sight radius and power for the field. This revolver should also do well in silhouette competition. I hope it will be available later in the 4-3/4"

length. As a hunting sixgun, the .44 Special, especially in this sixgun, can be safely loaded with 17 gr. No. 2400 behind a 250 gr. bullet and there is no real performance difference between this load and any sensible .44 magnum load.

I have to admit that I am not reasonable when it comes to .44 Specials. No other caliber excites me any more. I now have an even dozen .44 Specials and there will be more in the future. I want to do more conversions of old model Rugers and I especially want to pick up more Colt SA's. At \$475.00, I don't see how they can continue to sell New Frontiers. This is even higher than the highest priced .44 Magnum available and most shooters would rather buy the Magnum. When you can buy a stainless steel .44 Magnum for less than a blue steel .44 Special, it's a strange situation. Lovers of .44 Specials are a weird but relatively small group.

There is a bonus available with the .44 Special New Frontier. Colt is now cataloging a .44-40 which means that cylinders should be available so it will be a simple chore to fit the adjustable sight of the New Frontier, sight adjustments will be possible. I dug out an old Bisley .44-40 cylinder to see if it would fit my New Frontier. It fits perfectly, locks up tight and actually works smoother than the original cylinder. The old cylinder has a different ratchet design which makes for smoother operation.

Colt only produced about 500 .44 Special Single Actions until production stopped in 1940. When production resumed again in 1956, the first two calibers were .45 Colt and .38 Special. The .357 Magnum was then added, followed by the .44 Special. The .38 was dropped in 1964 and the .44 Special was dropped in 1966. Approximately 2500 .44 Specials were produced in the post war period from 1958 to 1966 and only about 250 were New Frontiers. These are commanding a very high price now. So, out of close to one half million SA sixguns produced, less than 1% were .44 Specials.

The big question of course is how would this new model .44 shoot? I've had a lot of experience with .44 Specials. I've only sold three .44 Specials that I have owned. One, a 1950 target was sold to help raise college tuition in '63; a pre-war Colt SA was sold because it was too valuable to justify shooting and a Smith Heavy Duty barreled to .44 Special was sold because I wasn't satisfied with it. All others I have are excellent shooters, including two old Bisleys that have been barreled.

For the hunter, this 7-1/2" New Frontier will carry light and easy in either a shoulder holster or a high riding belt holster. Hunters might think about adding a colored insert in the front sight although many silhouette shooters are finding the standard black sight to their liking.

I first tried shooting the .44 Special with my favorite load of 7.5 gr. Unique with No. 429421 cast bullet. Using the top of the pickup hood as a rest and shooting at 35 yards, the best I could do was keep all shots in the black of a 50 ft. rapid fire pistol target. The combination of a brisk March wind, cold temperatures and a heavy gritty trigger pull did not help. I'm sure with better weather and a 3 lb. trigger pull, the groups would shrink considerably. As a control gun, I used my Colt SA 7-1/2" X .44 Special and S & W sights.

This sixgun has proven its accuracy in the past, but because of the weather, I could discern no difference in the shooting of the two guns. The front sight of the New Frontier is not flat on the face, but somewhat rounded on the edges. For me this produced a fuzzy sight picture that I do not like and it will have to be flattened off and serrated.

After trying the Unique loads I tried the heavier load of 17 gr. No. 2400 and 200 gr. Hornady hollow points in the New Frontier. As I prepared to squeeze off a round, the wind picked up a cardboard box I had two targets pinned on, along with the goose egg sized rocks I had holding it down, and the last I saw of them, the box, rocks and targets were heading across the desert.

So, I had to turn to other targets. At the same 35 yard distance, those HP loads were deadly as I killed every tin can in sight. This bullet seems a natural for a hunting load in the .44 Special and can safely be pushed much faster than the 1100 F.P.S. approximated by the 17 gr. No. 2400. The New Frontier is certainly at least as strong as any .44 Special ever produced and should allow a range of experimentation. For those interested in an in-depth report on .44 Special Reloads, I would refer you to "Handloader Magazine" issues No. 24 and No. 25. Both moderate and full power loads are listed.

When I returned home from shooting, I stripped the revolver to look at the action. I found rough spots on all parts and noticeable burrs on the sear. I went over all parts with a hone stone and upon putting the New Frontier back together, found I had a much smoother revolver. The burrs on the trigger had been causing the trigger to "stick" in the full cock notch, and their removal smoothed up the trigger pull considerably. I also placed a thick leather washer between the frame and the mainspring. This cushions the spring and lightens it without having to resort to grinding. With a few hours work I expect this sixgun to operate as smoothly as my other Colts.

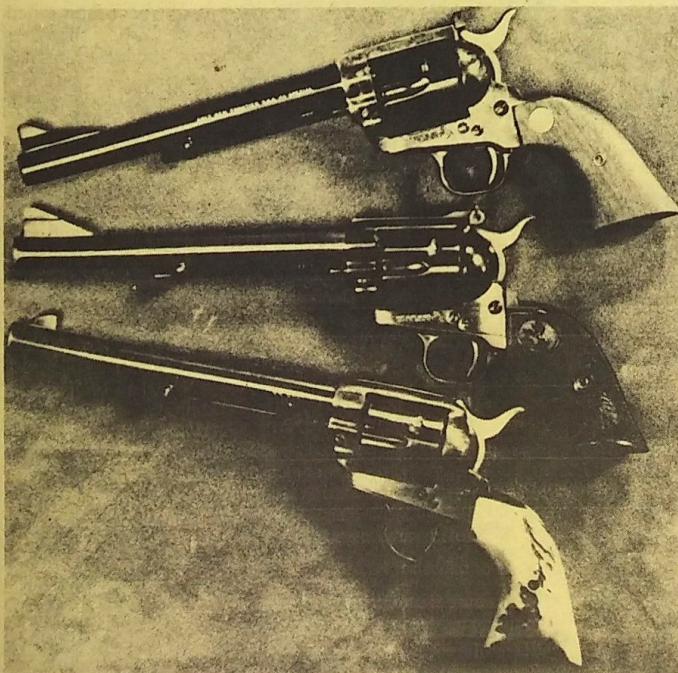
The Smith & Wesson .44 Special is over 70 years old. Elmer Keith raised it from its 750 F.P.S. loading to a potent 1100-1200 F.P.S. load with the 250 gr. bullet. Then the .44 Magnum came along in 1956 and the .44 Special died. Thanks mainly to the efforts of Skeeter Skelton, the .44 Special has been resurrected. Anyone who passes up this magnificent cartridge is really missing out. Maybe someday Smith & Wesson will offer their Model 27 and 28's in this old favorite cartridge. The fact that they are now producing the grand old .45 Colt after more than a 60 year shutdown, except for a very few 1950 Targets on special order, shows there is hope for us 'Special' lovers.

RATTLESNAKE LUNCH

By Mike McLaughlin, No. 174

It all started when Kevin stepped on his second rattler. That's right, his second rattlesnake. Although he may be a bit careless, his reflexes are excellent. Also, Timber Rattlesnakes are fairly calm... as rattlesnakes go.

The first snake got away into the bushes near our cabin in the Blue Ridge. There were no big rocks handy enough to wipe him out. After that, I started wearing a handgun whenever we were at the cabin. This time, I thought I was ready. *Continued On Page 14*



Three .44 Specials. Two Colts and the bottom gun is a Great Western.

We had all come back from doing our thing, whatever we liked, in the mountains. Our two daughters were back from the Good's farm nearby, where they had been mucking stalls and feeding the stock. Our three boys, and several of their friends, had returned from terrorizing woodchucks up behind the River Road.

My wife, Jude', and I had been out berry picking, and were all hot and scratched up. We were too hungry to cull the buckets. We set up lunch for the horde of kids, and started on our own meal. I was sitting in the big chair with a plate of hot pork & beans on my lap, and a cold beer on the armrest. She was searching for a place to set herself down, when Kevin, our No. 2 son, stepped out of the cabin door . . . and bellowed something loud, undecipherable, and urgent. I just barely had time to put the plate down before he was able to yell again, this time loud and clear, "RRAATTLE-SSNAKE!"

My hand was down to the holster, the thumb snap open, and the grips of the .357 against my hand before I was all the way out of the chair. As I went across the room, I kept the gun holstered for the moment — too many kids around.

Somebody pulled the door open, and as I stepped through the doorway, Kevin yelled again.

"Watch out, he's right at the bottom of the steps!"

There, just two short steps below me, crawling off of the flagstone, was a large, fat, Timber Rattlesnake. He was headed to my left, between the cabin and my International Scout. It was one of the largest Timber Rattlers I had ever seen outside of a zoo. He didn't rattle, he didn't hurry, and he didn't even seem to be the least bit excited. But I was.

We don't like to shoot snakes. When we catch blacksnakes or a hognose, we just turn 'em loose underneath the cabin, to keep the fieldmice down. If we find a rattler back in the mountains, we just go around him. After all, it's his territory. Only this was my territory, and with a cabin full of children, plus me and the wife, this one had to go.

One of the kids bumped me from behind, trying to get a better look. I made some gentle, comforting remark: like "GET THE HELL INSIDE AND STAY THERE, DAMMIT!" In the same calm and reassuring manner, I told Kevin to stay behind the Scout. Then I jumped off the top step, towards the back of the cabin, while the snake continued towards the front.

Now my favorite working pistol, the Mag-na-port'd Ruger Security Six, was out. Kevin and all the other kids were clear, so I thumbed back the hammer for a single action shot. As the CCI shotload locked into position, and the sights lined up on the base of the triangular head, I made my first mistake.

After all, I could drill a dime at that distance. Why mess up a good snakeskin with all those little holes? Just take the 38 wadcutter waiting in the next chamber, and cut off his head, right behind the neck. That'd be a snap. Hoping he would tan out long enough to go around my 42 Magnum waist, I eased the hammer down and then back up again.

The yellow front sight insert was smack in the middle of the white outline rear notch when I fired. Unfortunately, the rattler cared little about my superior sight alignment, and threw a curve to the right just as the hammer fell. A

small crater appeared where his neck had been, and the snake shifted from low into second.

Muttering preposterous comments about the reptile's incestuous and unmarried canine ancestors, I double-acted my next shot, this time at the head. The Remington 125 grain 357 hollow-point blew a large hole in the ground, just to the right of his head, which was now weaving left. Old Crotalus Horridus Horridus was doing naturally what it took WW II convoys ages to learn — zig-zagging on a sinuous course, in order to avoid enemy attack.

He also took good advantage of cover, and swung all the way left towards the crawl space under the cabin. He was now moving in third, maybe overdrive, into the dark security of the 18 inch high space between the joists and the bare clay soil.

At last he began the dry, shrill, buzzing that told me that he was tired of playing games, and was ready for business.

While yelling for a flashlight, I realized that a moving snake's neck was no easy target for me. I had to put him away, quickly, with no more attempts at fancy shooting. Flashlight in one hand, 357 in the other, heart in mouth, and all the kids accounted for, I crawled underneath the cabin.

The light revealed the rattler crawling deep into the gloom, moving to the back, where there was even less headroom. Now I was down at his altitude, my elbows, belly, knees and shooting hand, right down on the ground. However, my head kept bumping the beams as I crawled along — I had no intention of losing sight of him!

I've always been a slow learner. I tried one more precision shot, at his head. It was aimed a hair low. That mistake taught me one more lesson in what was becoming an excessively instructive day. NEVER fire a 357 Magnum in a low crawl space without good ear protection, unless your life depends on it — your hearing does!

He was obviously hurt, and finally

Hutson's Handgunner II Pistol Scope

By Tom Shippy, No. 26

I've been intrigued with the idea of a miniature pistol scope for some time, but had never seen a Hutson Handgunner II except in pictures. Recently, I had an opportunity to play with one, and only wish I had taken the plunge sooner. Hal Swiggett, well-known handgun enthusiast, has always spoken highly of these scopes and has used them on assorted guns of practically all calibers. A recent article by Hal showed a Hutson scope mounted on guns from a Charter Arms Pathfinder .22, 9MM Star auto, T/C 5MM, Ruger .45 Colt to a Herters Power Mag .44 Magnum. Apparently the scope will stand up to pretty hard recoil. I had never considered mounting a scope on a small "kit" gun like Charter's Pathfinder, but it sure looked like the gun and scope were made for each other. Actually, I don't know of any other scope that would look right on a gun of this size. This kind of combination, a Hutson Handgunner II mounted on a lightweight gun such as Charters or S & W's Model 34 would surely extend the usefulness of a "kit" gun without sacrificing the good points, namely size and weight. The Hutson scopes depicted in Swiggett's article were the older models without the adjusting knobs — the new ones are

designed for use with T/C's rail mount and they're a lot easier to adjust. Contenders and scopes have always seemed like a natural combination, but I must confess I've never felt too strongly about scoping most revolvers. Most scopes simply look too cumbersome mounted on revolvers. I've since changed my mind somewhat after seeing Swiggetts Pathfinder with a Hutson. Lately I've been thinking about a perfect camp gun — possibly a set-up like Hal's, but maybe a lightweight .22 auto such as Beretta's Model 76 with this tiny scope. That, to me is an intriguing possibility. With any of those combinations, a person would still enjoy the portability of a small pistol with the "hitability" of a larger one.

Over 10 years ago, Neil Hutson introduced the first Hutson Handgunner. Later, the Handgunner II followed after three years of testing, and as far as I know, no other manufacturer has made a scope that has as many features in so small a package. It's only 5 1/2" long and weighs just 5 ounces. It also offers unlimited eye relief which makes it possible for the longest armed shooters to see a clear image. Looking closer at the specs shows us that the magnification is 1.7X

realized who was the cause of all his troubles. He immediately formed a tight coil and faced me. I could see the white lining of his wide-open mouth. I could see, but could not hear, his tail vibrating. Instead of the rattling, I heard what sounded like a dozen telephones ringing! Centering the sights on his body bulk, I fired again. That last 357 ended his problems, and changed my hoped-for belt into a do-it-yourself patchwork wallet kit. It also splattered the joists with some very strange decorations.

The postmortem was interesting. When reassembled, it appeared that he had been about 42" long. My first shot, the wadcutter, had grazed his neck on the left side. The second shot was a clean miss. The third shot took off his lower jaw and the tip of his left fang. The last shot went through the fat part of the coiled snake twice, cutting him into three big pieces, plus accessories. Jude' skinned him out and gave the kids samples of skin, there being nothing left worth tanning. She also checked the stomach contents, and found a well-digested bird, apparently a starling or blackbird. The buttonless, six-rattle tail went to the child who had helped most with the skinning. Unfortunately, we let the meat cook too long, and he tasted more like a rubber band than anything else.

After the excitement died down, I plopped back in my chair, drank my now-warm beer and ate my now-cold lunch. I still heard the telephone ringing continuously. This bothered me, since the nearest telephone was at least a quarter of a mile away.

It seems that while hitting a dime with a 357 is easy, hitting a crawling, writhing snake precisely in the neck is not. It also seems a good idea to avoid big bore pistols in small spaces. And finally, a 357 hollow point is more than is needed to put away a rattlesnake. Which gave me a perfect excuse to get a Smith & Wesson Model 63 — their stainless steel 22 LR Kit Gun!

(a little more on that later). Windage and elevation are click adjustable in increments of 5/8" per click at 100 yards. Field of view is 8' at 100 yards and the scopes are adjusted for zero parallax at 75' and beyond. They are made to fit standard T/C rail mounts which are available for Smith & Wesson K and N frames, Ruger Blackhawks, Super Blackhawks and Super Single Sixes, and of course, all T/C barrels. The optics are magnesium fluoride coated, nitrogen filled and sealed to prevent leakage and fogging. To insure quality, Neil Hutson has limited the production of these scopes to just 100 units per month. This allows careful inspection and testing at each stage of manufacture. With the extremely small parts required, assembly of the scopes must be done with absolutely meticulous care. All fixed position parts are positioned so that recoil will push them into place, rather than knocking them out of place.

Getting back to the 1.7X, most 2 power scopes in actuality offer only magnification of 1 1/2 power so there's not a dime's worth of difference between these lower powered scopes. The main advantage to a pistol scope is not so much the magnification afforded but rather the fact that everything is in one plane. With iron sights, a person is trying to focus, and align three points — the front and rear sights and a far away target. This, as you know, is impossible and we merely do the best that we can. A scope allows you to simply place the crosshairs on the target and eliminate trying to align the front and back sight. I guess the most important advantage to me is the opportunity for more precise bullet placement. If I'm going to shoot something, I don't want to wound it. Older shooters find that they can literally shoot forever by going to scopes when their eyes are no longer strong enough to see the iron sights as well. If you have a friend or a wife that you would like to introduce to handgunning, you'll have a lot more success if you break them in on a scoped pistol. It's discouraging to never be able to hit anything with a handgun and let's face it — a lot of shooters new to handgunning have given up because of that.

I mounted a Hutson Handgunner II on a 10" K-Hornet standard barrel that I talked J. D. into loaning me. I became fascinated with the possibilities offered by this minute cartridge when first reading J. D.'s article in an older issue of the Handloader and later Mike Barach's article in the Sixgunner. It is simply a real efficient, economical and accurate cartridge. Ten to 13 grains of the powders suitable for this cartridge is all the powder you need to approach or surpass the ballistics of most of the .22 centerfire cartridges available in handgun chamberings. Anyway, most of my work was with 2 powders, 4227 and WW 296 pushing 45 grain bullets, mainly Speers as Mike and J. D. indicated the best results with these. With 296, they worked up to 13.5 grains which is a hot load yielding almost 2800 fps in a 10" barrel. This load should definitely be worked up to as it may not be safe in all barrel-action combinations. Getting back to how the scope performed, which is also a good indicator of how well the load worked, I was able to get several groups under 1" at 50 meters. Many of these groups were closer to 1/2" or 3/4" than one inch.

I feel this scope is ideal for mounting on most handguns as the size is not so imposing as to make even the smaller

Continued On Page 15

handguns look top heavy. Being lighter, there should be less stress on the mounting screws during recoil. Mounting on some guns might be a problem as the scope is manufactured to fit T/C's rail mounts rather than 1" rings. However, with some drilling and tapping, which is necessary in many cases anyway, this scope/mount combination should be adaptable to most pistols. I would like to mount this scope on a kit gun to further explore the accuracy possibilities of a short barreled pistol and also on a harder kicker suitable for big game.

I've become a firm believer in the use of scopes on pistols since a silhouette match months ago when I witnessed a couple of shooters hitting snowballs at 200 yards with scoped Contenders. A person could hit in the general area with iron sights, but for consistent hits, a scope is necessary. Scopes probably cut group size in half for most people compared to iron sight groups. For hunting, that's important. Silhouette shooting differs in that a hit anywhere with a capable cartridge usually is adequate.

The current price on this diminutive scope is \$100.00 with a 15 day money back inspection privilege. Order from: JPM Sales, Box 593, Mansfield, TX 76063.

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FIRING LINE

To all HHI Charter Members... Let's all take a challenge to enroll new members. We need growth! Sign up your hunting buddy, dad, brother, cousin-in-law, or whoever. If we each enroll 3-5 new members, we're off to a great start — (they make great gifts, also.) Let's bring 'em in and make old J. D. publish a *Sixgunner* every month. There's no better handgun reading available anywhere.

Tom Frick
No. 23

Editor's Note: Tom is undoubtedly the Champ in signing up new members. Last year, Steve Wynn of the Lima Sabres gave some HHI memberships as Silhouette Shoot prizes.

Once when I purchased my Auto Mag, I joined the "Club De AutoMag Internationale". After my initial package, I received one newsletter (1976), nothing else, not even a renewal. Perhaps you could enlighten some of us to what happened to that outfit.

If you could include an occasional article on AutoMags, it would be a big help to many of us owners (it was made for hunting, after all).

Marc T. Preradovich
No. 730

The Club de Auto Mag went belly up. Got word today an article on Auto Mags is on the way. It should be in next issue.

* * *

We here in remote Alaska do a lot of handgun hunting, and there are several reasons. They are: a handgun is easier to carry, in the interior you must always carry an arm for protection from bear, not to kill one especially, but to deter a fake charge of the bear or an actual charge. A handgun can kill one, but don't count on it... it takes much practice and accuracy to place a lethal shot at a known effective distance. So, if you carry one, know what it will do and practice every chance you get and often. It is also used to deter an upset moose. Most moose are easily upset — they are stubborn and one way, that, they have the right-of-way anywhere. So a shot over their head will stop a serious injury that he could inflict on a person. A shot will usually scare them off. This spring, I intend to bag a black bear as they are plentiful here and run around my place and upset my dogs. Besides that, my wife wants a rug out of one.

Fred Guggenmos No. 723

I want to congratulate you all on an excellent organization. Membership participation is a great and rare thing these days, but with an informal format like you have makes us members want to participate. Keep up the great work!

My experience with handgun hunting has been limited to taking my doe in 1978 with my 6 1/2" Ruger Blackhawk .357-.44 Bobcat Magnum, but I will write about that later.

Frederick Hall
No. 742

Just a quick note to air some thoughts. HHI is fantastic, the best thing to come along since gun-powder. And reading *Sixgunner* puts me in the field all over the country, it really gives you the feeling of having hundreds of hunting buddies. Great!

That Hunters SBH sounds great, but I'm afraid I will have to dig down deep, so don't sign me up just yet.

Also, to all my fellow members who have stories to tell but are worried about their writing, I haven't read a bad piece yet! So everybody, write it down, what the heck, that's what makes *The Sixgunner* grow.

John Genzoli 627

Just finished the latest issue of *The Sixgunner*. Enjoyed it, as usual, with its down to earth articles.

I was very interested in Tom Frick's suggestion for a members SBH hunters gun. Would like to add a few suggestions of my own. Choice of insert color (I prefer yellow), maybe a Behlert rear sight, Herrett oversize stocks. Also would like to have my name or initials engraved on the top strap. Suggestions are endless, but I suppose one has to stop somewhere to keep in the price range. Anyway, put me down for one if it comes to be a reality.

Al Zink No. 63

You asked a couple of *Sixgunner* issues back if the .357 was adequate for the whitetail. As the cliché goes, any caliber is adequate in the hands of an adequate shot. The .357 with a good load and a well placed shot will take a whitetail. I took my first big game with a handgun this past season the first day of antlered deer season in PA (1979). The shot was not a long one (about 15 yards). My load was 158 gr. Hornady JHP, R-P case, CCI SP Magnum primer, 16.6 of 296. The bullet went in about 4 1/2" below the spine on the left side, put a dime size hole in the lungs and exited the right side. The 6 pt. traveled about 75 yards before he keeled over. The hunter packing a .357 has to learn to limit his shot to an acceptable range. If he does this, he will have no problem taking the whitetail.

My other comment is on Bob Williams' interest in a handgun season for PA hunters. To be fair, the season should be on either sex. This will automatically eliminate the holding of the handgun season concurrently with the antlered deer season as you have the temptation to shoot a deer (either sex) with the rifle and claim it was taken with a handgun. Don't fool yourself because it would happen! Concurrent season with the early archery season would not work because I sure would hate to take a shot and miss the deer, only to have it hit a camouflaged bow hunter. This leaves only the late season after Christmas which at the present is for archery and flintlocks. Don't get me wrong. I would favor a handgun season, but let's not let every jerk who owns a handgun loose in the woods! There would have to be some sort of system to weed out the unqualified. At the Sportsman's Show in Pittsburgh, I advanced the possibility of a Handgun Season to the P.G.C. personnel. The general response was not very enthusiastic... however, if you want something badly enough, perseverance will get it.

Bob Cline
No. 572

Editor's Note: Bob, your point is well taken. However, I can't buy legislation to "weed out the unqualified". Colorado has such a system for handgunners only. It's easy to qualify, would cost money, inconvenience and at least one — maybe two days added to a trip. In addition, one of the most proficient and well known handgun hunters probably couldn't qualify as he simply can't consistently hit well enough to qualify. Hunters in general erroneously ask to be regulated in too many ways. Big Brother can think of enough regulations without our help.

JDJ

Howdy HHI!

Enclosed is my check for \$12.50 annual membership dues. I found your ad in the 4/15/80 edition of *Shotgun News*, a great newspaper for our sport.

HHI is what I've been lookin' for, and I'm glad I found it.

I'm also a member of IHMSA and it has greatly helped my handgun shooting. I subscribe to *The American Handgunner*, *Handloader* and *Soldier of Fortune*.

I'm very pleased to see you are soliciting articles and/or stories about handgunning from members. It just so happens I have a true story about my first whitetail deer taken with a handgun. (**Editor's Note:** in this issue).

I never buy factory ammo and have

quite a reloading shop. I use only carbide dies for my straight-wall cases .38 through .45 and experiment as much as possible. I cast my own lead bullets. 70/30% linotype which I took my deer with.

Larry D. Sunby
No. 800

Editor's Note: L. D. Sunby, P. O. Box 363, Afton, OK 74331 wants to meet other handgun hunters in OK! !

I just received my first copy of *H.H.I.* and read the entire issue through. The article I really liked was Tom Shippy's story on the .338 CJMK. A friend of mine, Tom Jackson, received his XP-100 .338 CJMK a few weeks ago and after firing several rounds through it, I have decided to send my XP-100 off and have it converted to either the .338 CJMK or the .458 X 2. Which is your preference and why? Also, I plan to use a scope on whichever one I get. Would the recoil from the .458 X 2 be too much for a scope to handle?

Mark Delk
No. 665

The .338 CJMK is a better handgun round for hunting than the .458 X 2. Possibly the .375 CJRS will be the best. Two guns are in the works now. At present, the .338 JDJ and the .375 JDJ are the superior T/C rounds for sheer effectiveness.

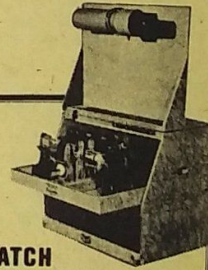
I just finished issue four of *The Sixgunner*, and as usual, I could not put it down until I had read the whole thing. The HHI and *The Sixgunner* are first-rate and I am proud to be a member.

Can't say I have taken any big game with a handgun yet, but plan on giving it my first try during the Michigan fall deer season coming up. Will use a T/C Super 14 .35 Rem. that I am presently working on loads for. Whether or not I connect, I am sure I will enjoy it with a handgun instead of a rifle. I'll put it on paper and send it in. If it is suitable, maybe you can use it in *The Sixgunner*.

I would be interested in an HHI Hunters Special as suggested by Tom Frick and J. D. I, too, would prefer a SBH for that type of a project.

Congratulations are in order to J. D. and all of the members of HHI for a very fine organization of real people doing their thing. Let's keep doing it, people!

Jon Gaymer
No. 206



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I would like to pass on some information concerning the Eldorado .44 Magnum single-action manufactured by United Sporting Arms, Hauppauge, NY. I purchased two last year, one a 6½" model, the other 10½". After approximately 6 months use, the 10½" barrel cracked at the forcing cone. I then examined the 6½" and found it had also begun to crack. The guns were sent to Hauppauge but returned since the plant was no longer in operation. In the meantime, the dealer who sent them for me had his 7½" crack also. I have recently located the company in Arizona. The address is: United Sporting Arms, 103 Bisbee Road, Bisbee, AZ 86503.

They said the problem was caused by their creating too large a forcing cone in the barrel and stated they would replace them. They also said only a small lot had this defect, however, the serial number range of our pistols is over 600. **Michael J. Mitchell No. 711**

Some interesting articles and comments are found in recent numbers of **The Sixgunner**. Several are marred by objectionable and foul remarks — apparently entirely uncalled for. May I ask if this type of writing is to be a continuing feature in **The Sixgunner**?

Ralph G. Archibald No. 466

I'm not sure of all you consider "objectionable and foul remarks". What is printed in the future will depend on what the members write and what I may or may not edit out or write myself. I guess some of that will depend on what kind of mood I'm in. There is no way I can satisfy everyone as far as editorial content. Take a look at this **Sixgunner** from the viewpoint of what you think anyone attacking each statement from the opposite viewpoint could consider "foul" or "objectionable" — then multiply by about five and you'll be about in the ballpark. It simply is not possible to take a stand on anything and please all. I'll try to publish both sides of a subject if the material is presented. In the future I'll do as always — call 'em as I see them. Thank you for writing.

JDJ

J. D. stated he wanted to hear good and bad reports on .357s for deer. First of all, there is no way I would use a .357 for deer or any other big game if I had something bigger.

So we'll talk about a cartridge I truly like, the .41 Mag and the deer I lost with it.

The deer was hit in the chest as best I could tell and went down at the spot taken from 90 yards (load was 21 gr. W/W 296, 210 Hornady H.P. 6" bbl.).

It got up and ran up a hill as I fired another shot which missed. So I started tracking the deer, following one of the largest blood trails I have ever seen. Have tracked many other wounded deer shot by other hunters with rifles and shotguns. This went on for about 1½ miles when I caught up with the deer at a distance of about 150 yards as it ran up a hill in the woods at dark. I was unable to shoot at this point. There was no snow, it was dark, and as I had no light, had to return to camp. Went back next morning, thought the deer would be dead in the woods near the place I last saw it. Two of us looked for 3 or 4 hours, covering a large area with no sign of the deer.

If .41 cal. 210 gr. bullet at muzzle velocity of 1380 fps won't drop deer or at least bleed one to death within 2 miles, what do you think a .357 cal.

158 gr. at 1320 fps (which is all I could ever get from 6" .357) is going to do?

If I use .41 Mag on deer again, it will be in T/C 10" (210-1625 fps) or use .44 Mag and try to shoot within 60 yards. Better yet, want to try .375 JDJ in T/C.

By the way, this is the first deer I have lost of seven I shot, plus the ones I helped track and finish, hope it is the last.

Seems to be a lot of talk about handfiles being hunting handguns, just want to say I feel any handgun with enough power to make a clean one shot kill is a hunting handgun, no matter what type it may be.

I personally favor Smith & Wesson .41 and .44 Mags. But have a Crowley 7X57 XP-100 and T/C .41 Mag which shoot so much better than any wheelgun I have fired it is hard to believe.

As for them being single shots, well, only the first shot counts and a person should shoot the most powerful gun he or she can handle.

Rich Winters No. 264

Editor's Note: Rich has enough experience to more than likely be right about the general area of a shot striking. Unfortunately, we didn't learn much as the deer wasn't recovered. Occasionally a brisket hit will bleed badly for a while? ? ?

I read Tom Frick's suggestion for a **HHI** Hunters Special and it sounds great. One comment though! I already have all the magnum wheelguns I want. If we could talk Jon Powers into producing the Magmatic .44 it would be an A-1 choice; but realistically, why not a single-shot?

Personally, I'd vote for a T/C Contender fitted out with trick lumber, a metalife finish, one of your SSK Hand-Cannon barrels, magna-porting, and a 2X scope in a set of non-slip (probably Buehler) mounts. Package the whole unit in a piece of custom leather, mark the barrel with the **HHI** logo and we'll all have a winner. Maybe you could brew up a new wildcat just for us, or offer a choice of your existing ones.

Two other things: My favorite .44 Mag load: 240 gr. Speer JSP "mag-tip", 23.0 H110, W-W case, CCI 350 primer. It's very mild, rather fast (1326 fps) and incredibly consistent (extreme spread 25, deviation 14.0) in my 7½" Super Blackhawk. It won't set any velocity records, but it is more than enough and it'll thread needles.

Also, I agree with Bob Shimek 100%. I don't hunt PA, but I've seen way too many "bow-hunter" slobs here in Ohio and handgun hunting doesn't need that image. The use of a hunting pistol must remain a consciously chosen handicap if we are to prosper. Speaking of which, when are we going to push for legalizing handguns for deer here in Ohio? No special seasons, no advantages — even a high \$ license would be OK. Just let us do it!

Michael A. Grove No. 212

Some of our illustrious members should have read your ".357 Popgun" in the **American Handgunner**. It is a classic in the description of the inadequacies of the .357, the eunuch of the magnums. It's so good a reprint in **The Sixgunner** would be in order eventually. You need to spread the word . . . get the .357 out of the hands of the uninformed and average shots (at least for big game hunting).

You can put me down for a **HHI**

Limited Edition. EVERYBODY has a SBH fancied up. Why do we have to be normal? We're **HHI**. Let's be different. How about a Ruger Redhawk — ported, **HHI** logo, SN to match our membership No. and maybe a 5 inch tube if you would pull the right strings? I love to dream.

I still think a get together would be a good idea — with the biggies invited — Kelly, Jurras, Keith. Everybody can pay their way easily and the crowd wouldn't be that good (big), so it wouldn't be a real big thing.

Larry C. Rogers No. 48



If you've got it — flaunt it!

Since I've had a 10 year running battle with the Mountain View, CA Post Office re: Guns, Outdoors, etc. publications — I'm not surprised that I did not receive Volume I, Issue III.

I've enclosed a picture of my license plate, as a matter of possible interest.

Dirty Harry Mayer No. 195

I am writing to you, because I have not received another copy of **HHI's Sixgunner**, and having had some experience with the difficulties encountered in forming any new organization, I can only hope that **HHI** is still in business.

With optimism, I am enclosing my manuscript along with a photo of the old Colt I wrote about in my article. I also would like to suggest that perhaps **HHI** can get the NRA to give it some publicity in the **Rifleman** magazine, and as an NRA Life Member, I give you permission to use my name as a supporter for such publicity, should you contact NRA about this. My original knowledge of **HHI** came through reading about it in either **Guns**, **American Handgunner** or both. I'm sure that **Rifleman's** heavy circulation could give **HHI** some very good contact and hopefully new members. As yet, I do not recall seeing any NRA coverage of **HHI**.

Hope my suggestions will be of help to you, J. D., and in gaining new members for **HHI**.

Thomas Atkinson No. 439

— Yep, we're still in business and intend to stay that way. A press release was sent to every "Gun" and "Coon Hunting" magazine I could find an address on, as well as to quite a number of gun writers. A very few ran something on it, or mentioned **HHI**. The response to my mentioning it to the

Rifleman staff was that it did not constitute an item of interest to **Rifleman** READERS. The editors of all magazines — and that now is starting to include me — receives many more press releases than they can ever print.

JDJ

I'm kinda proud to be a charter member No. 772, getting in on the ground floor, so to speak. You won't have any problems getting members to join. Just look at IHMSA of which I'm a member also. Mr. Gates' organization has over 10,000 members now since its start in 1976. I enjoy shooting silhouettes as it's a practical and enjoyable way to keep up handgunning skills, especially if you don't have a place to shoot or practice.

The **HHI** shoulder patch is very distinctive and already have it sewn on my shooting jacket to let other shooters know that I'm a handgun hunter. How about a vinyl decal of the same size and colors for members to stick on their car or shooting cases also?

A good note is that this year here in Wisconsin, we're trying to get a whitetail handgun season to go with the present rifle, shotgun, bow and black powder seasons. We almost had a handgun season a while back but it got vetoed in Madison by a woman that was on the reviewing committee.

If the handgun deer season gets passed this year, it'll be open only to .41 mag, .44 mag, and .45 long Colt to start with. But with the large amount of custom built XP-100s in many rifle based wildcat cartridges, it'll probably be opened up to more calibers if it works out. I know this is a problem in some states where handgun hunting is restricted to certain calibers or cartridges and IHMSA members are trying to get it changed in those states. As a handgun hunter and owner of an unlimited class bolt pistol, we could use the support in letters to your Senators and Congressmen of your home state to get this changed for the benefit of all handgun hunters.

Robert S. Demjen No. 772

As far as I know, Phil Briggs and myself are the only IHMSA members who have been actively involved in promoting legalization of handgun hunting. I'd be interested in knowing of others. Silhouette shooting is an excellent way to train for hunting, however, IHMSA competitive shooters are not necessarily hunters. In fact, I've been surprised at the small numbers of **HHI** members gained from ads in the **Silhouette**. With about 20,000 rounds down the spout of various Unlimited guns, I'm not convinced an unlimited gun per se is worth much as a hunting gun. Many are inadequately powered. Bullet selection can be very critical and XPs with mid grip stocks handle poorly offhand with rear grip models impossible to use offhand.

JDJ

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