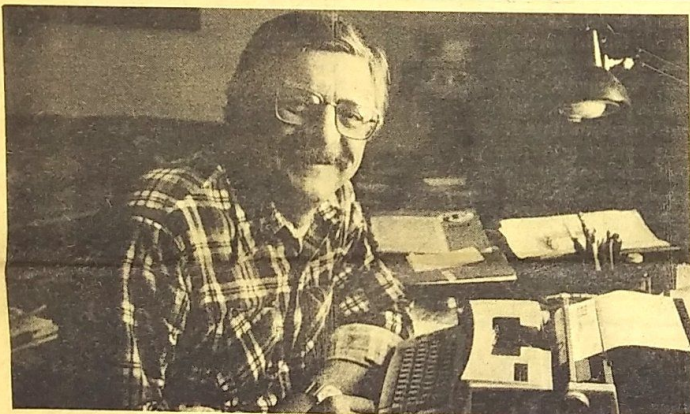




THE SIXGUNNER



MY CORNER

By J. D. Jones

In the first issue of THE SIX-GUNNER, and several issues that followed, I raised hell with the Ohio Division of Natural Resources regarding the closing of a range in Fernwood Park to rifle and pistol shooting. About two or three months later, dirt was being moved at a nearby site in such a manner to make one think a range might be in the making.

It's been said that Mother Nature works in slow, strange and wonderful ways. I'll now say the same of the Ohio Division of Natural Resources; for lo and behold, a rifle range has appeared as if by slow working magic in Fernwood Park.

I'd like to add that at no time either verbally or in answer to letters or THE SIXGUNNER has the ODNR ever given any indication of recognizing the need for a range. Ditto for repeated attempts to get the ODNR to look into the feasibility of allowing the use of handguns for deer during the regular gun season. In fact, the ODNR isn't even interested enough to answer letters on the subject. Hopefully, the ODNR's silence on the subject means they are secretly working toward legalizing handguns for hunting deer. In any event, I'll give my personal thanks to whomever tirelessly worked

three years to get a range in Jefferson County and the ODNR for getting it done, if belatedly.

Proposition 15 — California: As I watched and listened to the election returns, I didn't hear one word about California's "Gun Control" vote that was big news in the national media only 24 hours previously. By 11:00 p.m., not a word was said about the issue. I was confident by the lack of news the "anti's" were getting their butt kicked. And that's the way it was — by close to a 2 to 1 margin, the "Gun Control" legislation was defeated, as were various major and minor California politicians who chose to ride the gun control horse to glory and found oblivion — forever, I hope. Oddly, though, the big news in all the media obscured this fact and it was given scant mention. Freedom of the press is a wonderful thing; it's only the people that screw it up.

Thanks to all those individuals and companies who devoted time and money to this successful effort to protect our rights. I'm sure I missed many major contributors in the last issue. Sorry, if your company wasn't mentioned, I wasn't aware of the contribution.

(Continued on Page 2)



M. R.'s water buffalo will go in the record book!

AUSTRALIAN WATER BUFFALO

By M. R. Thomas, Kasaan, AK

I guess being born in Texas and moving to Alaska after college I somehow or other got the idea that if large was good, then giant was better. That opinion was reinforced by times when the tide would back me up to tall grass with brown bear in it close enough to smell, hear grunting and snapping their teeth while only armed with a 20 ga. double barrel with No. 6 shot.

On the other hand it may have been solidified by an incident when I was crossing a favorite trout stream on a log and a brown bear showed up fishing near each end of the much too short log. That time I had only a .22 L.R. pistol. After a couple of letters to Elmer Keith I ended up with a .458 Win. rifle to carry with me.

Later, after I got interested in black powder, I couldn't find a regular barrel maker who would build me a barrel the

size I wanted. Luckily I located APEX who was going to make a run on an experimental 23 mm cannon barrel for someone and they were nice enough to turn me out one with shallow, slow twist rifling at 0.925" groove diameter. After building the rifle I quickly discovered it would hurt a person if they became careless, but if shot with 350 gr. of FFG at close range, smoke also comes out of a bear.

A few years ago, I heard two men in a logging camp talking about ordering .45/70 revolvers, so I started writing everywhere to get someone to build me a .50/70 barrel on T/C. Finally, SSK came through, but I just could never find much time to use it until last Christmas on a hog hunt in Texas. It did so well on the hog I set about overcoming the challenges of taking it to

(Continued on Page 2)

Elsewhere in this issue, the Ruger .357 Maximum announcement is given in detail. In many cases, I've found particular cartridges that I felt I could get a little more out of by mixing two different powders. Over the years, I've been severely chastised for even mentioning this to ballisticians, somewhat like I imagined would happen if I were dabbling in witchcraft.

Now, in 1982, witchcraft is found in the .357 Remington Maximum cartridge I have. The bullet is the standard .357-158HP. The powder charge is about 21.5 grains of what appears to be about 80% 2400 and 20% 4198. I really doubt if that's what it is, but I'm guessing that H-110, WW-296, WW-680 will prove to be fine powders in this cartridge, and their burning rates are between 2400 and 4198.

Frankly, the ballistic data in the press release seems optimistic to me, but only time and testing will tell. Speaking of time — particularly that between announcement and public availability of the product — such as a couple of years between the announcement and availability of the Redhawk (the first one to appear in a local gun shop was during the week of Nov. 10). My guess is that the current state of the gun business needs a shot in the arm and both gun and ammo will soon be out in quantity. SSK is now rechambering T/C .357s to the .357 Max.

Federal will be offering 180 grain factory loads in both .357 Maximum and .357 Magnum. In addition, the Nyclad ammo will be appearing in quantity after the first of the year. There will also be a .32 S & W long RN and wadcutter load as well as a Hyper Vel .22 and a few others.

The rumor mill also says there will be two progressive loaders to compete with the Dillon 450 which apparently has been in short supply.

It also seems Winchester is going aggressively back into the components business and bringing out a new rimmed .30 and .35 for the 94 big bore I'm guessing.

The .41 Avenger is being shipped and maybe we'll have something on it in the next issue.

SOAPBOX TIME:

Make no mistake about it; if you live in the U.S.A., you're living in the best country in the world. You have "more" of all the good things . . . jobs, food, cars, mobility, freedoms, etc., and less of the "bad" things . . . oppression, inflation, crowding and taxes than anywhere else in the world. Take a look at take-home pay after Federal taxes and Social Security for a married couple with two children with \$20,000 income.

Country	Take Home Pay	Country	Take Home Pay
Switzerland . . .	\$17,400	West Germany . . .	\$13,800
France . . .	\$16,600	Belgium . . .	\$13,400
Luxembourg . . .	\$16,200	Finland . . .	\$13,400
United States . . .	\$16,200	United Kingdom . . .	\$13,400
Spain . . .	\$15,600	Netherlands . . .	\$13,000
Greece . . .	\$15,000	Austria . . .	\$12,800
Ireland . . .	\$13,800	Portugal . . .	\$12,600
Italy . . .	\$14,200	Denmark . . .	\$12,200
Norway . . .	\$14,000	Sweden . . .	\$11,600

That's it . . . love it or leave it! I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season, and my best wishes for a Happy and Successful New Year.

JDJ



Australia (no small chore) for water buffalo hunting this past summer.

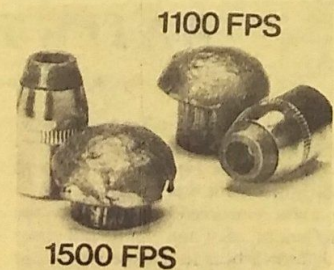
I had been shooting soft lead bullets I got a guy to cast for me in Texas. The gun shot well and felt good; but for Australia I wanted store bought bullets and smokeless powder. I couldn't get the primers and powder J.D. felt best, so I used Barnes 450 gr. and 300 gr. bullets with CCI magnum rifle primers and full cases of 3031. Accuracy wasn't very good and I wasn't getting complete ignition. After the soldered on T/C sight took a beating enroute to Australia I found at about 20 steps or so it was hitting 9 inches high and 6 inches to the right. With this slight handicap, I set out after buffalo. I figured I could either break them down or weight them down with lead and then kill them.

The first buffalo went down after three hits and was finished off with a .225 loaded down using Sisks 63 gr. bullets. The next one took eight hits to go down and was finished off with a 150 gr. .30-30. The third one was something else. I think I had 18 (50/70) and 21 (130 gr. .30-30s) after the first hit. Well, I was shooting with both hands, load, run and catch up and fire again until I ran out of shells and the guide shot it down for me. I kind of think I might have been able to kill it if it had come toward me, but it's back end just kept soaking up bullets. Really, I guess I am just as glad it kept going away from me.

After thinking this over for awhile, I left the 50/70 down under with Charles Mower to play with as J.D. was researching a .58 caliber barrel with a scope mount soldered on for a T/C just in case I am physically able to go to Africa this coming summer on the HHI trip.

Since I was in Australia, I killed a dingo and a Java with my .30-30 T/C. No, I didn't shoot a kangaroo. I looked up Charles Mower who I had corresponded with and had a great time pig hunting with him and some of his friends. It would have been more fun if I hadn't taken a summersault (about 400') off the buddy seat on a trail bike. Even with a back brace and cervical collar on it just about put me out of action.

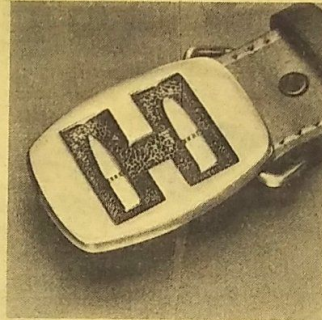
All told, the trip was a great success made more enjoyable by hunting with Charlie, a fellow HHI member from down under.



Hornady Manufacturing Company has added a new jacketed hollow point to their line of .357 pistol bullets. The new .357 — 140 grain JHP provides an added dimension for the .357 Magnum.

This bullet has been designed to provide penetration equal to or better than the 125 JHP, while exceeding the expansion capabilities of the heavier 158 JHP. The improved performance of this bullet has been made possible through a design modification in the bullet jacket. The new 140 grain bullet

is a natural as an intermediate weight choice for the .357 Magnum. High velocity factory tests have shown that the .357 — 140 grain JHP gives superior mushrooming at velocities from 1100 to 1500 fps. This high velocity performance makes this new bullet an ideal hunting combination for those who prefer a middle weight projectile for their .357 Magnum Rifle. The new 140 grain .357 JHP retails for \$8.75, and is on your dealers' shelves now. For information on the complete line of Hornady bullets, contact Hornady Manufacturing Company, Box 1848, Grand Island, NE 68802.



Hornady Manufacturing Company is now offering shooters a new, solid brass belt buckle. The handsome buckle is 2-1/2" x 1-3/4" and has the Hornady logo type etched in the buckle in relief.

The luxuriously colorful solid brass is painstakingly finished in a 7-step process, and hand polished to a high lustre. Each buckle is protected with a lacquer finish.

The Hornady belt buckle is available through your local Hornady dealer for \$15.50. See your Hornady dealer or write: Hornady Manufacturing Company, Box 1848, Grand Island, NE 68802.



Gary Geraud invented this 7mm as he says everything else has been done in 7mm. Calls it the 7mm Ultra Superior Wildcat Wallhanger. Start out with a .218 Bee. Fire form it to Mashburn Bee. Open the neck to 7mm. Have Hornady make a minimum run (100,000) of 126.5 gr. thin jacket bullets (varmints) another of heavy jacket (big game) bullets. Claims a whole bunch of feet per seconds from a 6.3 inch T/C, more from a 10". Have to download for deer if you want anything to eat. For load data/conversion info, write Gary at 1242 S.D. St., Broken Bow, NE 86622.



As a cottontail gun, it's hard to beat the 1911 Colt.

RABBIT STEW, PART TWO

By Philip C. Briggs

One of my handgun hunting buddies divides pistols into two groups: real guns and funny guns. The real guns are those that rotate when the hammer's thumbed, although I expect he'd allow those that clank-slam after the trigger's pressed. These guns are carried hung from the belt, shot au natural (er-barefoot? — um — irons only?) from the hindlegs. Funny guns break or bolt open, hang from a sling, have barrels only a little shorter than a rifle, scopes atop and are shot from any available support — the shooter included. Both work well for rabbits.

Real guns work best for cottontails; the short ranges and jump shots found in their preferred heavy cover favor iron sights, and the ability to quickly fire several aimed shots. The standard handgun cartridges are equally well suited for the little bunnies, in fact, there's no need for magnums. The big Colt auto in .45 ACP, or a good .38 or .44 special are all one needs. The .22 long rifle in either a good quality auto or revolver does fine and is cheap to shoot. Barrels should be around six inches long, topped with precise, adjustable sights, to provide accurate sight alignment and adjustment for these small targets. Good triggers and grips help too, as aids to fast, accurate shooting. And don't forget a convenient comfortable holster and clip pouch or dump box for quick reloading when there are rabbits going in every direction.

Funny guns are the ticket for jacks most times, and cottontails in open country. Jacks tend to stay beyond usual pistol ranges, and the ability to reach that 100 yarder will put more stewmeat in the pot. Big jacks weigh a few pounds, which along with the long range, require cartridges that shoot faster and flatter and hit harder than usual small game hunters .22LR. The .357 mag in a single shot is okay, but a .256 mag, .221 Fireball, .30 Herrett, 7mm BR or one of the wildcats on the .223 case is best. A scope is required for these targets when the shots are longer than 50 yards (and most are!). Out at a 100, only the most accurate pistols will even stay on the big hares, and that's where the bolt guns, or an exceptional T/C shine. I've made some shots with my XP-100 in .221 that amaze even me — and that's considering that I'm now used to making 60-70 yard head shots. I shoot the pistol from

(Continued on Page 3)

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Caution: all technical data presented herein reflects only the experience of the author using specific equipment under specific circumstances. Such information is intended only as a guide and should be used with caution. Other material may be totally experimental and treated as such. HHI accepts no responsibility for results obtained using data published herein.

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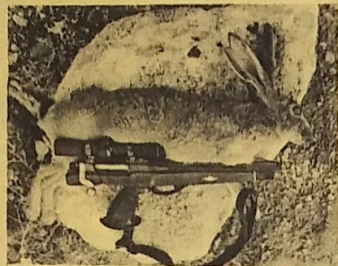
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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

J. D. Jones



Jacks are large animals as comparison to the XP-.221 shows.

a sitting or reclining position, supporting it on my knees, or along my leg for the long shots. Lately I've developed a secret weapons system (I'd tell you what it is, but it's secret) that is so formidable that jacks out to 200 yards are in danger. In fact, my last shot, on one trip awhile back collected an unsuspecting jack at 258 paces (I know — but it's true — and I've a witness). Forget about carrying the funny guns in a holster — just sling 'em, and drop 20 rounds in your left hip pocket.

Loads for cottontails in heavy cover should be pretty tame. Use flat nosed (SWC or WC) cast or swaged lead bullets and load them to 700-1000 fps. These big bullets do less damage than a .22 LR high-velocity round, poking a large hole in the rabbit without blood shooting the margins. Don't use the extra high velocity .22 LR's (Stingers and the like) unless you can place the shots carefully — too much damage.

On jacks, you want the high velocity possible with the long solid breached funny guns to reduce hold over/under problems, but not the explosive impact of light, fragile varmint bullets. I load the 63 grain Sierra in my .221 (at about 2350 fps) to reduce damage, but I still try for headshots to keep the edible parts connected. This load, by the way, shoots flatter and kills better than the extra high velocity .22 LR's from a rifle. It's slick.

Preparation of the stew starts in the field with prompt skinning and cleaning. I hold my swings to an hour or so (depending on temperature), and clean the rabbits as soon as I return to the truck. You'll want to bring along a large pot and a few gallons of water to allow a thorough rinsing of the rabbits when cleaned, and an ice chest to promptly cool them down. Lately I've been using poultry shears to clean the rabbits as well as to cut them up for the stew pot right in the field.

Buy yourself a good (\$25) set of shears and do this.

Grab the rabbit's hide in the middle of the back, and pull up a fold. Snip a hole in it, lay the shears aside, slip a finger in each end of the hole and pull fore and aft. Cottontails will peel to the head and hocks in one rip. Take the shears again, and snip off the tail and slide the points along the colon to separate the pelvis, and then continue down the abdominal wall, through the chest, to open the rabbit from stem to stern. A few well placed snips on the connecting tissue and all the offal will drop free. Look for signs of disease or past wounds while doing this, and discard any sick or damaged critters (I've seen only a few, and wear a disposable plastic glove on the hand that's in the soup). I snip off the flank meat, ribs and then disjoint the rabbit into hindlegs, back and if not damaged, front legs. With somebody holding the hindlegs when splitting the whole process shouldn't take much over a minute.

Now about that stew. Try it if you like, but there are other possibilities. Just remember the meat is dry, and tough. Long slow cooking is advised.

(Jacks are really tough, but can be tenderized prior to cooking by placing cutup rabbit on a firm surface and making a few passes with a 4WD.)

Stewed Rabbits

(Hic!)

Ingredients: Cook in a large, deep cast-iron skillet
3 cottontails or 1 jack
1/2 stick butter or margarine for saute
1 cup white wine
1 cup water
1/2 cup butter for broth
1 tsp. Rosemary
1/2 tsp. Italian Seasoning
1/2 tsp. garlic powder (or 1 clove fresh)
1/2 tsp. salt
6 peppercorns
1 tbsp. lemon juice
1-2 bay leaves (depending on size)

Saute rabbit in 1/2 stick butter. Add balance of ingredients, bring to a boil. Turn heat down to simmer for approximately 3 hours, less for cottontails, more for jacks. The meat will be very tender and will flake off the bone with a fork. Serve with the broth on the side for gravy.

This was suggested for dove and quail. Works as well for rabbits — in fact, cooked alike, the cottontail tastes like quail, the jack like dove.

Rabbit Burros

(Why not, the Chinese eat bird's nests.)

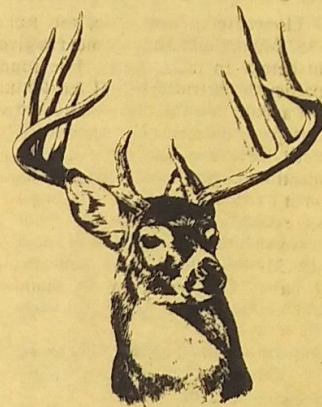
Ingredients: Cook in a medium sized crockpot
1-2 cut-up jackrabbits
1 large can stewed tomatoes
3 small can green chiles diced
1 large onion diced
Water to cover
3 measures — secret ingredient

Layer rabbit in the crockpot, filling in the holes with the other ingredients, add water. Cook on high for 4 hours, or until meat pulls readily from bones, but pieces do not fall apart (too hard to find the small bones then). Remove rabbit, debone, return meat to pot and juices. Add secret ingredient (I hate to reveal this, but my blending of chili and other spices isn't as good as Lowry's Burrito seasoning mix), mix, simmer another half-hour while gathering the clan and the tortillas.

This is great grub for parties — you can wander around with a cervza in one hand and a burro in the other exhorting everyone to try your concoction. After everybody's agreed it's 'delish', you can tell them what it is (was).

And how hard they are to shoot with a pistol, and how much fun you had hunting.

Hey, save me a dab — that's pretty good!



HHI BIG BUCK

Bob Gustafson, President of Thompson/Center Arms, has informed me T/C would like to participate in the Big Buck contest to the tune of awarding a T/C to the winner of each division — muley and whitetail. The gun will probably have a special S.N. and caliber to be the winner's choice.

Glenn Risser (Custom Woodcraft, R.D. 5, Box 1750, Lebanon, PA 17042) who makes the boxes for Mag-Na-Port and HHI Limited Editions called to say he would like to award a custom walnut presentation pistol box in the contest. So, your choice of what pistol you want a presentation box for — if you can make runner-up in either category.

I know of two good mules so far that will be entered and no whitetail as yet since the season hasn't opened in most areas.

You can win — don't forget to enter by having your head scored by a Safari Club International scorer and getting and score sheet in by February 1, 1983. I've extended the date as I realized 1-5 was unrealistic in some areas. If you have any problems finding a scorer, call 614-264-0176 and we'll help you out. GOOD LUCK!

HHI AFRICA

Looks as if we'll have a good group and arrangements are coming along nicely. Some of the guys are planning to take a lot of game, others will spend a good deal of time looking for the elusive record book head, others will spend a lot of time varminting. If you're interested in coming along and can invest \$75-8500 in the experience of a lifetime, c'mon along, it'll be a blast.

A HUNT TO REMEMBER

By Joe Gurrado, Queens, NY

As we neared our destination, the excitement of the upcoming hunt began to take hold of us. The snow covered hills and hollows were breathtaking.

We arrived at Shawnee Ridge Preserve in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, Stout, Ohio on December 19, 1981 about 2 p.m. We first met Paul Richter, experienced guide, hunter and owner of Shawnee Ridge. Pete Papia, my hunting partner and I sat around the fireplace in the lodge with Paul swapping stories and getting even more geared up for the hunt.

About 7 a.m. the next morning Paul woke us up and we sat down to a home

(Continued on Page 4)



SUPER FLASH

The Wildey .45 Mag. gas operated auto is now in production! They will be available from selected dealers only. SSK is one of those firms with guns on the way. Quantities will be limited for awhile. Price will be about \$1200 and I think suggested retail will be around \$1275.00. My guess is that they will be scarce for a while. . . . JDJ



SHOOTING TIP!

Better than a sandbag and it works off a bench or over a hood. Cut off a Levi's leg. Make a bag out of it and stuff it full of soft styrofoam packing peanuts. In the field, tie a string to your belt and the other end to the bag. Throw it over your shoulder for a portable benchrest. Use off of logs, posts, stumps or rocks. It's very light, tough and steady.

Hunt To . . . *Continued from Page 3*
cooked breakfast. After breakfast, we set out into the hills in search of boar. Armed with a .357 magnum Dan Wesson revolver with 6 inch barrel and a lever-action Marlin rifle chambered for the .35 Remington, I was ready for the hunt. (ED: Carrying a handgun as a "weapon of opportunity" while hunting with a rifle isn't handgun hunting.)

We walked over ridges for what seemed like hours in six inches of snow and the thermometer reading minus 9°. We followed the dogs as best we could. After we crossed three ridges, the dogs finally hit a hot trail.

Paul and I walked as carefully as we could. Pete had stayed two ridges behind hunting from a stand.

I was prepared to try to take a boar with the .357, but everything happened so fast! The animals came running at us out of nowhere, my revolver was in a belt holster under my down parka instead of being in my hand.

Paul and I stood silent and still. The hogs spotted us and stopped dead in their tracks for about two seconds; then quickly veered to our right when one huge hog stopped for another second. At that point, I raised my .35 Remington and hit him squarely broadside just in front of the right shoulder, from about 35 yards. The boar dropped like a sack of potatoes when the 200 grain .35 Remington hit him. Paul and I approached the hog and tied the dogs. The hog was magnificent, weighing about 275 pounds with 3 to 4 inch tusks.

The performance of the .35 Remington was fantastic. To my surprise we heard one of the dogs barking like mad about 50 yards away from us down the hill. Paul and I investigated the barking and found a second boar lying dead. The .35 bullet had passed clean through the first boar and hit a second boar that happened to be standing behind the first one. The bullet hit him about three inches behind his right ear. Estimated weight for this one, which was also huge, was 250 pounds. He also sported large razor-sharp tusks. Both of these hogs will make fine trophies.

Actually, my intention for this hunting trip was strictly handgun hunting.

I must say the conditions were extremely demanding at Shawnee Ridge especially for a city fellow like me. On the second day of my stay, I carried only my .357 magnum in hopes of bagging either a Barbarosa Ram or a Spanish Goat. We spent nearly all morning chasing after the dogs without seeing a single animal of any kind. It was snowing and the going rough. We were going to return to the lodge for lunch when Paul asked me if I would like to give it a little more time before returning. My reply was "yes". So we proceeded to a hollow which had rocky cliffs and a small cave where Paul thought goats might be sheltered from the weather.

Sure enough through the woods I saw the silhouette of a Spanish Goat. He was a nice big ram. Between the snow coming down, the cold weather and sheer excitement, I attempted a shot off hand at about 50 yards. I thought I was right on, but the bullet was high and passed over the ram. He was confused and didn't run. I heard Paul whisper to me, "Let's try and move in for a clearer shot". We moved through the trees slowly, towards a clearing in hopes of a clear, fairly close range shot. About that time the dogs got there and bayed the goat. Just as we arrived at the trail, one of the dogs

nipped the ram. The ram at this point, frustrated, bolted through the dogs and came running down the trail towards us. I dropped to one knee and cocked my .357 all in one motion. By that time the ram was about seven yards away. He had just begun to lower his head to butt me out of his way when I squeezed the trigger and let a 158 grain, semi-jacketed soft-point, Winchester-Western round rip. I hit him square in the chest. He dropped like a lead weight. The bullet entered straight through the chest, hit part of the heart and penetrated into the intestines.

Although I would have preferred to take the boar with my handgun, taking the Spanish Goat with the .357 magnum fulfilled my handgun hunting goal on this hunting trip.

My journey from New York to Shawnee Ridge will always be remembered as a fine and exciting hunt.

HEAT TREATING

By C. Kenneth Ramage
Vice President
Lyman Products Corporation

I've just received my copy of the October issue of THE SIXGUNNER and wanted to thank you for reviewing our RELOADING HANDBOOK, 46th Edition. You are perceptive as usual, sir.

Reading on through the issue, as is my custom, I noticed the discussion of heat-treating alloy bullets, by Ray Rusch, beginning on Page 11, and would like to offer a comment or two.

First of all, sizing the bullets after heat-treating and quenching will cause the portions of the bullets acted upon by the sizing die walls to work-soften. This softening would be undetectable with a SAECO hardness tester since that device works usually on the flat nose of a given bullet design.

Second, the only practical way to use a lube-sizer after hardening is to apply lube and gas checks using a sizing die .001" (or so) larger than the as-cast or previously sized-to diameter. Using a lube/sizer to reduce the diameter of a hardened bullet is putting strain on the linkage that wasn't intended by the sizer's manufacturer. Sooner or later, something may give.

Finally, heat-treating is time-consuming, no doubt. Properly done, however, it is the best way to transform widely-available wheelweight metal into a suitable substance for high intensity loader using cast bullets. Taracorp's Magnum Alloy and Lyman's # 2 Alloy will also respond to heat-treating, but not as dramatically as wheelweights.

You might also refer interested readers to the Cast Bullet Association. In the current issue (# 39) of their FOULING SHOT newsletter, Dennis Marshall (the author of almost all the recent metallurgical material) describes a handy way to discover what your oven temperature really is. How? By heating a pan of clean sand and taking its temperature. Dennis details the exact procedure measuring real temperature at five or more dial settings (from low to high) within the spectrum useful to the heat-treater. He uses a candy thermometer and calibrates the oven dial.



D. W. STAINLESS

By J. D. Jones

The Dan Wesson revolvers have gained an enviable reputation for accuracy over the past years in competition and in the field. Its action is reliable, reasonably smooth and light from the factory, easy to do an action job on, extremely versatile due to the interchangeable barrel system and wide variety of barrels offered.

Nobody makes anything perfect, though; and Dan Wesson isn't an exception to that rule. D. W. does stand behind its product with a fast efficient service department.

Stainless D. W.'s have been introduced in .357, .41 and .44 magnum calibers. By saying "stainless" D. W. means that most of the gun is made of stainless. The barrel itself is of chrome moly steel, the same as in their blued guns. Action parts such as the trigger and hammer are electroless nickel plated steel. Numerous manufacturers have had problems with stainless such as S & W's problems which prompted a switch back to steel and chrome plating it in critical action parts. The plating provides an exceptionally hard, slick, rust resistant surface to these parts.

D. W. chose to go with a sure thing and if further experimentation with stainless barrels and action parts shows the desired characteristics are there, stainless will be gradually substituted. This is not considered likely to happen, though.

D. W. is a dynamic progressive company which is not nearsighted as far as product development is concerned.

A stainless D. W. will not do anything more for you than a blued gun except provide somewhat more rust resistance, a pleasing appearance and probably a slightly slicker action right out of the box.

While visiting the factory recently, I saw .357s stainless guns in full production. Examining quite a number of them, I found the finish to be far superior to that I find on many other stainless guns.

Some of us who have been fooling around with the D. W.s over the years have found the tension involved with the interchangeable barrel feature sometimes does make a difference in accuracy. Fooling around with the muzzle nut can make a difference. By using a simple ignition feeler gauge and reducing the cylinder-barrel gap to around .002-.003", some substantial gains in velocity — and sometimes

accuracy, can be obtained. It's also sometimes necessary to 'help' the cylinder binds and you don't help it, you'll cause excessive wear in a couple of areas.

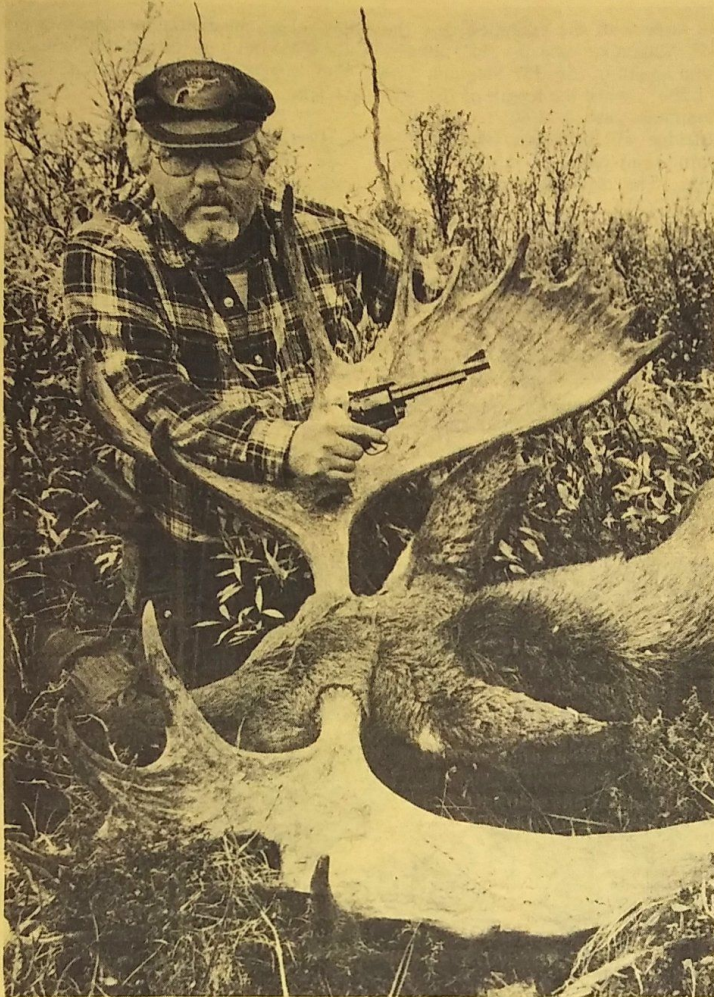
The test gun as furnished by the factory has a light 6" V.R. model. At about 2 lbs. 6 oz., it's a nice weight gun to carry. Its action is substantially smoother than most D. W. chromemoly guns I've handled. It has a red insert front sight and white outline rear blade. The rear sight fits the frame tightly, with very little sideplay which is a heavy contribution to its out of the box accuracy reputation. Its 38 oz. S.A. trigger pull helps a lot, too.

On the negative side, the stocks are a close copy of the S & W magna style which puts them in the "throw away" category. D. W. offers several other styles, but I find myself continually drifting back to the Pachmayr grips on functional guns. Although many individuals are enamored with white outline rear and red insert front sights, I'm not fond of them. This, of course, is a personal thing, and D. W. offers several other color inserts as well as plain black in their quick interchangeable front sight and a plain blade rear.

Using Federal factory loads in 110, 125, 158 grain, I found the gun to perform as I would expect a 'high' quality .357 revolver to do. Fast, up close D.A. with 110 grain loads proved I could empty it quickly and make holes in tin cans once in a while. Slow S. A. also made holes in tin at 100 to 150 yards. I shot over a hundred rounds at 300 to 400 yards and didn't spot one shot I would call a "flyer". This is usually only possible shooting from an elevated position over water and can sometimes give a quick indication of gun-ammo compatibility as well as a few other ideas.

The D. W. stainless seems to give a slightly better action due to the plated action parts while providing additional rust resistance, and an attractive appearance while maintaining the exceptional accuracy and durability of the basic D. W. gun. The stainless .41s and .44s should be shipped now. I wouldn't hesitate to recommend any of the D. W. guns.





Kelly, Abilene and moose taken with a 320 grain cast bullet.

A LOT OF BULL RIGHT OUT OF THE BOX

By Larry Kelly, Muddy Field Editor

First, I'd like to apologize to all HHI members. Here I am a field editor of HHI and it's been quite some time since I've submitted an article. My only excuse is I've been busy hunting. At the present time, both my legs and wallet are giving out, so I should and will make time for some articles.

Allen Mossberg sent me an Abilene 6" .44 magnum to take to Africa and try out, but it didn't arrive until after I'd left, so I obviously didn't use it in Africa.

After returning from Africa, I had a week to get ready for Alaska for my grizzly and moose hunt with Hal Alward. The guns I had selected were a .375 JDJ T/C and my Mini .44 magnum with 320 gr. hard cast bullets that J.D. said would go through a buffalo (Cape). Just what I needed for a back-up.

On impulse, I took the Abilene out of the box, tried the trigger pull and action a couple of times, then handed it to the guys and told them to port it and put a white outline rear sight blade on it. I stuck it into my Thad Rybka holster and left for Anchorage.

Now in case you don't remember, on my last moose hunt I passed on a 60" bull moose the first day. How could I shoot a 60" when my brother-in-law Jerry took a 68½" that placed 25th in the S.C.I. record book? Well, that was a mistake because I never got close to another moose the rest of the hunt. This year I'd take a 60" moose if I saw

one. One's values change from time to time.

On my trip to Africa I used up all my 270 grain .375 JDJ ammo, so I took four rounds of .375 JDJ 300 grain FMJ reloads from my good friend Ollie (who is game warden of Bophuthatswana) to use on the moose. When I got home I found I had plenty of 270 grain Hornady Spitzers that a local guy had reloaded for me. Since this is my favorite bullet I took a supply of that ammo long.

When I arrived in Anchorage, Hal met me at the airport and we drove 3½ hours to Snowshoe Lake and then flew 25 miles to Kelly Lake. Then we got into Hal's Weasel and drove three more hours through swamp and muskeg to our tent camp called "The Look Out", the same camp I was in last year. The weather was also the same as last year, rotten. It rained seven days out of ten. We saw moose every day and located four big bulls, but our stalks were never successful.

On the fifth day, we were glassing from a ridge around noon when Hal looked over to me with a blank expression and said, "You want to shoot a big griz?" I said, "Are you serious?" Hal said, "Right over there, let's go!" My old heart started pounding. He was a dandy, not far away and looked easy to get to. We left our packs and started our stalk. When we got in to about 150 yards away I saw the bear again. It was a beautiful chestnut color and looked

to go over eight feet. Hal, whispering, said, "Go get 'em", and stayed where he was. Hal had a 4-5/8" Tomahawk .44 Mag conversion. I saw some alders that I thought I could hide behind while getting closer and use as a rest to shoot from. When I reached these alders I realized they wouldn't make a decent rest and the bear was looking at me from about 65 yards away so I pulled the hammer back and as I got the scope on him he stepped into the brush. I was sure he had seen me and heard the hammer cock. Standing on my tip toes, I looked and expected to see him running away, but I saw nothing. Hearing a couple of low whistles from Hal, I looked back and saw him motioning to my left. I took about five steps and the griz stood up about 15 yards in front of me. I put the cross-hairs on his chest, pulled the trigger and got a click. The bear spun around and was gone. I went looking for some toilet paper and put four more of the 270 grain ammo into the T/C and got a dud each time. I was sick since this was the second griz I lost this year. I tried the old 300 grain ammo and two fired so I only had one left for the moose. (Lost one round.)

The next morning because of the rain and ammo situation, I loaded up the Abilene with the 320 grain ammo J.D. loaded for me and we started our three hour walk to an area where we had seen a gigantic bull. When we reached the ridge we looked over and spotted a big bull's horns in the timber and brush. Hal said he would go over 72" easy. Our scent was drifting right to him so as we got down off the ridge he started walking away, not looking like he was spooked, but at a real steady pace. When he was about a mile away we watched in our binoculars and he made a sudden jump to the right and started running right toward us. He must have gotten a griz scent. I got into position as he closed in trotting like a Clydesdale. He was a fantastic animal with large palms and long tines. But, he wan't meant for me. When he got 300 yards away and started slowing down, a Super Cub flying over saw him and made a pass over him. I know they saw us on that pass as they left; probably embarrassed, but the damage had already been done. The bull was out of sight in seconds. On the 9th day while laying around on a look-out, we spotted two bulls. One would go 55". I had to decide to wait for another larger bull or shoot. Maybe I'd be lucky the following day.

As I thought about the hunt, hell, I didn't even get a moose and it was a good hunt. Hal was an excellent hunting partner and the food and camp were excellent. Scenery was beautiful. What more could you ask for? I knew a 70" moose was my answer. With time running out, I said to Hal, "Let's go for the 55". Hal said, "OK, but I don't think you'll be satisfied with him." It took about 1½ hours to reach the moose. About 300 yards from him we took off our packs and crept up to about 60 yards from him. He looked at me as I pulled the hammer back on the Abilene. As I squeezed the trigger I thought I've never fired this gun or 320 grain JDJ ammo.


It made no difference, the .44 hit him so hard that all you could see was the water flying off his body. The bullet smashed the left shoulder penetrating the chest making an exit on the opposite side of the chest then re-entering the right leg at the knee completely breaking that leg and exiting. Naturally, the moose went down

like he was hit by lightning. I walked down and put a second round into its neck near the head. I hit a main artery and blood came out like a hose squirting water.

This was the end of my moose hunt. Maybe some day I'll get that big one. As for the Abilene, since then I've shot it and find it groups very well. The trigger pull was excellent and the finish of high quality right out of the box. I'm sure I'll be using this gun more.

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Still have a few of the excellent Bushnell 7X35 Custom Binoculars at \$125.00 prepaid. They are fine binoculars and I recommend them highly. To get them on the way for Christmas, call 614-264-0176.



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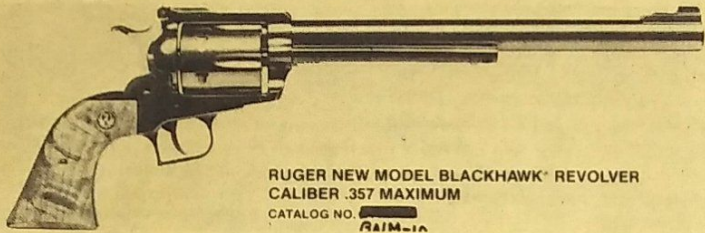
Bob Hektor
Walled Lake, MI

- Twelve pound batch.
9 lbs. of meat (use any kind of game — venison, bear, antelope, etc.)
3 lbs. of fat (pork is best, but beef will work)
4 Tbls. salt
4 Tbls. rubbed sage (not ground)
2 Tbls. red pepper (crushed)
2 Tbls. black Pepper (ground)

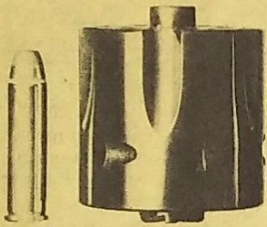
I cut up the meat and fat in small chunks — whatever will go through your grinder. Put in a plastic tub and add spices evenly. Run through a grinder and then let it sit in refrigerator a couple of days (to pick up flavor) before freezing. You can either leave it in one pound packages or if you have a stuffer, put some in links. Also, I sometimes use a couple pounds of pork in my 9 pounds of meat if you want a more mellow pork type taste. Example — 9 lbs. meat — 6 lbs. of antelope and 3 lbs. of pork butt
To cool it down a bit — cut back on the red pepper. I use it for breakfast patties, links, turkey stuffing, chili, stuffing squash, and whatever! Enjoy!!



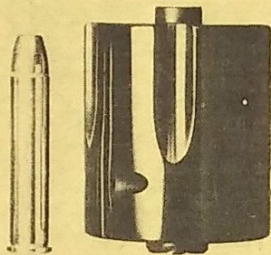
RUGER NEW MODEL BLACKHAWK® REVOLVER
CALIBER .357 MAXIMUM
CATALOG NO. ~~5857~~
BMM-1



RUGER NEW MODEL BLACKHAWK® REVOLVER
CALIBER .357 MAXIMUM
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BMM-1A



.357 MAGNUM
CTG. & CYLINDER



.357 MAXIMUM
CTG. & CYLINDER

A NEW BLACKHAWK REVOLVER FOR THE CALIBER .357 REMINGTON MAXIMUM CARTRIDGE

Sturm, Ruger & Company announces the production of an entirely new version of its famous New Model Blackhawk revolver, specifically designed as a high performance handgun for sporting use and chambered for the new .357 Maximum cartridge being announced simultaneously by Remington Arms Company, Inc.

The new Ruger .357 Maximum Blackhawk revolver incorporates all of the best features of the proven Ruger New Model centerfire single-action revolver design, with a number of significant changes and improvements. The cylinder has been lengthened to accommodate the .357 Maximum cartridge which has a case length that is .315" longer than that of the .357 Magnum cartridge. The frame has been lengthened to fit the longer cylinder, while retaining the heavy construction and extra metal where it counts — in the areas around the barrel threads and in the top strap. The ejector rod and housing have been lengthened to provide complete ejection of this long cartridge case.

The new Ruger Blackhawk revolver will be available in standard 7-1/2" and 10-1/2" bull barrel lengths, and is constructed with heat-treated chrome-molybdenum alloy steels and music wire coil springs, with a high-polish blued finish as provided on the Ruger Super Blackhawk revolver. In addition, the new Blackhawk revolver will have a long Super Blackhawk type square-back Dragon style grip frame in blued steel, and will feature a wide-spur hammer and wide, serrated trigger as used in the Super Blackhawk revolver. The 7-1/2" barrel model is equipped with a ramp style front sight,

and the 10-1/2" bull barrel model is equipped with a target style front sight. Both models will be provided with a Ruger rear sight which is adjustable for windage and elevation. On the 10-1/2" bull barrel model, the adjustable rear sight is provided with a special narrow aperture designed to provide a proper sight picture with the longer sighting radius and blade widths of the target style front sight.

For both handgun hunters and metallic silhouette target shooters, the .357 Remington Maximum cartridge generates energy levels that put it in the same class with the .44 Remington Magnum cartridge. However, the combination of this new cartridge mated with the new Ruger Blackhawk revolver provides this high performance with significantly less recoil than that normally experienced with the .44 Magnum cartridge.

Because the .357 Maximum cartridge has a much flatter trajectory curve than either the .357 Magnum or .44 Magnum cartridges, it also reduces the amount of sight adjustment necessary for targets at varying distances.

SPECIFICATIONS:

Caliber	.357 Rem. Maximum	
Barrel Length	7-1/2"	10-1/2"
Overall Length	13-7/8"	16-7/8"
Approximate Weight	53 oz.	55 oz.
Suggested Retail Price	\$340.00	\$340.00

ABOUT THE NEW .357 REM. MAXIMUM CARTRIDGE:

Announced simultaneously with the new Ruger Blackhawk revolver, the .357 Remington Maximum cartridge has a case which is essentially that of an elongated .357 Magnum. Case dimensions of the two cartridges are

the same with the exception that the .357 Maximum case is .315" longer. Total length of the .357 Magnum case is 1.290", while the length of the .357 Maximum case is 1.605". The new cartridge will be loaded with a 158-grain semi-jacketed hollow point bullet. The .357 Maximum cartridge

provides a substantial increase over the .357 Magnum in downrange velocity and energy with a common bullet weight.

Performance characteristics of the new .357 Maximum cartridge are as follows:

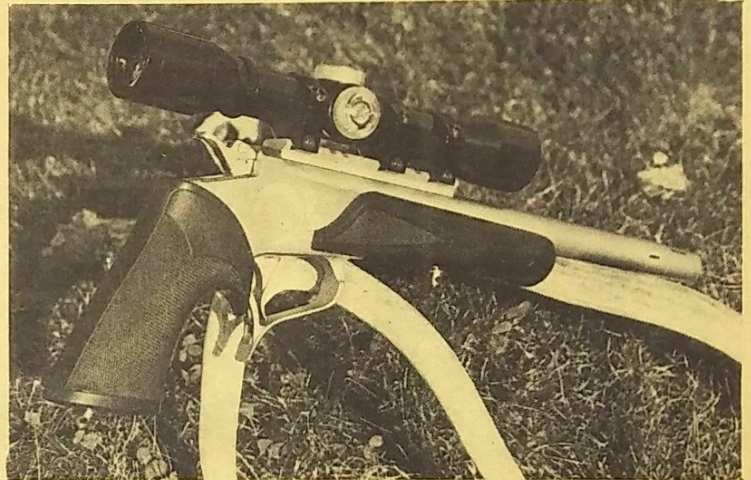
.357 REMINGTON MAXIMUM CARTRIDGE* 158-Grain SJHP

	Velocity (fps)	Energy (Foot Pounds)	Mid-Range Trajectory
Muzzle	1825	1168	—
50 Yards	1588	885	0.4"
100 Yards	1381	669	1.7"

*Remington data generated from 10-1/2" vented test barrel.

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First look prototype testing on the .375 JDJ. It's a 4X, lightweight, has a good field of view, good light gathering qualities, sharp, decent looking. So far, it hasn't broken. It'll be available early in '83, and will be competitively priced. Even broke a couple 510 yard white painted Coke bottles with it. Bushnell would rather not answer questions about it now as all features are not finalized. To get on the list for an '83 Bushnell catalog, write Don Robertson, Bushnell, 2828 East Foothill Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91107, then wait.

.45 LONG COLT

By Ken Waters, New Canaan, CT

I was interested to read Sherman Harns' discourse in the October issue of THE SIXGUNNER, in which he attempted to trace the derivation of the name .45 "Long Colt". It brought back memories of the correspondence I'd had on the same subject with my friend, the late Robert Chatfield-Taylor (of .416 Taylor fame).

Like Mr. Harns, he had objected to the inclusion of the word "Long" in the terminology of that cartridge, and I recall trying to search out how it came about.

At first, I was inclined to the thought — as Mr. Harns has pointed out — that the prefix adjective was added to distinguish the longer .45 Colt cartridge from the shorter .45 S & W. Then I noticed that the term .45 LONG Colt never seemed to be used in writings appearing prior to World War I. This struck me as strange since that was the very period when a differentiation between those two cartridges would have been most essential. Why would the application of this distinctive terminology have been delayed until after the .45 S & W round had virtually disappeared?

Then I found that during World War I and the years following, discussions and reports concerning ammo for the Model 1911 Colt Service Pistol,

officially designated .45 ACP (for Automatic Colt Pistol), often referred to that cartridge as simply the ".45 Colt".

It is accordingly my belief that the term .45 LONG Colt originated about the time of World War I when the Model 1911 first came into widespread use and it was desired to differentiate between the shorter .45 Colt Automatic and longer .45 Colt revolver cartridges. Adaptation of Colt and S & W 1917 revolvers for the .45 ACP cartridge using "half-moon" clips added further to the confusion.

Although never officially adopted by the loading companies, if use of the term "Long Colt" has served to prevent confusion in the purchase of ammunition by inexperienced shooters, it would seem to have been both worthwhile and permissible, and I, for one, fail to see any objection to its continued use.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Ken Waters is one of the foremost firearms experimenters and writers in the world. He is on the staff of "Handloader" and "Rifle" magazines. His explanation of the LONG terminology is the most likely of any I've heard. I'm still puzzled by Keith's reference to "Short Remington .45 Squibb Loads" on Page 181 of SIXGUNS.

FIREARMS SAFETY

By John Reinhart, Wapakoneta, OH

In a recent article published by the National Safety Council, a review of hunting mishaps was made. The findings were quite interesting and worth sharing with readers of THE SIXGUNNER. Though handgun hunting has its unique points in regards to firearm safety and safety in the field, it is not unlike hunting in general, whether for rabbit with shotgun, or deer with rifle.

The report covered four years, from 1977 through 1980, and compiled hunting accident records from 34 states and Canadian provinces. During that period, 5,784 hunting accidents occurred, and of that number, 723 were fatal. (12.5%)

Hunting permits issued by the reporting states and provinces in 1980 alone totaled 15,692,802, so the 1,406 accidents which occurred in 1980 means one hunter was hurt or killed for every 11,161 licenses sold, or 8.96 accidents per 100,000 hunters.

To draw a profile of the typical hunting accident casualty: He is a male between 10 and 29 years of age, he is hunting small game with a shotgun during the first week of the season. He resides in a rural area and has had one to five years hunting experience. The accident occurs between 6 and 9 a.m. on a Saturday, Sunday, Monday or Tuesday.

The cause? Most likely, he was out of sight of the shooter (882 accidents, 69 fatal), covered by a hunter swinging on game (654 accidents, 38 fatal), mistaken for game (590 accidents, 121 fatal), he or a companion fell with a loaded gun (509 accidents, 99 fatal), or a trigger caught on an object (326 accidents, 26 fatal).

Shotguns are involved in far more accidents than rifles, 55% compared to 32% during the 1977-1980 period, probably because there is more small

game hunting with shotguns.

No reference was made to handgun related firearms accidents, but with 13% of the accidents not being contributed to shotguns or rifles, handguns would more than likely be responsible for a portion of this number.

Turkey hunters seem to stand out as a specific category of hunters involved in mistaken identity accidents which, in the state of Missouri in 1981 accounted for 50% of that state's fatal accidents.

One reason is dress; another is calling; a third is dense cover. Wearing camouflage clothing, turkey hunters hunt, generally, in two ways — taking a stand in cover, perhaps at the base of a tree, and trying to call the turkeys to them, or else by stalking a gobbling bird.

A hunter, at the base of a tree, hears what he thinks is a tom turkey approaching, gobbling his challenge to this intruder on his territory. He sees a movement in the brush, a rustle in the leaves, then a vague shape of browns and tans, and he fires — shooting the hunter stalking the stand hunter's call.

Sounds like a situation that would never happen to you, right? According to Outdoor Skills Education Section of The Missouri Conservation Department: "The eyes tell the brain what the brain wants to see." The hunter, so intent on bagging his one legal turkey in the only brief hunting opportunity he will have in the short season, virtually mesmerizes himself into seeing what he wants to see.

Situations which produce firearm accidents while hunting begin to sound like re-runs to we seasoned hunters. Still, every hunting season that passes, the same grave statistics seem to be generated by hunters who never thought such accidents would happen to them.

The following should be of interest:

THE CAUSES & RESULTS OF HUNTING ACCIDENTS

	Total Accidents	Fatalities	Self-Inflicted
Using firearms as club	45	14	25
Improper crossing of obstacle . . .	87	20	48
Discharge of firearm in vehicle . .	109	25	40
Horseplay with loaded gun	144	19	24
Ricochet	149	5	23
Unloading firearm	161	12	54
Defective firearm or bow	169	16	85
Loading firearm	175	12	56
Removing or placing firearm			
in vehicle	180	50	64
Victim moved into line of fire . . .	220	49	2 (?)
Insecure rest — firearm fell	238	28	123
Careless handling	250	22	160
Trigger caught on object	326	26	165
Shooter stumbled and fell	509	99	262
Victim mistaken for game	590	121	2 (?)
Shooter swinging on game			
— hits victim	654	38	4 (?)
Victim out of sight of shooter	882	69	7 (?)
Other	896	98	665

(Source: North American Association of Hunter Safety Coordinators) 1977 through 1980

Handgun hunters . . . remember: we're pioneering a relatively new form of hunting, and we need to keep our record of safety as clean as we can.

Pass the word.

**BACK ISSUES
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The biggest pig (male) on the left of the picture (closest to me) is the one shot with the .45. The other two are those mentioned in the story shot with .30-06. The Impala was shot later in the day. The African on the extreme right is Ghandi. The father of the young one standing over the pig was later abducted and killed by terrorists.

BUSH PIG

By Marc Heim, Switzerland

We were hunting in what was still Rhodesia. My friend, Markus and I had been walking around all day, each with an African tracker, and we were both unsuccessful. All we had seen were "low flying" warthogs, impalas and kudus.

Every hour or two, we'd meet at the mine-proofed Land Rover and drive to another area, but it was the same all over.

Markus and I were both carrying steel Colt Commanders in .45 ACP with Bar-Sto barrels and fixed sights, but these were actually not our primary weapons: while we had a SIG-AMT in .308, I was using a bolt .30-06 with a 4x scope, borrowed from Koos, a farmer who was a very good friend of ours. (According to Koos, the rifle was zeroed "spot-on", but that's another story).

Ghandi, my tracker, kept following signs through the bush I would have thought he was dreaming up, had I not witnessed his capacity before. I never had another tracker as good as him. But after hours and hours under the sun, I was glad when he asked if we should head back. So, with that incredible sense of direction Africans have, he turned to a direction where we would, half an hour later, find the car.

While we were ambling through the bush and I was dreaming of a cold Coke, Ghandi suddenly grabbed me, indicating and whispering: Farki, farki! (Pig, pig!)

Not 20 yards away, the first of a group of three bush pigs fell to the .30-06. Quickly chambering another round, the second one died on the spot. The third one still hadn't recovered from the surprise (neither had I) when I took aim: a sickening "click" followed. (Later, I discovered that I hadn't pulled the bolt back sufficiently to chamber a fresh round). By this time, even the pig realized something was wrong, and started trotting away. As I didn't know if there was anything wrong with the rifle, I quickly handed it to Ghandi, and started running after the pig, drawing my .45 out of the Milt Sparks "Inside" holster.

After maybe 30 yards, he stopped and turned sideways, looking back. Aiming for his shoulder, I ignited 7.5 grains of Unique under a Speer 200 grain HP. He didn't even twitch, so I thought I missed completely. He then

trotted off again, making a wide curve to the left, so I cut across, trying to intercept him. After another 40 to 50 yards, he stopped under some low bushes, facing me. When I got to within maybe 10 to 15 yards, I thought, "Better not get too close" and carefully squeezed one off into his brain, and he collapsed on the spot. My first pig with a handgun!

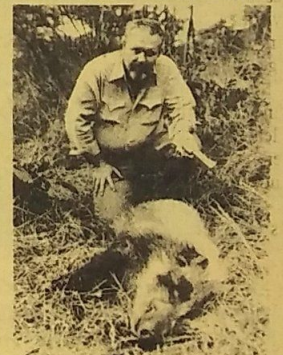
Later, looking him over, we saw that the first shot hit exactly where I had aimed. As the pig didn't even quiver or give any other indication of being touched, I presumed I'd missed. Now, after hunting several types of animals, some of which were on control, I know how tough pigs can be. But that's what makes them so much fun to hunt!

EDITOR'S NOTE: And it demonstrates what is more likely than not what happens when the .45 ACP is pressed into use as a hunting round.



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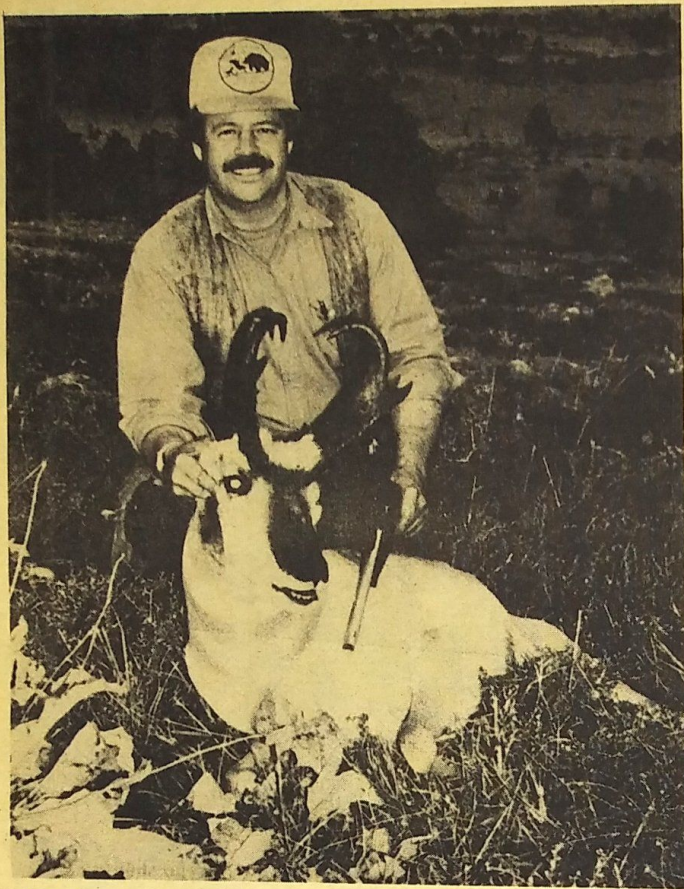


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Bob Hector picked up all the marbles with this record book head he nailed at 356 flat ground long steps with a .375 JDJ.

HHI ANTELOPE HUNT

By J. D. Jones

For the time of your life, it's hard to beat good companions, handguns, antelope, jackrabbits and prairie dogs. That's just what got together at the edge of the Snowy Mountains near Laramie in September — and we had one hell of a good time hunting!

First, we met more or less at the same time in Laramie. Drank a lot of coffee. Told lies. Got to know each other. Dennis said a tearful farewell to cheeseburgers.

The day before the season, we drove the 30 miles or so to the ranch. Only saw a couple hundred antelope. Some of us were disappointed, and some were overjoyed.

Found the flat spot with a 6" hard white rock that Gary and I sighted in on last year. The Barr and Stroud military rangefinder with its 14X magnification showed it was 280 yards. If you didn't want to sight in at 280 yards, you had to find your own rock. I don't think anyone sighted in any closer.

The array of hardware and optics that appeared was enough to boggle the mind. It soon was apparent no one was going to run out of ammo, they all came to shoot, and knew how to do it. Blackie claimed only a modest 3000 rounds. Dennis said he couldn't count high enough to count all of his ammo, but fessed up to 800 rounds of 7TCU in one can. Everyone had at least one long range single shot for antelope and would you believe, not one was chambered for a standard factory cartridge. Calibers ranged from the 6.5 JDJ through the .375 JDJ; not counting .45-70s which doesn't make the grade as a long range hunting gun yet.

No one had problems getting licenses; in fact, each individual could legally shoot one buck and two does in this area if they bought all the tags at 100 bucks each. Some did and some didn't.

We were all under the impression we would have the ranch more or less to ourselves, but it didn't turn out that way as there were more rifle hunters than handgun hunters. It was a fairly large ranch though, and while we felt the pressure of competition from the riflemen, I don't think anyone was really concerned about it.

Blackie, Dennis and I stayed in a small but very comfortable house on the ranch which made a great place to gather for coffee, lunch, and B.S. sessions. It sure beat the hell out of laying down on a cold rock.

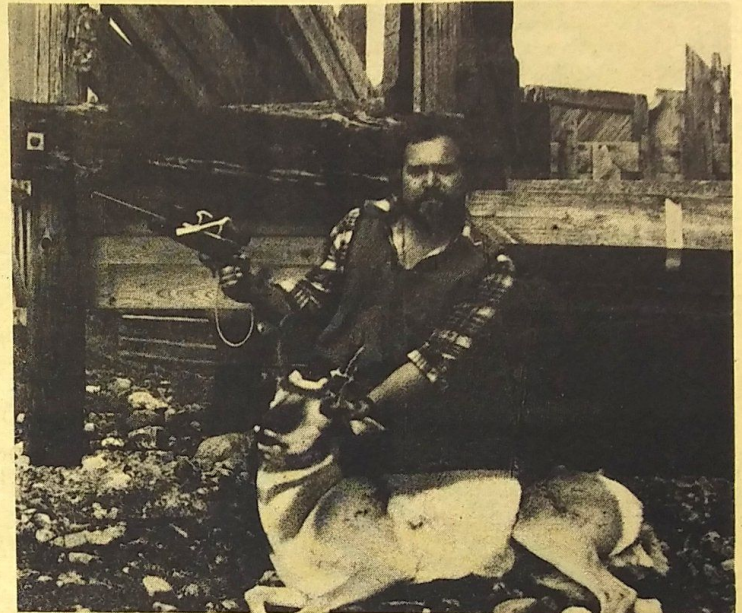
Opening morning, Tom Shippy showed up to help guide the hunt. Tom had already taken a trophy book class antelope and had his freezer about full. Everyone got settled with their partners and headed out early. Don't ever let anyone tell you the excitement of a gang like this starting a hunt isn't contagious. Coupled with a beautiful sunrise and the wonderful smell of the high plains country, you couldn't help but be high in emotion. If you've never done it, believe me, you should!

Thoughts race through your mind. Who will get the first shot? Will it be me this time? Am I going to get skunked — blow an easy shot? Find Mr. Big? You hear the first shot and know someone was luckier than you. Was it a rifle shot, or one of our guys? Wonder who? Hit or miss? Buck? Doe?

Antelope! Gimme the glasses.



Sighting in. Most everyone sighted in dead on at 280 yards.



Ken Whitworth with his hurry-up buck as he didn't have much time to hunt. Used a .30-40 Ackley rechamber. Note the fancy sling.



Max Knepple dropped this buck in his tracks with a 100 grainer from a .25 Ackley Short Krag at about 200.



Dennis Kirkpatrick and his over 225 yard iron sight buck taken with an SSK 12" .338 CJMK. Crowley-Jones-Mastadon-Killer.



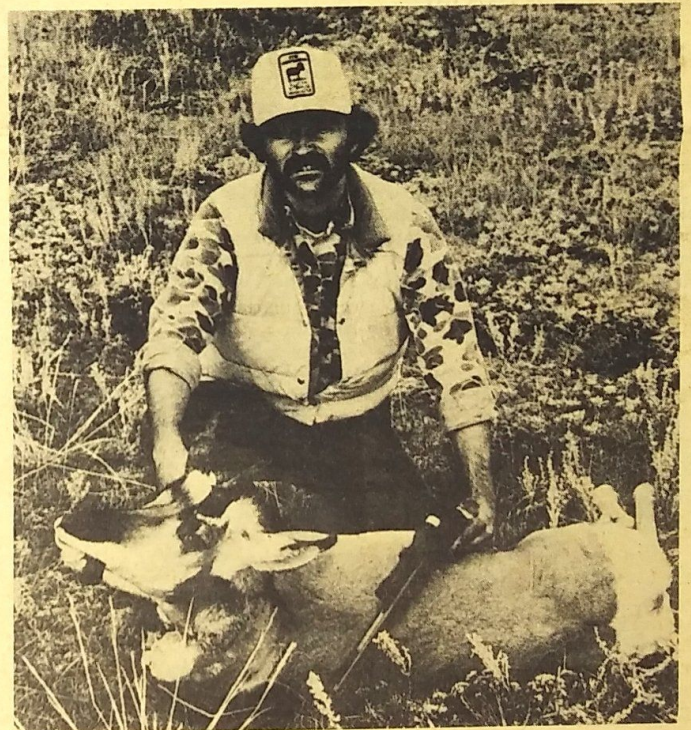
Blackie Sliva shot this one so far away I had to tell him which one to shoot. Iron sights, .338 CJMK and 225 Hornadys.



Chuck Richardson made a long shot on this moving buck with a .358 with a 250 Speer spire point when time was running out.

Somebody get out the spotting scope. Yeah, he's got horns. Get the spotting scope on him. Horns just barely over his ears. Forget him. They're moving this way. Should we spread out along the creek and put a sneak on for a doe? Hell, yes! We've gotta start on the doe permits sometime! Bail out of the truck, grab binoculars, gun, ammo.

Load up, dummie! Use the nose of a hill for cover for 200 yards. Go another 200 yards behind the row of trees at the creek. Get at least one foot wet crossing the creek. Go another 150 yards bent over. . . . 50 more yards on hands and knees. There they are, just about to move out of sight. Set the armored Zeiss 7x42s on a rock. Rest

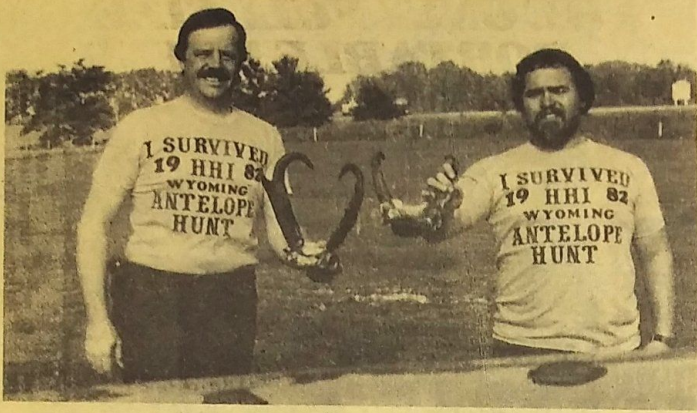


Gary Geraud — actually he is not mad — and his buck taken with the .30-40 Ackley.

the forend on the rubber eye cup. Damn, put my elbow in a cactus. Move. Set up again. How far? 200 yards. Sighted in at 270. Hold at the rear of the leg for a lung shot with the horizontal wire on the belly. Squeeze it off. Vaguely through recoil you sense — see the animal drop like a stone as the KA-THUMP of impact reaches you. Scramble to your feet. No movement. Remember to count the hurriedly taken steps to the animal. Perfect shot. Dead center exit. A shot rings out. Then another. Someone isn't as lucky as you. Wonder what's going on. Your buddy comes up and gives

you the congratulations and handshake. Still pumped up, you tell him about it, all grins. Then the work begins. It's over fast and you're off looking for that big buck; a little more confident than before. You run mental replays while looking for the next one. Look at that jack go. Makes you wish you were filled out so you could start hunting jacks — until you see the antelope 1500 yards from the next hill and forget about everything but what's in the glass and it all starts over again.

There just isn't anything like being in on the action whether it's you or your buddy that's doing the sneaking



Bob Hector and Ken Whitworth and the HHI T-shirts distributed at the beginning of the hunt to show confidence.



That's one we didn't get!



Jones with a nice little buck taken at about 225 yards with the 6.5 JDJ.

and maybe shooting.

Even watching Gary and Bob stalk a big one from the top of a ridge through the binoculars was great. I saw the off-side shoulder spurt and the leg fly around and said, "He hit him!" to Blackie long before we heard the shot.

In general, all of the calibers performed adequately with the 6.5 JDJ and .270 JRWT (Jones Richardson Woodchuck Terrorizor) performing adequately but with substantially less punch than the .30s and larger. The 6.5 (225 case) gives around 2400 with a 120 and the .270 (220 swift case) about the same with a 130. Both are extremely accurate.

Max dropped his with the .25 Ackley Short Krag with a 100 grain through

the spine which did a lot of damage but didn't tell us much. There is no doubt about it, the 30 and larger calibers are much more effective killers than the smallbores.

Shippy put the Ranging Rangefinder to good use on more than one occasion. He'll write it up later. The big Starr & Stroud is just too big to be practical!

Blackie used a pair of the new Bausch and Lomb 10X compact binoculars and liked them exceptionally well.

In short, the hunting was great. Bob Hector summed it up quite well after taking a record book head with the statement that it was one of the greatest thrills of his life. There were



After the hunt was over, the jackrabbit hunt began. No fair shooting them sitting. Scoped T/C's seemed more effective on running jacks than iron sighted guns.

hard stalks as well as easy. Closest shot was 184 paces. Longest, Bob's 356.

In no particular order, Gary Geraud, Tom Shippy, Blackie Sliva, Dennis Kirkpatrick, Chuck Richardson, Max Knepple, Bob Hector, Ken Whitworth and I made the hunt.

After antelope hunting, leisurely strolls through the sagebrush while loaded down with ammo, shooting at and sometimes hitting running jacks with handguns was a ball. The

occasional prairie dog settlements got their share of working over with 200 yard shots common. Longest shot was 380 with the .270 JRWT.

All in all, it was a great hunt with a great bunch of guys. I'm sure you'll be seeing write-ups from some of the guys individually on their particular hunt. Next HHI antelope hunt will probably be year after next. Hope you can make it.



CUT N' SHOOT!

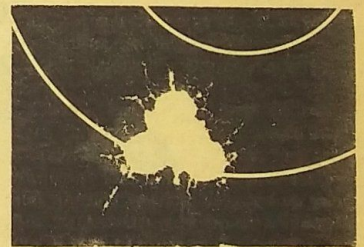
By Delbert E. Roberts, Hawthorne, CA

It has been over a year since I received my H.H.I. SBH. I have taken it out of the box and just looked at it a hundred times.

Well, the other night I was home alone drinking a little wine and got to wondering what kind of action this super high grade SBH had. Before I could gain control of my super high grade H.H.I. knife it had done gone and cut that little black strap on the H.H.I. Sixgun in two! I just sat there drinking my wine wondering what to do next. As luck would have it, my trigger finger started to itch and before I could stop it, my thumb pulled back the smoothest hammer on a SBH I have ever felt. That left nothing else to do but cure my itchy trigger finger. I want you to know that when that hammer fell, I was just beside myself. Why in the world did I wait so long to cut that strap! I had to shoot it. I called my buddy, Charley, who is range master for the Inglewood Police Dept. I said, "Charley, I did it — I cut the strap!" He said, "You didn't!" I said, "I did." He said, "No — you can't shoot it on my range." You see, he has wanted that Sixgun ever since I received it. After promising a little fresh smoked fish, coffee and donuts, Charley really likes to eat, he said I could shoot on his range at 9 o'clock the next morning.

Enclosed is my first target. I didn't change the sights. The two low flyers were called bad. One went off before I was ready. Maybe because I'm not used to this gun or maybe I just had buck fever. As you can see the next three were OK.

My old hunting buddy, Buck, just sold his S.W. 29 because we kept losing the rear sight in recoil and was looking



That's it — actual target of three shots of the first five.

for a new gun. I called him up and said "Well, Buck, I did it. I cut the strap." He said, "I never shot a two thousand dollar gun before", and then laughed.

We decided to head for the hills and run the Sixgun through one special test to see if it would hold up. Well, we had 180 grain Sierras, 200 grain Hornadys and 240 grain Speers ahead of 22.0 grains of 2400. We also had 220 Sierra, 255 cast Keith, 240 Speers loaded with 18.0 grains of Blue 'Dot. We usually shoot from 25 yards to over 240 yards. I had my Ranging range finder and a 40 power spotting scope. We shot prone, sitting and standing. The only load this gun did not like was the 220 grain bullets and 18 grains of Blue Dot. White sitting on the tail gate of my Scout, we killed every rock within 300 yards. Some died on the first shot and some on the 4th or 5th.

Buck said he was going to buy one if there were any left. If you get a chance to shoot one of these HHI Sixguns, don't do it if you don't want another gun, cause you won't be able to get along without one yourself. Every man should have at least one really good six

(Continued on Page 15)

THE .357 MAGNUM

PART I

HISTORY & INTRODUCTION

By John Taffin, Boise, ID

"The most powerful revolver ever produced. Far greater shocking power than any .44, or .45." This was the eye-catching catalog advertisement to introduce the shooting world to the Smith & Wesson .357 Magnum in 1935. The first of the Magnums had little competition from factory loaded .44 Specials, .44-40's, .45 ACP's, or .45 Colts, so there is little doubt the .357 was a big step forward in revolver power.

The country was deep in a depression which would require a World War for recovery. Economic times spawned a new breed of criminal, bank robbers who hit quickly, were well armed with .45 Government Models, Thompson Sub-Machine Guns, frequently used bullet-resistant vests, and made speedy get-aways in high speed autos. The .38 Special was terribly inadequate against such opposition, so Colt brought out their 1911 chambered for the .38 Super, and Smith brought out the .38/44 Heavy Duty, a sort of + P .38 Special.

Depending upon the source, either Phil Sharpe or Elmer Keith, or possibly both, worked up loads for the .38/44 which was a .38 Special chambered in a .44 Frame Sixgun. This load pushed a 150-160 grain semi-wadcutter bullet at 1100-1200 fps from the heavy frame Smiths and Colts. It was early 1930's and the time was ripe for a new cartridge.

In 1935, the .38 Special was lengthened to 1.29", and a .38/44 Outdoorsman with stronger steel in cylinder and frame, a cylinder with recessed heads, and special checking on the top strap and barrel rib became "The .357 Magnum". All of the original .357's were hand-fitted and came with a special registration certificate.

Registered .357 # 1 went to J. Edgar Hoover, Chief of the F.B.I., while Phil Sharpe received # 2. General George Patton, being stationed in Hawaii in 1935, purchased one of the new Magnums, blue with a 3-1/2" barrel. It was equipped with Ivory Stocks and

became the second gun, along with his .45 Colt SA, engraved and Ivory Stocked, of the famous pair worn by the flamboyant General during World War II.

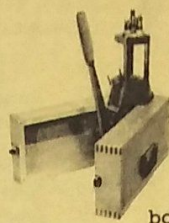
Elmer Keith reported on the new Smith .357 in the November 1935 **American Rifleman**. Using an 8-3/4" .357, he told of taking 125 jackrabbits in three days with the new revolver. Elmer commented on the .357: "All told, it is the finest job of revolver manufacture that has come to my attention . . . The gun sent to me has the 8-3/4" barrel and feels and looks as long as a sleigh track. For me, it balances about the same as a 30" Springfield International Rifle, and is about as handy in the field."

Personally, I find the new 8-3/8" S & W .357 acquired for this series of articles to be a lightweight, well balanced sixgun because the intervening years have seen the introduction of the heavy, long barreled .44 Magnums, and long barreled T/C's. Thus, the .357 M27 seems light by comparison.

Elmer also reported: "The powder charge is approximately 15.4 grains of # 2400 giving a M.V. of 1518 fps." But strangely, he also said: "Winchester does not recommend the reloading of this case, and to my notion, the .38/44 case is a better one to reload." He was impressed with the gun and the load enough to write: "I found the Magnum with both the factory load and my hand load to be extremely accurate, even to 600 yards . . ."

Ed McGivern and his associates picked up on the long range possibilities of the .357 and published targets in his book, **Fast and Fancy Revolver Shooting**, using man-sized silhouettes out to 600 yards. One target shows 78 hits on the silhouette, plus 37 on the two foot wide panel, of 150 shots fired at 600 yards. Long range shooting was born. Let you think scopes on handguns are new, McGivern was already experimenting in 1937. (Editor's Note: I've been told of photos of scopes on revolvers dated prior to 1900.)

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Is the .357 suitable for hunting big game? Colonel Doug Wesson, to publicize the new sixgun, took antelope, elk, moose, and a grizzly with the S & W 8-3/4" and the Winchester ammo. "The following year, I got very large ideas and went up to Alaska with Father Hubbard, for an exploration hunting trip with brown bear in mind. For this trip, I carried two revolvers for added power. We never did get to see a brownie, for which, in my older and more intelligent days, I feel sincerely thankful."

In these days when .357's are so popular and plentiful, it is hard to identify with the scarcity during the '30s and '40s. After Smith introduced the .357, Colt chambered two of their revolvers, which were both designed before the turn of the century, for the new cartridge. The Colt New Service and the Old Colt Single Action were brought out in slightly more numbers than the Smith, but this situation lasted only six years as the coming of World War II closed down all civilian production.

Colt did not resume production in 1946, and although cataloged by Smith, the .357 did not become readily

available to the public until 1950. Handgunning really began to catch on during the 1950's. Smith brought out their medium frame Combat Magnum in 1955, which had been preceded by a plain vanilla large frame .357, the Highway Patrolman, in 1954.

Colt introduced their version of the Magnum, "The Colt .357", and soon followed with the Python in 1955, the same year that Ruger introduced their first centerfire, the very popular .357 Blackhawk. All the Smiths are still available. The Colt .357, evolved in stages to The Trooper, The MK III, and The New MK V. The beautiful little Ruger .357 Blackhawk went through a series of minor changes until 1973 when the much heavier, and larger, New Model was introduced.

Everyone makes .357's and wisely so. It is the most popular chambering available. The .357 is to the handgunner what the .30-06 is to the rifleman — the one caliber that can do everything, or nearly so. Granted, it is unnecessarily powerful for many duties, and hopelessly under-powered for others, but it is an excellent choice, and deserves serious consideration by the one gun man.

As a defensive cartridge, it is probably equal to, but no better than, a .45 Colt or .45 ACP. Silhouette shooters have proven the capabilities of the .357 using 180-200 grain bullets, and although targets will sometimes be lost, perfect scores have been shot with both DW's and Colt Pythons. As a target revolver, it is certainly accurate enough. When it comes to hunting the real argument begins. My favorite hunting sixgun for jackrabbits is an S & W Model 19 6" .357.

If you have a .357 and you want to hunt big game, I hope you have at least an 8" barrel and the most powerful load possible. If you have something bigger, forget the .357 and use it. I know of no one who uses the .357 for deer and elk. Most of my acquaintances use either .44 Magnums or T/C's in .30-30 or larger. One of my friends took a large mule deer at 20 yards with one neck shot using a 4" M66. Another friend, a Game Warden, heeded the call of nature, and while so occupied, looked up to see a bull elk

(Continued on Page 12)

.357 5-SHOT AVERAGE, 25 YARDS, FROM PADDED REST

				Ruger 4-5/8"	Smith M19 4"	Smith M19 6"	Smith M27 5"	Colt SA 5-1/2"	Colt 7-1/2" SA	DW 8" 357 2X
[1]	.38 Special	12/2400	#358429	1-1/2"	2-1/2"	1-1/4"	3/4"	1-3/4"	NT	3/4"
[2]	.38 Special	5/Unique	# 358429	4"	1-3/4"	1"	2"	NA	NT	1/2"
[3]	.38 Special	13.5/2400	# 38-150	1-1/2"	1-3/4"	1-3/4"	1-1/4"	3/4"	3/4"	
[4]	.38 Special	5/Unique	O.S.S. .38	1-3/4"	1-1/2"	3"	2-1/4"	1-3/4"	1-1/2"	3/4"
[5]	.357	13.5/2400	# 358429	2-1/4"	1-3/4"	1-1/2"	NA	NA	NA	NA
[6]	.357	15/H4227	# 358429	1-3/4"	3"	2"	NA	NA	NA	NA
[7]	.357	5/Unique	# 358429	3"	2"	7/8"	NA	NA	NA	NA
[8]	.357	6.5/Unique	# 358429	3-1/2"	3"	3"	NA	NA	NA	NA
[9]	.357	15/2400	# 38-150	1-1/2"	2-1/4"	1-3/4"	2"	1-1/2"	1-1/2"	3/4"
[10]	.357	15/H4227	# 38-150	3"	1-3/4"	1-1/4"	2-1/4"	1-1/2"	3/4"	1"
[11]	.357	14.4/H4227	# 38-150	2"	2-1/2"	2"	2-1/2"	1"	1"	1-1/4"
[12]	.357	13.5/2400	# 358156	3"	2"	2"	1-3/4"	2"	1"	3/4"
[13]	.357	6.5/Unique	# 358156	NT	2-1/2"	1-1/4"	2-1/2"	1-5/8"	NT	NT
[14]	.357	8.0/Unique	# 358156	2-3/4"	3"	2"	1-3/4"	2-1/2"	2"	3/4"
[15]	.357	15/H110	# 358156	1-1/4"	2"	2"	1-3/4"	1-1/8"	2"	5/8"
[16]	.357	15.4/2400	# 358156	2-1/2"	1-3/4"	2"	2-1/4"	1-1/2"	1-1/2"	3/4"
[17]	.357	17.5/296	148JDJ	NA	1-3/4"	1-3/4"	NT	NT	NA	NA
[18]	.357	15/H4227	183JDJ	NA	2-1/4"	1-1/4"	NT	NT	NA	NA

.357 Magnum . . . Con't. from Page 11
 watching him from 25 yards. He drew his 4" Highway Patrolman from a shoulder holster and took the bull with one .38 Special through the neck! These are isolated incidents and certainly are not the norm. I do know that 150 grain .357's over 15 grains of 2400 fired from an 8" barrel will not consistently knock down silhouette pigs at 100 meters.

In firing .357's compared to .44's, I find the .357 much more critical of suitable loads, and also has a great deal of change of point of impact, both vertical and horizontal, from load to load. The .357 does have advantages over the .44. Brass is cheaper, loads take 30 to 40% less powder and bullet metal, recoil is substantially less. One great disadvantage is noise. I can fire .44 Magnums without ear protection (not recommended as I say, huh? A lot from earlier years), but .357's emit a crack that is absolutely painful to my ears. Another disadvantage is muzzle energy. A 150 grain .357 at 1400 fps gives 640 fp, while a 240 grain .44 at the same velocity gives almost twice the energy.

Trying to count the number of models and various options available to the shooting public is an immense chore. Smith & Wesson offers their original .357, now called the Model 27, in bright blue and nickle finishes with barrel lengths of 4", 6", and 8-3/8" (3-1/2", 5", and 6-1/2" have been dropped). The plainer blue only Highway Patrolman is to be had in 4" or 6". The Model 19 can be had with 2-1/2", 4", or 6" barrels in blue or nickle, with its stainless counterpart, the Model 66 available in the same barrel options. Rounding out the Smith line is their new L-Frame which is available in 4" or 6", adjustable sighted, blue or stainless, or fixed sighted, blue or stainless 4" versions. With all the different options, S & W catalogs 61 varieties of .357's.

Colt still has their Python in blue or nickle, 2-1/2", 4", 6" or 8" Models, with a new stainless model just becoming available. Numerous discontinued SA's and MK III's are still available, and the new MK V will probably be offered in blue and nickle, 4", 6", and 8" versions.

Ruger produces the Blackhawk in both blue and stainless with 4-5/8" and 6-1/2" barrel lengths (sure would like to see a 10" model). Their DA Security Six is also offered in both blue and stainless with various options in 2-3/4", 4", and 6" lengths.

During the past 10 years, Dan Wesson has continued to improve their .357's until it is the winningest silhouette revolver and an all-around excellent .357 DA sixgun which is now also available in stainless steel. This model will be covered in a future issue.

The sleeper in the .357 chambering is the T/C Contender. In a 3" bull barrel, it is a top varmint, small game gun, and is an excellent silhouette handgun for Production and Standing Class. The Standing Record, an unbelievable 36x40 is held by an Idaho shooter, Jack Callen, using a T/C .357.

With all of the .357's being offered by these manufacturers, there are still a couple of holes. As mentioned earlier, I would like to see a Ruger Blackhawk with a 10" barrel, or better yet, the Super Blackhawk 10-1/2" chambered for the .357, and the 14" T/C should be available in .357.

Ruger is bringing out a new 6 shot

revolver (almost said "sixgun") in the new .357 Super Magnum, and I have been promised one of the first of these for testing and load development. This should be something! Also to go along with this new Ruger, Hornady has announced FMJ's in both 180 grain and 200 grain weights.

In future issues, I will be covering sample models of all of these manufacturers along with loads for the .357.

In addition to these top five U. S. manufacturers of .357's, the oldest Magnum is also available from Charter Arms in a 5-shot DA, from Mossberg in their Abilene line, and Interarms in their Virginian Dragoon. Both Astra and Llama offer DA .357's, and there are unlimited numbers of Colt SA copies from Europe that vary from top quality to those suitable for door stops only.

Since most of my shooting life has been spent with .44's and .45's, figuring anything a .357 could do, a big bore could do twice as well, I approached this project with much interest. To re-introduce myself to the .357, I gathered 500 rounds of handloads and a number of mostly short barreled sixguns and spent the day seeing what they could do. Anticipating no problems with recoil, I was surprised to find even the .357 takes its toll with 500 rounds.

Revolvers chosen for the first excursion to the range were two S & W M19's, a 4" and a 6", a Smith Model 27 5", a Ruger Stainless Black-

hawk 4-5/8", and a Colt SA 5-1/2". Since I also had the use of a .357 Colt SA 7-1/2", it also went along. As a comparison, a friend's 8" DW with 2x scope was also fired.

A number of things were discovered: For one, I cannot shoot short barreled guns as well as the 8" or 10" sixguns. Loads marked NA mean "not accepted", meaning the sixgun would not accept the loads because the cylinder was too short to accept the loaded round or in the case of the JDJ bullets, too tight to accept the round. Loads marked NT simply mean "not tested".

The accompanying chart shows the results. Bullet # 358429 is the Lyman Keith, # 358156 is the Lyman Thompson gas check, # 38-150 is the RCBS version of the Keith bullet. Other bullets used were the Ohio Shooters Supply 150 grain .38, and the S.S.K. 148 and 183 grain weights.

Future articles will cover a comparison of the Model 19, Colt Python, Smith L-Frame, S & W M27 8-3/8", Colt Trooper 8", DW 8", The T/C .357, the new DW Stainless, and the soon-to-come Ruger Super Mag. Because of the vast number of .357 cast bullets available, I will probably stick to gas check versions such as the Lyman # 358156, the S.S.K. 358200, and the RCBS 35-200 FN. While gas checks are not necessary in the big bores, they are a near necessity in the .357. I'm looking forward to a lot of fun shooting.



Mark, guides Bob Reese and Kirk Neal with a "good" New Mexico black bear.

Bear Hound!

Mark Hampton Summersville, MO

Hunting with dogs usually has a different meaning to everyone; for me it's pure excitement. Whether it's your favorite pointer locked up on a covey of quail or a plott hound baying a mountain lion on a cliff, I enjoy all phases of watching the canine in action. I've been fortunate enough to see these well-trained beauties work rabbits, squirrel, coon, coyote, bobcat, deer, mountain lion and Russian boar, but I've yet to see them run a black bear. This is what the first part of my summer vacation was all about.

While hunting hogs with Jerry Campbell last summer I expressed an interest in taking a bear with a handgun. Jerry informed me that he knew some guys that possessed a good pack of bear hounds and wouldn't object to killing

one with the weapon of my choice. After a phone conversation with the bear hunters, the hunt was booked for the first part of June. I would be hunting with Moreno Valley Outfitters, P. O. Box 283, Eagle Nest, New Mexico 87718.

Arriving in Eagle Nest on Sunday afternoon, June 6, I was greeted by Robert Reese and Dirk Neal. We shot the breeze for a minute then began loading dogs. After everything was packed and loaded into the four-wheel drives we headed for a canyon just outside of Taos. With a small stream full of trout beside us, the place where we set camp was beautiful.

Our first day of hunting started at 4:00 a.m., with Dirk fixing breakfast. Shortly afterward we would load the

dogs and head for bear country. Our method of hunting was to drive around those canyon roads until one of the strike dogs would open up. Gin and Trouble, the strike dogs, rode on top of the dog box continually sniffing the air for bear scent. Our first morning produced several strikes, but none fresh enough to get a good race going. The second morning was basically the same as the previous one, but little did I know that our third try would be a charm.

On Wednesday morning, just shortly after daylight, the dogs struck a track at the top of a large ravine. When the track was determined to be fresh enough the entire pack of dogs were turned loose. It was a good race, the kind that dog hunters enjoy listening to. Two hours later we heard the sound we were waiting for. The hounds were treed about a mile and a half away. I loaded my Ruger with Federals 240 gr. J.H.C., grabbed my camera and we were off. When we made it to the action, Robert and Dirk tied the dogs away from the tree the bear was in for their safety. I took a couple of pictures of the decent sized bruin with my Pentax 35mm then pulled the 10 1/2 inch out. As usual with bear hunting behind dogs, the shot is anticlimatic and this was no different. The bear was sitting on the first big limb of a giant pine tree probably thirty five feet up. I leveled the sights behind the shoulder and squeezed. As the bullet struck the bear in the lungs, to my surprise, she came out of that tree like a gray squirrel. Even though we tried to put more lead in our quarry it disappeared into the dense brush. Typical with a lung shot, the bear died not a hundred yards away, but that disappearing act put a little excitement into the hunt.

The bear was a six year old sow that weighed approximately 185 pounds. I recovered the bullets, one of which was my Federal, the other a reloaded Hornady used by one of the guides. Robert shot the bear in the hind quarter as she was going away and the bullet lodged in her side. My bullet shattered the lungs and was found in the opposite shoulder. Both bullets mushroomed well with good weight retention.

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It's amazing what some people will do to get a steady position!

GETTING STARTED Part II

By Robert Nunnally, Lizella, GA

In the last issue, as I discussed the basics of getting started in handgun hunting, I thought back a few years to my beginnings in the sport. I thought of the first chance I had to shoot a Thompson/Contender, and of the first one which I bought. It was a Super 14 in .35 Remington with which I was and still am well pleased. I thought of the first time I had the chance to really examine a true unlimited class XP-100 with its custom, highly figured stock of curly maple. In general, I thought of just how far sporting handguns have come in such a short period of time.

While that first Ruger Super Blackhawk may well be the best investment one will ever make in a sporting handgun, the urge to move up to a more powerful gun or a more challenging level of the sport is incurable.

In this article, I will attempt to explore some of the many options open to the aspiring handgun hunter or silhouette shooter. While I would never pretend to have all of the answers, I will try to explain some of the options available to the first time buyer of a wildcat Thompson/Contender or an XP-100 Remington, pointing out some of the strong points and weaknesses of some individual calibers and guns.

After you have hunted a season or two with that first Ruger .44, or that "out of the box" Thompson/Contender, you no doubt will want to try and improve your skills and therefore improve your chances on game with a more sophisticated hunting handgun. This is not to suggest at all that you shelve your .44. To the contrary, it can continue to be an asset, an invaluable addition to your handgun hunting battery. There are situations while hunting when the value of the familiar feel and the devastating close range effects of the big .44 cannot be ignored or derided. But where the longer shot, say 200 yards, is encountered, the flatter trajectory and retained bullet energy of a T/C wildcat or XP-100 in the proper caliber cannot be ignored either.

There are many Thompson/Contenders wildcat calibers and a few factory ones for the T/C, that at 200 yards retain two to three times the bullet energy of the highly regarded .44 Magnum, all at safe pressures. While the term "wildcat" may conjure up nightmares of complicated reloading procedures to some, this is a needless worry. Most can be formed with one stroke of the reloading press handle, utilizing the proper full-length sizing die. A few, such as the two Herrett wildcats which are chambered by Thompson/Center in the factory pistol, require minimal trimming before use.

J. D. Jones has probably done the most extensive experimentation with the possibilities and limitations of the Contender to date. His line of wildcats, many of which are based on the very strong Remington .444 Marlin case, are all very effective and accurate cartridges. The .444 variations include .358, .375, .411 and .430 bullet diameters. By far, the most versatile of these would be the .375. This choice is based on the availability of .375 caliber bullets that have for the most part excellent sectional density and high ballistic coefficients. While the .411 and the .430 may have powerful short range stopping power and while the .358 may have a slight edge in flat trajectory, the .375 can claim the best of both worlds. This brute has claimed most big and dangerous game from North America and Africa as well as numerous not-so-big or dangerous species from elsewhere around the world.

If your experience with handgun recoil is limited to a .44 revolver or guns with characteristically similar recoil, the prospect of pulling the trigger on a .375 or .430 JDJ might not seem too appealing. But it really is not that objectionable. It is a completely different kind of recoil; straight back with virtually no muzzle rise at all when the SSK muzzle brake or MagNa-Porting is utilized. Practice is a must to master the anticipated recoil of these calibers, however.

When the .358 or .375 JDJ is topped with a good quality extended eye relief scope such as the Leupold 4X, 1.5 inch 100 yard groups will become common with practice. Even an occasional sub-one inch group will be shot, much to the dismay of your skeptical rifle toting friends.

Some other wildcats available in the T/C are the .338 JDJ, the .30 and .357 Herrett, the 7MM TCU, the 7MM JDJ and the .444 Sheaffer Magnum as well as a lot of others.

First, the .338 JDJ is made by forming .303 British brass with one

stroke of the case through the appropriate expander die. The finished cartridge shoots .338 diameter rifle bullets just as the .338 Winchester Magnum does.

The .30 Herrett is formed by one stroke of a 30-30 W case through a .30H full length sizing die. Then trimming, sometimes inside neck reaming, then fire forming. This caliber does not have any apparent accuracy advantage over the standard .30-30 W in practical usage despite claims to the contrary by a couple of well known gun writers. There are no velocity gains to be realized with this wildcat when compared to its factory counterpart, the .30-30, when hand-loaded to equivalent pressures.

The .357 Herrett, to me is even less impressive when compared to its factory loaded competitor, the .35 Remington, than the .30 H is to the .30-30 W. The .357 H is slightly more efficient, on paper, anyhow, than the .35 Rem. but shows no signs of propelling a 200 or 250 gr. slug any faster or more accurately while within a safe operating range of pressures. This cartridge is also formed from .30-30 W brass in the same manner that the .30 Herrett is.

The 7MM TCU is also now a factory chambering in the T/C for which no factory ammunition is currently available. This would technically classify it also as a wildcat. The 7MM TCU is formed by necking up .223 Rem. brass to accept .284 diameter bullets. This cartridge lacks the power to be an effective game stopper out of the factory 10 inch T/C barrel and has been known to leave rams standing after solid hits with 154 gr. bullets at 200 meters. This cartridges' really strong point is its mild recoil and accuracy, which is exceptional. Many silhouette shooters will sacrifice the power to gain the accuracy of this round, however. If you think about it, though, what good is a solid, center hit on a hard set ram without results?

The 7MM JDJ is formed by necking

up .225 Winchester brass to .284 diameter and fire forming a 40° shoulder. This is a superior silhouette cartridge to the 7 TCU, but cannot be used in a T/C while competing in a production class. This round, like the other 7MM cartridges made from small cases, still lacks the potential power to anchor big game animals in their tracks.

The .444 Shaeffer Magnum is essentially the same cartridge as the .430 JDJ or .444 in power. Calibers like these will make excellent stoppers on bear, hogs, moose or any other tough and potentially dangerous game. The 265 gr. Hornady flat point is by far the best jacketed factory bullet available for use in the big .44 caliber wildcats. However, heavier cast bullets of 300 — 350 gr. are offered by SSK and would be superior performers on large animals.

There is one other caliber, available from SSK in the T/C that while it is not a wildcat in itself, is not a factory T/C caliber either. This is the .45-70. This cartridge, particularly in its factory loaded configuration, is very suitable for the Contender. This is due to its ability to propel very heavy bullets at respectable pistol velocities while holding within a very low range of operating pressures. Some say that this is the most effective short range big game cartridge you can get in a T/C. It'll do 1600 + F.P.S. with a 400 grain Speer from a 12" barrel.

The Thompson/Center Contender is a fine weapon capable of delivering years of trouble-free service and accuracy. Like any other fine firearm, the T/C must be treated with respect and its limitations recognized. You do not have a hand held varmint rifle, so don't try to make it act like one.

Strive for lots of retained bullet energy and deep penetration on game with the heavier bullets available rather than trying to get explosive expansion out of lighter bullets made to be fired from a 24 or 26 inch rifle barrel. I have been well satisfied with every Contender I have ever owned, and am very happy with the several that I currently own and shoot. I know you will be pleased with yours, too.

THE XP-100 REMINGTON

With the ever increasing interest in the Metallic Silhouette game, it is really no wonder that this fine handgun has enjoyed such renewed popularity. Not too many years ago, this piece was offered only in a 10" barrel chambered for the .221 Rem. Fireball caliber. Even in its less popular years, there were dedicated varmint hunters re-chambering and rebarreling the XP-100 to suit their particular needs.

Presently, the XP-100 is offered also in a 15" barrel chambered for the 7MM Bench Rest (BR) caliber. This is, however, the only chambering offered by Remington in the long barrel version, much to the dismay of most handloaders. The 7 BR cases are formed in several tedious steps from .308 W brass. There is also unformed .308 BR brass available that utilizes a small rifle size primer. The advantages, if any realized by using the 7MM BR chambering are negligible when compared to the potentials of the 7MM IHMSA or the 7MM-08 calibers. Any 7MM BR can be easily and inexpensively rechambered for an over-size 7 IHMSA and some chambers will clean up if rechambered to 7MM-08.

The 7MM IHMSA is basically a .300

(Continued on Page 14)

T-C Caliber	Case	Powder	Bullet	Primer	3 Shot Average Muzzle Velocity	Comment
.375 JDJ	R-P	45.0 H-322	Horn. 220 gr.	CCI 200	2091	
.375 JDJ	R-P	42.0 H-322	Horn. 270 Spire Pt.	WW Mag. Pistol	1897	Very Accurate
.375 JDJ	R-P	43.5 H-322	Horn. 270 R.N.	WW Mag. Pistol	1921	Very Accurate
.375 JDJ	R-P	44.0 H-322	Horn. 270 R.N.	WW Mag. Pistol	1965	Max.
.375 JDJ	R-P	45.5 H-4895	Horn. 270 R.N.	Fed. 215	1902	Accurate-Warm
.358 JDJ	R-P	42.0 H-322	Speer 250 Spzt.	WW Mag. Pistol	1911	Accurate-Warm
.358 JDJ	R-P	44.0 H-322	Sierra 200 R.N.	WW Mag. Pistol	2177	
.35 Rem.	WW	40.0 H-322	Sierra 200 R.N.	WW Mag. Pistol	2065	Max.
.35 Rem.	WW	35.0 H-322	Speer 250	WW Mag. Pistol	1831	Max.
.30-30 10"	WW	26.5 IMR 4198	Horn. 150	WW Mag. Pistol	1910	Very Accurate
.44 Mag. 14"	WW	22 H-110	Horn. 265	WW Mag. Pistol	1420	Max.
.30 Herrett	WW	21.0 H4227	150 Sierra	WW Mag. Pistol	1975	
.30 Herrett	WW	19.5 W 296	150 Sierra	WW Mag. Pistol	1847	Accurate
.357 Herrett	WW	37-H322	200 Sierra	WW Mag. Pistol	1942	
.357 Herrett	WW	27.0 IMR 4198	200 Horn.	WW Mag. Pistol	1720	
XP						
7 IHMSA	WW 300 Savage	29.5 H4895	154 Horn.	Fed. 215	1921	Very Accurate
7MM-08	R-P	32.H322	154 Horn.	CCI 250	2208	Very Accurate
30 IHMSA	Fed.	34-H4895	150 Horn.	Fed. 215	2275	Very Accurate
30 IHMSA	Fed.	36-H4895	150 Horn.	CCI 250	2390	Accurate-Max.
.308 W	WW	35-H4895	150 Speer	CCI 200	2261	Very Accurate
.358 W	WW	42.5-H322	250 Speer	CCI 250	2198	Accurate
.358 W	WW	43.0-H4895	250 Speer	CCI 200	2209	Very Accurate

Author's Note: These loads are safe in my equipment only. These are not recommendations, but only examples of the potentials for these calibers. Starting loads should be reduced by at least 10% to assure personal safety and long gun life.

Range temperature: 74-80 degrees.

My attachment to H-322 powder and the W-W Mag. Pistol Primer in the T/C is based on the consistent performance of both components in my guns. This consistency will, of course, vary to lesser and greater degrees from gun to gun. The use of the Mag. Pistol Primer assures detonation to a greater degree over a harder to ignite rifle primer. This is due to the slightly thinner metal used in the primer cup of the pistol primer.

One misfire could spell disaster on a hunting trip.

Editor's Note: The pistol primer will lose a lot of velocity in cold temperatures. If the gun is operating right, there should not be any problem with misfires with rifle primers.

Savage case, with the shoulder angle increased and the neck reduced to 7 MM. WW .300 Savage cases or Federal IHMSA cases can be used. The 7MM International, as it is incorrectly known, is the most successful and widely used unlimited silhouette caliber available today.

The 7MM-08 Remington is also an excellent unlimited silhouette cartridge and is a slightly better performer in hunting situations than is the 7 Int. This is mainly due to the slightly larger powder capacity of the 7MM-08. The case is basically a .308 W necked down to .284 diameter. One other advantage of this caliber in the XP is the availability of Remington factory loaded ammunition in 7MM-08 if you care to shoot it.

Stepping up the scale a bit to the .30 caliber options in the XP, you can take your pick of virtually any .30 caliber rifle cartridge with good loading density and have a fine performer in the XP. Some favorites in this class of cartridges are the 30 IHMSA, the .300 Savage and the .308 Winchester. Any of these three have more than enough punch to flatten rams with moderate loads. They also can drive 150-180 gr. bullets fast and flat enough to make the long kills on antelope and deer sized game.

The .300 Savage and .308 Winchester have, of course, been popular rifle cartridges for years. The .30 IHMSA is really nothing but a reduced capacity .300 Savage. This gives the cartridge a slightly longer neck than the original Savage version.

One of these fine .30 caliber cartridges may be the best compromise in the XP for shooting big game and silhouette when properly loaded for each.

One other personal favorite of mine in the strong XP-100 is the .358 Winchester. I have to brag on my custom XP in this potent caliber built by SSK Industries. The cannon is a pure joy to shoot. It exhibits no uncomfortable recoil characteristics at all. The SSK Muzzle Brake keeps the muzzle down. All recoil is straight back and is perfectly manageable in either my Six stock or my H-S Precision. The .358 is perfectly capable of one inch groups at 100 yards with the 250 grain Speer at around 2200 F.P.S. My XP is topped with a Leupold 12X converted by Wally Siebert of Issaquaw, Washington to a long eye relief 6X. The .358 Winchester is simply the .308 necked up to .35 caliber.

There are countless other standard

and wildcat calibers from the .222 Remington to the .458 American (.458x2") that all perform well in the XP-100. The strong bolt action used in this gun can take the high pressures of high intensity rifle cartridges. In the XP, you must strive for good loading density. The loads giving the highest velocities in rifles will give the highest velocities in pistols. When using special powders, I like to use magnum rifle primers to be sure of complete ignition. When using most of the DuPont series of long-grain powders, standard rifle primers are usually sufficient. Always remember, though, that magnum primers especially the Federal 215, can increase pressures over those experienced with the standard primers.

If you decide on an XP of the custom variety, be sure and take the time to choose carefully such components as finish, stock, sights or scope and any others that might apply to the particular way in which you plan on using the gun. You will make a sizeable investment, but if you buy the best, you will have many years of shooting pleasure from your custom gun. There will be great satisfaction to be realized when you see the positive results of your project.

AFRICAN TIPS

By Larry Kelly, Mt. Clemens, MI

Get your passports now! Hunting in Africa is not cheap, but compared to Alaska it is. For example: An Alaskan bear hunt will cost anywhere from \$5,000 to \$7,000 plus an additional \$600 to \$700 for the flight to get there. Remember, that's only for one animal. You can do a lot more in Africa for the same money. My first Safari to Africa was in 1978. Had I known it was that great of an experience, I would have borrowed the money and gone years ago. First, I'll explain a little about Zimbabwe, which is formerly Rhodesia. In 1980, in Rhodesia a revolution ended and the country was renamed Zimbabwe. It is a beautiful country with large government wilderness areas plus super large ranches that are just as wild as the wilderness areas with an abundance of wildlife practically everywhere. I had the pleasure of meeting Don and Litty Price in 1980. Don had just retired as major in the Special Forces of the Rhodesian Army. He was starting a new career as a Professional Hunter. Don was very qualified because most of his younger

years were spent as a government hunter. Lion control was his specialty as was culling cape buff and elephant. Don's the type of fellow that after you've hunted with him, you become buddies. Approximately forty of my record book trophies have been taken with Don. Don and Litty head the Nuanetsi Hunters in the Nuanetsi area. The area is so vast it's on the map of Zimbabwe. One day we drove 150 miles and never left the area. The Nuanetsi area is owned by a South African Corporation and only recently began offering sport hunting. It has about eight districts and Don is in charge of all wildlife. It's abundant with leopard, cape buffalo, sable, kudu, eland, waterbuck, zebra, reedbuck, bush buck, nyala, wart hog, bush pig, giraffe, hippo, crocodile, impala, steenbok, wildebeest, duiker, grysbok. Lion and elephant are also available with special arrangements. Don has the best set up I have seen for salting and dipping of the trophies.

When you arrive at camp you'll be shown to your first class living quarters that have showers and toilets. Accommodations are cleaned every day. Your laundry is washed every day. Don't overpack!

You'll get up early in the morning and have a large breakfast and then go hunting. The lunch that Litty fixes you will be so super that you might even want to take a photo of it. In the evening when you return from hunting you'll take your shower. After your shower you can walk over to the dining room and if you desire, have a couple drinks before you sit down to a terrific dinner. Don has a range where you can test fire your handguns and excellent 4X4's before heading out to hunt. His trackers are unbelievable. You'll see them in action, but won't believe it.

When you arrive in Zimbabwe you'll go to Immigration first. Have Don's address handy with your passport, because they might want to know where you are staying. Customs is easy or at least it always has been for me. When they ask if you have anything to declare say, yes, and tell them you have firearms for hunting. Have your guns packed so that you can open just that case and register all your guns and ammo. DO NOT and I repeat DO NOT bring a gun into Zimbabwe without registering it. It could present a problem when you are leaving the country. You will also have to declare your U.S. dollars that you are bringing into the country. It's really simple and easy. When you do exchange your U.S. dollars only do \$20 to \$30 at a time. Zimbabwe dollars are only good in Zimbabwe, no where else.

On my last trip, I took a T/C .375 J.D.J. with eighty rounds and almost ran out. A 5" Redhawk with sixty rounds. The wheel gun can be used for a back up or hunting. A .22 caliber pistol is handy for shooting guinea fowl, franklin, grouse or finishing off a trophy.

Clothing: I recommend very comfortable clothing for traveling. A suit is just too uncomfortable for me. Two pair of jeans, 2 pair shorts, 4 light weight shirts, 1 flannel shirt, 1 medium jacket, 6 pair socks. I like white cotton socks and maybe a pair of woolen socks if you have foot problems. I always bring my medium down jacket. Many people suggest tennis shoes are fine for Africa, but I disagree. All the seeds and other crap falls inside, I like support around my ankles. I suggest a light leather boot with a fairly smooth sole. Don't use Vibram as the ground is

very hard and it makes a lot of noise. Bring a light shoe for camp that can be used for a back up for hunting. Bring mole skin just in case you get blisters. Light hat. Remember go light because your clothes are washed every day. Another thing to remember is that it gets cold at night and mid-day it can be 75 to 80 degrees out.

You won't need any special shots to get into Zimbabwe or return to the U.S. Get your malaria pills and start taking them two weeks before you leave and two weeks after you return to the states. This is very important. If you start getting sick, tell Litty right away. She has a medical kit for everything.

Booze: Don will supply a reasonable amount of beer and wine. Bourbon and Whiskey is in short supply. I suggest you all get two bottles of it at the Duty Free Shop. Maybe stick a spare in your luggage. After a hard day of hunting it's always nice to have a couple drinks and tell the days stories. Only take one ice cube when making your drink. Remember you can't run down to the corner store for a bag of ice. If you can't handle your booze, or you are a drunk, I suggest you stay home. The people of Zimbabwe are very friendly, be the same. Remember you are Americans.

On my first hunt to Africa I had to get a book to know what the animals looked like. If you are not familiar with African animals I suggest you do the same. I'll mention a few animals I suggest you take. You pay a trophy fee for each animal that you shoot. If your budget is limited keep in mind that there's no charge for baboons, jackals, guinea fowl, Franklin or grouse. They are alot of fun to hunt. Impala, wart hog and bush pig are very inexpensive and you can shoot as many as you want. Sable and kudu are very beautiful animals and would be at the top of my list. Waterbuck and bush buck would follow. Eland weigh about 2,000 pounds and would be a super animal to bust with a hand cannon. Wildebeest are a tough animal plus they are ugly, but they are a very good eating animal and a make a fine trophy. Naturally cape buff is the most sought after animal in Africa. If you hunt them, have J.D. for back up. Shoot, then run like hell, leave J.D. because I know he'll want to find out if that Hand Cannon will stop a charging buff. All joking aside, REMEMBER that all African game when wounded will charge; even the little guys like wart hogs and bush bucks. Use caution when you are approaching your trophy. I wouldn't pass up a chance on a leopard, but you will need a permit from the Fish & Game Department in Washington to import it into the U.S. (United States Department of the Interior Fish & Wildlife Service, Federal Wildlife Permit Office, Washington, D.C. 20240)

If you are interested in shooting a lot of game or you are just after trophy animals, Don's the fellow to hunt with. I'd like to mention at this time that in no way am I getting any kickback. Don is my friend and I want to help him in his business. I also want the H.H.I. members that go on a Africa Safari to have a good hunt. This hunt that you members are going on will be historical. It is the first organized handgun hunt to Africa, and I hope I can arrange to go with you guys. It will be an experience of a lifetime and I'm sure you'll have a lot of fun, get a lot of game plus be able to write a lot of

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articles for **The Sixgunner**. Lots of luck on your "83" hunt to Africa and good handgun hunting. I'd like to say that I have sent six of my friends, plus some customers to hunt with Don. Some have gone back for their 2nd hunt and the others are all pleased with the hunt that they had with Don.

It's very important that you DO NOT wear camouflage or take any type of military firearms or clothing.

I forgot to mention that July is their winter and there aren't any snakes or insects.

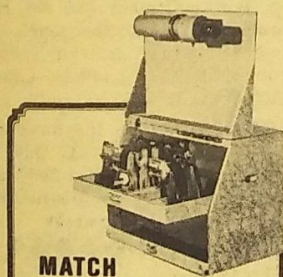
You'll be hearing more in **The Sixgunner** about my hunt with Don, just as soon as I get some time to write it. Now go get those passports.

Any questions you can give me a call (313) 469-6727. All HHI hunters will need a visa for South Africa. Write for the application. South African Consulate-General, Suite 3100, 444 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, 60611.

Cut-Shoot . . . Continued from Page 10
shooter in his lifetime. I have killed a lot of game from rabbits to California brown bear with my custom 5" M-29 by MNP. I am here to tell you I am off on another adventure with this 6" HHI SBH. I may even get the deer I missed last year, because of loose sights on my M-29. Thanks for coming up with the finest hunting wheel gun I'll ever own.



Wayne Randall (Rt. 2, Box 87, Lake City, MN 55041) is donating one of his knife cases for the next year to the author of the article he likes best in each issue. Winner's choice of color and letters. If you want one, send \$10.00 to Wayne at the above address, specifying color (Dark brown, natural, tan), and whatever initials you want.



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CHRISTMAS

By Paco Kelly

It has been almost two decades now . . . it was then Christmas . . . and I was a stranger in a strange land. And very young, though the signs of callow youth on all the faces of our unit had gone through dramatic changes over the long months of blood, fear, explosive noise, and deathly still nights. Our home was barbed wire, pit traps, land mines, and constant catastrophic expectations, along with the people . . . the people. The enigma people.

They were so childlike in so many ways, gentle with a fragile humor, that would have you laughing all by itself, and wide-eyed at the western world's ways and things. Though that simple curiosity would turn to mistrust and hate in the years to come. The people understood little of the politics of the war that was just starting to ravage their homes and the land. These were the days before the M16 and the Jolly Green Giant . . . or the sound all these people would one day fear more than any other . . . the thump-thumping of the gun ships, and the high-pitched screaming war birds carrying bellies filled with fiery death for them and their land.

But in those early days, they felt as we did, that we were there to help them. And we did . . . we taught the use of small arms to a people who could not understand the complexities of a simple plow. We taught killing procedures to farmers who had difficulty butchering cattle, we taught them the ways of traps and explosives . . . A simple people being taught 'how', by boys that really didn't know 'why'!

I guess Christmas can spread its magic anywhere . . . if there are people who want it badly enough. The singing started it, I think. The people from a nearby village began straggling into our camp early in the afternoon, as groups of us gathered to sing all kinds of Christmas songs. Soon, we were explaining to them our holiday, and getting them to sing with us. A party in any language, is enjoyed by all. And with a simple people, who had no communications or recreation, the enjoyment is fuller and appreciated.

I had two handguns with me in those days. A rebuilt Colt SAA in .44 Special with the short barrel, and a 5-shot S & W Chief in .38 Special. Then, the land was small game rich, large and fat birds, rarely hunted, sat while you took aim from short distances. I used wadcutters. And we soon learned that just

because you didn't know the species' name didn't make it uneatable. Actually, we enjoyed the abundant 'Bluebird' most . . . they were large — about the size of a good chicken, with bright blue in their wings. A number of us hunted that day, taking lots of birds and small deer-like animals, and the cook-tent folks started large pit fires. Soon those that didn't come to the sound of music were drawn by the scent of roasting meat spreading into the night.

Now it happened that Christmas day that our medic was down river, helping a village fight a typhoid outbreak . . . so when the villagers first brought the woman in, carried in a blanket, needing medical help, we refused. When we realized it wasn't sickness but advanced pregnancy . . . and she was having the baby right then . . . we — my buddy and me — brought her to the medical tent. The villagers and G.I.s alike gathered around the tent and began singing again, only this time, low and compelling.

Luckily, nature was the real doctor. The other American and I did little but watch a village midwife, and the fantastic sight of life being born into the world. A baby girl . . . the entire compound went crazy with delight at the news.

Americans are generous people by nature, and almost immediately, G.I.s ran to find little gifts for the new child. It was Christmas and its spirit was a living thing among us. The village people, seeing us giving gifts to the new child also got into the spirit, and went to search out little things so they could join in our gift giving.

I stood back at one point and realized that love and respect between peoples of different nations was no harder to bring about than war and pain were. All we needed was an excuse to truly share each others feelings . . . Christmas was a grand reason. And every Christmas now, whatever the year, has never been the same for me . . . I will always remember that one as a true example of what it should feel like. So when I say to all of you . . . have a rich and meaningful holiday season, you know I mean it in a very special way. And I hope you get the spirit that comes to me each year, a gift to me from that one special happening, renewing my belief in my fellow man.

MICHIGAN BUCK

By Delbert Brewer, Vassar, MI

In Sept. 1981 I sent in for a hunter's choice permit, or doe permit if you like. After weeks of waiting it came, I had finally drawn a doe permit. Thinking that with a doe permit I had a pretty good chance of taking a deer, I decided to use a handgun on the first day.

I have taken small game with the handgun before but not a deer. I have carried a handgun a lot but always in addition to a rifle or a Remi 870 slug gun.

Shooting as often as I could with a fairly new Ruger in .45 Colt my groups started looking better than when I started. They were still not as good as I'd have liked them to be but with deer season only four days away I had to make a choice. Do I use the Ruger BH or a T/C in .30-.30? I have shot some pretty good groups with the T/C but

mostly from the Creedmore position.

I put up three targets with the idea of shooting at each one off-hand at 50 yd., the maximum range I wanted to try for a deer. That's my maximum not the guns maximum! I wanted to make my choice based on offhand shooting but with the idea of using a shooting stick if at all possible. I shot one round at the first and second target, lowering the handgun after each shot, then 2 rounds at the last target.

I did this with both the T/C and the Ruger. Then with a little hesitancy, I went up to check the targets. I wanted the best "first hit" accuracy not just group accuracy to be the basis of which arm I would take with me for deer hunting.

The targets told me I did better with the Ruger than the T/C. I would have guessed the other way around myself. Then, too, those .45 cal holes looked impressive! I was using a Keith SWC cast from wheel weights and a gas check in the .45 with unique powder to power them by the book. Always by the book! The T/C .30-.30 used a 150 gr. Hornady spitzer that shot well on silhouettes, apart from the Creedmore position.

Deer season was to open on Sunday, Nov. 15, 1981. Dale and I have hunted together a lot and this year was no exception. Dale picked me up Saturday the 14th at about 7:30 A.M. We were on our way to his Dad's place just outside of Mio, Mi. Dale had found a pretty good looking hunting area last year, so after saying "Hello" to his folks we headed out to look things over. When we pulled in off the gravel four or five deer took off. "Things are looking good" ran through our thoughts as we parked Dale's van and started to look the area over.

Maybe we found five buck rubs in a small clearing about 50 yards from the van. There was a lot of brush around the clearing. The rubs sure picked our hopes up and we decided to go look at the seep where we saw the little doe last year.

The seep was an opening between two cedar swamps where a small stream ran above ground for maybe 30 yd. before going underground again. One swamp ran East/West while the other ran North/South. We found an old bow hunters blind on the west side of the seep that gave me a little cover as it had a lot of small pines on its north side. Looking east, south, and west it was fairly open. Three trees made a triangle with one tree so you could sit on it facing the East.

There was a small poplar tree in the center of the triangle, maybe an inch in diameter, that required removing. We took it out and I kicked leaves out of the way so I could move around soundlessly if I had to. I took the top off the poplar leaving me with a shooting stick about 6 ft. long. Just right. "Everything looks good, now if only the deer will cooperate," I said to myself.

On the way back Dale and I made a stand for him by the five buck rubs. Boy! Everything looked good for tomorrow's opener!

Sunday, found Dale and I leaving his van just as it was getting light enough to see where we were walking without flashlights. Dale dropped off at his stand with a whispered "Good Luck" and I wished him the same as I headed to my spot. I had about 250 yd. to go to get to my blind. The Ruger was loaded and resting in a shoulder holster and the woods were just getting light for the first day of another deer

season.

Once at the blind I made things comfortable with my poncho over the log to keep the moisture off my backside. Then I took the Ruger from the holster and held it in my hands, getting ready! The woods were starting to wake up. Small birds were starting to move about as were the red squirrels.

Noise from the right of where I was looking caught my attention. There was just time to see the west end of a eastbound deer as it jumped out of sight. There was no chance to see what it was, let alone get a shot. "There's the first one", I told myself. "Hope I get a better look than that next time." It must have winded me as my movement was kept to a minimum.

Maybe twenty minutes later straight in front of me about 100 to 125 yd. I caught a movement. Yes, it was a deer moving from my right to my left. "Come on, Come on" I kept thinking, let me get a shot. But when the deer stopped I could not see it, he blended into the background too well. When I was sure the deer had moved away I reached for the shooting stick. I was thinking the shooting stick would be a help, but that I was not going to try at that range. I wanted to stick to my 50 yd. limit.

I saw deer, more than likely the same deer, three more times in the same place. I saw the deers legs and belly the fourth time and had made my mind up to move closer as soon as I was sure my movement would not spook the deer.

Crash, Crash, Crash. Something was coming up from behind me on my left. My heart was in overdrive! Sure that the deer was still out in front of me with maybe another one coming into the picture from behind me. Orange! Another hunter! He didn't see me because of the pines I was in. He walked straight toward the spot where I'd seen the deer just a minute before. Half way there and about 60 yd. right in front of me, he stopped and sat down. I whistled once before he had the leaves swept away, but I don't think he could hear me over the noise he was making. It took three more whistles before he found me. He waved and started to walk from the area on a course that would take him slightly to the right of the place I had last seen the deer. Twenty yards further on he stopped to look around again.

When he did that the deer took off. Flag up and in high gear! The other hunter snapped the rifle to his shoulder but didn't shoot. Maybe he didn't have a shot or maybe he didn't see horns. Then he walked out of sight to my right.

It was about five minutes later that I heard a noise behind me to my left again. I turned to look through the pines, thinking "it's one of his buddies".

No. It was a deer, he was following a run through the cedars that ran north to south behind me. He stopped in a small opening about 20 to 25 yards from me. I cocked the Ruger and using a two handed hold lined the sights up just behind the front shoulders.

Bang! The Ruger went off. Looked good. The buck didn't give any indication of being hit. He did step forward about twice his own length which carried him into another opening where he stopped.

"Did the first round hit him? What's going on?" I asked myself as I cocked the Ruger again. I put the sights on the front shoulder again and squeezed the trigger. "I want him down right here" I recall thinking as I squeezed, Bang,

Bang, Bang!

The deer was hit and started to move forward, one round hit him high in the back, just in front of the rear legs. He went down, tried to get up as I walked toward him.

Should I reload? Do I have one round left in the gun to finish him? How bad is he hit? All this flashed through my mind as I walked towards him. Try one shot in the head, if it goes off he's dead. If it goes click I'm going to have to reload. Quick! Bang! The sixth round caught him in the head.

I went up to him and looked him over. He had a nice three point tang on his left side with a broken tang on the right for a total of five points.

One round had entered behind the front shoulder passing through the top of the lungs, I was to find out later. One was in the belly ranging forward to exit behind the off shoulder. The round up high just missed the backbone, messing up the tenderloins. Counting the head shot, four of the six shots had hit him. Every round exited the deer.

Did I need more than the first round? I don't know, I didn't wait to find out. I wanted him down there, not running off to some other hunter.

Will I use a handgun again? Youdamnbeta. Just look me up November 15, 1982. I'll be the one with the big Ruger in the shoulder holster!

FIRING LINE

Thank you for the copies of THE SIXGUNNER and other material which you have so kindly sent me. I enclose with this letter my first annual fee to HHI.

Naturally, I can hardly wait to collect my membership material, and will feel pretty proud when it arrives.

Also enclosed are several photos of game I shot this 1982 season. If you wish, you are welcome to publish these pictures in THE SIXGUNNER. Give Larry Kelly my best wishes and respect, and it would be a great honour if I could meet you guys in person in the near future.

By the time you read this, I shall be after an eland in the Transvaal. . . . Eddie Dunn, Pretoria, South Africa.

Every year, THE SIXGUNNER gets better. You've got some good staff people working on it. I attended the Handgunner Awards with son Kyle and some local fellows who are not members, so didn't get to sit with the HHI members. We did get to visit with some of them before the dinner.

I have friends in Canton, Ohio, so get out there a couple of times a year. I wouldn't mind stopping off to see you and shoot one of your Hand Cannons. Keep up the good work. . . . Keith Owlett, Middlebury Center, PA.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Members are always welcome to stop by while in the vicinity. However, it's best to call ahead to make sure I'll be around. (614-264-0176).

I have a couple of questions concerning the .358 JDJ. I'm using a bullet made by Speer that's marked on the box .358 Spitzer, Hot-Core. Is this bullet recommended? Pushed by H-4895 (43 gr.), is this powder good, fair, or poor? The Speer bullet has no cannellure and I didn't know if this hurt or helped anything. . . . Mark Hampton, Summersville, MO.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mark, the 250

grain Speer is the best .358 JDJ bullet and a 46.0 grain dose of H-4895 behind it is my standard load . . . JDJ

I just wanted to drop a note of thanks for the recent review of our 46th Reloading Handbook. Despite the personal character assassination, it was greatly appreciated. . . . J. Mace Thompson, President, LYMAN.

I want you to know THE SIXGUNNER is held in particularly high esteem by this aficionado of the sixgun!

I started shooting a six-shooter in '74 just after I started school at OIT in Klamath Falls, OR. After moving out from New York City, I went nuts. Just had to have a sixgun. Saw an 8-3/8" 27, so I bought it. Read Elmer's "Sixguns" and everything else on the subject. Don't remember ever shooting anything with it but paper, cans and rocks. Packed a 29 in a Bianchi X-15 for five months in '75 while surveying for BLM in Alaska on the Yukon River about 250 miles west of Fairbanks. No, I never had to kill a charging bear with it. I did hit a full propane bottle with it that was intended for a blackie that was bent on helping himself to the goodies in our cook tent — but that's another story. Went up to the Panhandle in '77 for two months where it was a constant companion. I tell you, I'd rather go to work in boots and jeans with matches, a compass, a pocket knife and a sixgun in the woods than pack a briefcase and wear fancy threads in the concrete jungle. Would do it all over again except I'd take a 4" 29, or a 4" 57, or a 4-5/8" or 5-1/2" Ruger in .41 or .44.

Well, pardner, keep up the good work. I hope I'm not too late to get the Oct.-Nov. issue. I'd hate to miss one. How many back issues have you got? . . . Conrad Gerega, Billings, MT.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Lots of back issues at two bucks a throw.

It seems that I've gone and forgotten my renewal. I'd like to see you run a small column with a reminder to look at the mailing label to remind us to renew. IHMSA does it many times per "Silhouette", but once would help. . . . Earl Prophet, Deer Lodge, MT.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Silhouette doesn't send out renewal forms. HHI does. We tried the posted notice in THE SIXGUNNER and it was a disaster. We don't want to lose anyone!

I received my HHI Limited Edition Sixgun a couple of days ago. I must admit it is a work of art! I'm really impressed with the workmanship, and thought you would like to know.

The guys at the gun store couldn't keep their hands off of it. It's a thing you really like to handle. I would like to have a nice shoulder holster made for it. If you know where I could get

one, please let me know. . . . R. J. Conti, Venice, CA.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thanks for those kind words. Looks like about 30 HHI SIXGUNS are going to finish this edition. Any shoulder rig for a 6" Blackhawk should work for your Sixgun.

About a month ago, I traded for a Ruger Security Six. It was blue and had a 6" barrel. I took it apart and smoothed up the action and installed a Pachmayr stock on it. I also installed a Leupold 4X with the new Weaver clamp on mounts. I took the pistol to the range to see what it would do. The ammo I decided to use was 125 grain Federal. I sighted it in at 75 yards. I was totally amazed at the group it shot. All were in a 1-1/2" circle. I decided to move the target out to 100 yards. At 100 yards, I could put all the shots in a 2" circle. It seemed like it was going to be accurate.

I decided to try it out on some groundhogs. A friend shot at five pigs and missed them all. I was about ready to take the scope off and get my .243 Ruger, but I said I would give it one more try. The next evening, I took it out and killed two out of two shots. From then on, I proceeded to kill 12 straight without a miss. In about a month's time, I had killed 27 groundhogs. I was very pleased with the pistol and put the .243 on cold storage.

The other day, I traded for a T/C in a .221 Fireball. I can't wait to try it on pigs. Anyone that could give me information on the .221 would be greatly appreciated.

Got to get out of here and try to find a place to hide so I can put an arrow in this buck that is eating my corn. If the arrow doesn't get him, the Security Six will. . . . Ray Price, Bristol, VA.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Almost any reloading manual should have quite a bit of info on the .221. It should be decent out to around 200 yards on groundhogs.

I have not received my October issue of THE SIXGUNNER. I kept thinking it might be some kind of publication delay and if so, please disregard my letter. If you have mailed me the October issue, could you please send me another copy and its price? It's a damn fine paper, and I look forward to reading it more than any other gun magazine and would hate to miss one copy of it.

Can't go deer hunting this year, but had a week off to squirrel hunt. Had one of the finest hunts I've ever had down state (WV). I got 23 squirrels and missed 25 so far with a scoped Browning Medalist. . . . Walt Gibas, Chester, WV.

EDITOR'S NOTE: If you don't receive your regular SIXGUNNER, write for it. All are mailed 2nd class postage on the same day. Distribution seems to take about three weeks.

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