



Even the popular jackknife position can't eliminate the sharp recoil of the .45-100-566 Sharps buffalo rifle.



Keith dropped this fine bull buffalo with a single shot from his 16-pound .45-120-566 Sharps Model 1874.

then the paper patch bullet. It shot exceptionally well. It would stay under an inch and sometimes I'd get five shots in one ragged hole at 100 yards.

That weekend Father came out from town in his old Ford and said Andy Tomchek was having a big turkey shoot at Montana City. Montana City at that time was barely a railway station along with Tomchek's big dance hall. Dad proposed we go over there, so Mother and Dad and I and Frank drove over to Montana City in his old brass-mounted Ford. We arrived just before lunch and I got into three matches.

The match was a six-inch bullseye at 200 yards, ten shooters at four bits apiece, and nearest-the-center takes the turkey. They were shooting off a car fender, having parked it across the road. A buffalo robe was piled between the fender and the hood. They'd lay down partly on the running board and shoot that away. There were several Springfields from the Helena Rifle Club, along with Krag's, Winchesters, Remingtons, and about everything you could name, about 50 shooters on deck.

Not liking their makeshift rest, I shot prone with my Springfield, lying down in the muddy road, as it had just had a hard rain. I was in the black with three shots, but somebody beat me each time. Then we had lunch. In the afternoon Mother says, "Why don't you try the old Sharps?"

I said, "I don't know where to shoot at 200 yards. I'm sighted at 100." So I asked the

officials if they'd allow me three shots to sight the old Sharps. They were all interested in the big gun and wanting to see how it would perform, so they told me to go ahead. I got a beer case from Andy Tomchek and a saddle blanket out of the back of Dad's Ford and laid on the case and laid down in the middle of the road. I jacked up the front sight to about what I thought would be right, set the set triggers, put the pinhead at the bottom of the black, and touched her off. Ross Degan was lying, half reclining, on the hood of this car on the buffalo robe where he'd been shooting. He was just about on a line with the muzzle of the big Sharps. When the gun went off, Ross's plug hat fell in the mud, he dropped his cigar, and staggered back holding both ears from the concussion. The boy at the target marked my shot just above the black.

I proceeded to lower the vernier sight, held exactly the same again, and shot again and I was just the same distance below the bullseye. Having made notes as to where I had the sight set each time, I split the difference. The next shot was a pinwheel. They shot off seven turkeys that afternoon. I took them all with the old .45-100-550 Sharps and my home-grown loads.

My brother Si was quite a ladies' man. Father bought him a Ford to take the girls to dances and socials. Ed and George Lamb and I weren't interested in girls in the least. All we were interested in were guns and broncs. If we'd hear of a horse that couldn't be rode, we'd ride fifty miles to take a setting at him.

On both sixguns and hunting rifles, the bead front sight usually has a very thin stem that is vulnerable to blows, making it easily bent or broken off. Not so with the Sourdough, which will take hard knocks that would ruin any bead. Also, if you get a bad fall and the sight is damaged, you can usually file it to shape again and still be in business. With a bead you must replace it and then resight your rifle or sixgun.

I remember once walking to the target line at Camp Perry and having my sling strap come unhooked. My front sight hit the ground. Careful checking showed that the top of the sight was not only battered wider but also had been battered down about two minutes in elevation. I got a file from my kit, sat down and filed the front blade back into shape. I then decreased by normal elevation by two minutes and went into the black on the first shot in the 1,000-yard match. With any bead sight, I would have been out of that match, as my relay was due to be called.

Many times in the hills I have had clients fall and ruin their bead front sights and have to be given another rifle. For these reasons, I think most hunting rifles should be equipped with Redfield Sourdough front sights; and most all target rifles, as well, need flat-topped bead front sights unless double apertures are used.

I have had several double rifles fitted with front sights just like the Sourdough but made by hand and fitted by Iver Henriksen. These gold-faced, sloping Sourdough-type front sights work just as well with the wide-angle English V back sight as any bead, and they hold elevations a lot better. In the hunting fields they are several times as sturdy and less liable to damage from a fall. For rifles in any far country or any wet country, I want iron sights in addition to the scope. You never know when a bad fall may put a scope out of commission and then, unless you have iron sights, you are out of luck. On scoped rifles, all that is needed is a good folding open rear sight or the folding peep furnished on Redfield and other scope mounts. The same is true in driving rain or snow storms, when a scope is about as useful as two tails on one hound dog. Remove the scope and you can always blow the snow or rain from iron sights. So for all rifles and handguns, my vote goes to the Sourdough type of front sight.

FEBRUARY

THE MODERN SHARPS RIFLE

Back in 1878, the Sharps Rifle Company brought out their Hammerless Borchardt both in sporting and Creedmoor design. It was made in many calibers, but the .45-100-550 and the .45-120-550 were probably

the most popular and most common. They were also made in .45-70 and many smaller calibers. Since then, this fine old action has been rebarreled to handle many small cartridges and some rather large modern ones. Jack Nancolas, one of the finest hunters and game shots in the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, has used one for many years to eliminate pests. He has killed about everything with it, by hitting in back of the ear or by taking lung shots.

As late as 1900, the great Wimbledon Cup match—consisting of two sighters and 20 shots for the record—was won with a Sharps .45-120-550 rifle. The other competitors included the then-new Krag and Winchester rifles, throwing 220-grain .30-caliber metal-covered bullets at 2,000 fps.

Now the Sharps Arms Company of Salt Lake City, Utah, has rejuvenated the Borchardt Sharps. They have completely revamped the old action, making it larger, heavier, and stronger, and for everything from the tiny .17 caliber to .50 caliber. It will nicely handle that great elephant cartridge, the .500 Nitro Express, which throws a 570-grain softpoint or steel-jacket solid at 2,150 fps. Even more velocity can be had from the long barrels used on many single-shot rifles.

The receiver ring is larger in diameter for calibers up to 50. Gone is the original safety, which on the old Borchardt was a second trigger in back of the firing trigger. Now they have a small safety on the top left side of the breechblock. Springs and all internal parts have been redesigned and greatly improved. Three designs of fine levers are current: a full loop like a Winchester lever-action; a steel lower tang ending in a ball at the bottom of the pistol grip; and a lever with a short spur at its rear for opening the action. I found the third type the fastest and most practical of the three.

Stocks are well-figured, hard, heavy and dense American crotch walnut, anchored to the action with a through-bolt from the butt. They are well shaped and fairly straight. The trigger is a Canjar, I believe, and pull is adjustable. The Sharps safety can be made automatic or nonautomatic as desired with a half-turn of a screw driver. I have no use for auto safeties. You have plenty of time to put a safety on, though you may have damn little time to take it off in an emergency or when more than one slug is needed. This is a very rugged action, comparable to the Farquharsons and the fine No. 1 Ruger, but larger than the Ruger.

The fore-end is a radical departure from anything I have seen on a single-shot rifle, and frankly I do not like it at all. It is a big, beavertail, flat-bottomed fore-end and is anchored to the rifle action only by a long through-bolt from the front of the action clear through the fore-end, and a screw bolt in the front of the fore-



Sharps rifles have continued to have a following among hunters and shooters throughout this century. The high prices that original Sharps, such as this one from Keith's collection, continue to bring attests to their popularity.

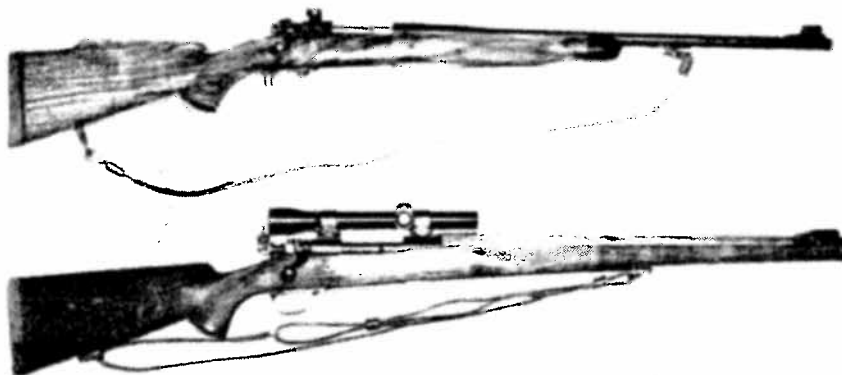
end could not be fitted in a conventional manner with an escutcheon and a lug at the bottom of the barrel and bedded tight, as they should be. This fore-end was anchored to the action only by the through-bolt and was channeled out for a full-floating barrel. All four of our test rifles had floating barrels and those huge flat-bottomed fore-ends.

Jack Nancolas and I put the Sharps rifles through their paces. I shot the .375 H&H and the .45-70, and Jack shot the .30-40 and the .257 Roberts. Both the .45-70 and the .375 H&H had 30-inch full-floating barrels of Sharps Number 3 size, to make around a 10-pound rifle with their hunting scope in place. We found the safety a bit awkward and slow under a low-mounted scope. Otherwise the rifles were very pleasant to shoot and handled perfectly.

The extractor pulls the case back and loosens it but is not a kicking extractor like that of the Ruger or

some Farquharsons. However, if we dropped the lever sharply, the empty cases usually were thrown clear of the action. Barrels were perfectly straight and well cut, and chambering was smooth and perfect. The fairly straight, heavy pistol-grip stocks made the rifles very pleasant to shoot. In fact, for me at least, the Sharps was as pleasant as a .22 match rifle.

A strong and puffy fishtail wind was blowing from four to eight o'clock and constantly changing, not ideal conditions for a rifle test. We used only factory ammunition. With the .375 H&H, my groups from a sand-bagged benchrest at 110 yards, or 100 meters, ran about a half-inch vertical by 1½-inches horizontal. With the .45-70, the groups were all just under two inches, about all that can be expected from factory 405-grain softpoint loads in good, accurate .45-70 rifles. Remington ammunition was used, and I know that on a still day the .375 H&H would do less than one inch at 110 yards.

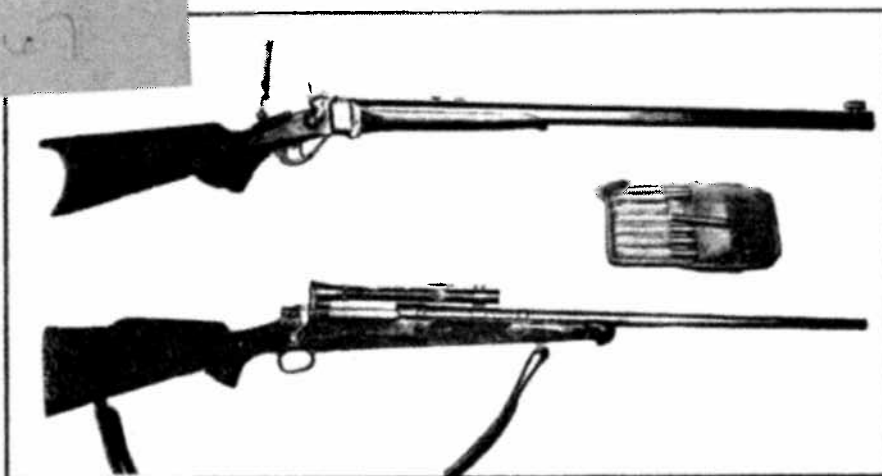


(Top) Keith's .458 has Nate Bishop stock, metalwork by Russ Hightower. (Bottom) Special Model 70 .458.



Winchester .300 Magnum Model 70 with Zeiss scope is Keith's personal rifle.

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(Top) Keith's Model 74 Sharps killed his first buffalo.
(Bottom) Charles O'Neil and Jack Frost made .334 O.K.H. for Keith.

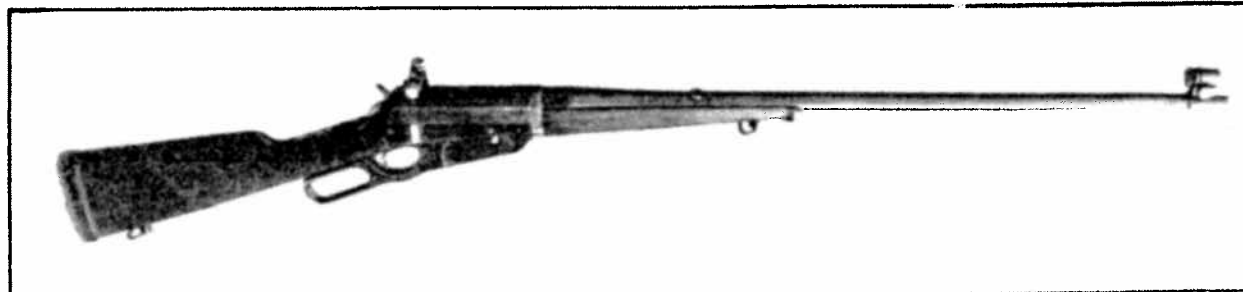
One of first Keith-designed stocks by Jack Frost.



Keith-designed stock on O.K.H. by Humboldt Arms Compan



Model 95 Winchester chambered for the .405 Winchester cartridge.

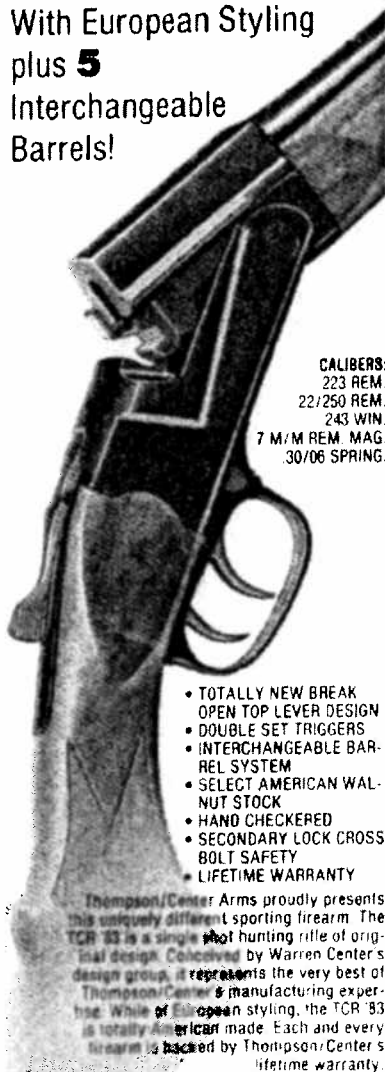


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GUN NOTES



By Elmer Keith, Executive Editor

TRAPPING AND THE LAW

continued from last month

In these excerpts from Hell, I Was There!, Elmer relates his experiences with the guns and the great outdoors of his youth. Last month, we left off where Keith had just shot and skinned his first bobcat.

In the summer of 19 and 20 I signed up with the U.S. G.L.O. to run a government pack string from Ovando as far down as Big Salmon Lake; six days one way on the South Fork of the Flathead. They had hired this big string from a man named Stanley Arkwright at Miles City in addition to two more small strings, so we had 23 head of packs and our two saddle horses. Arkwright had never packed but he was a good cowpuncher and a big powerful man. I let him do the lifting while I lashed stuff on.

We had only sawbuck saddles, had to pack the sides and the top pack, then throw a diamond hitch on top of it all. I used the old government three-quarter diamond most of the time. It always worked well for me with sawbuck saddles. A man named Harris was the U.S. cadastre engineer. I told him that one pack string wasn't enough to handle a double survey crew of 16 men, plus the cook, his wife, and little five-year-old daughter that far from Ovando unless he let us buy the grub. I says, "If you'll let me buy the grub and let me take in only dry food, dried fruit, dried beans, and stuff of that sort, I believe I can supply you with these 23 head of horses. But if you are going to order canned goods to any extent at all, why it's impossible."

He decided I could handle it, and he

would buy the grub. So he bought canned peaches, apricots, pears, pineapple, canned pork and beans. He bought all the canned goods he could, and I had to freight all that water in over the divide. We had no man-ties, so we had to get good wooden boxes as much as possible, or sack up stuff for top packs in order to move it. We moved the whole outfit into Sullivan's cabin over the Montour Divide and arrived at Babcock Creek to find it in flood stage. I told him it was impossible for a string to get through without drowning. He wanted me to tackle it. I wouldn't do it. So I says,



Elmer Keith's first hunting rifles were Sharps buffalo guns. He has collected and hunted with them through his long career. Elmer shot this bison with a .45-120 Sharps using a 566-grain cast bullet.

"The only thing to do is to set here a week until this water comes down."

Another man came along with a sever mule string and decided to try it. He got out with his saddle horse and one of the six mules and the others all drowned. Then Mr. Harris agreed to let me go back to Ovando and freight in another load of grub

continued on page 12

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BEEMAN

GUNNOTES

continued from page 10

and pile it up there. When Babcock Creek started dropping he changed his mind, and decided we ought to go on. He says, "Why don't you go out and kill an elk for us and then we can make it until you get us over to Big Salmon Lake and come back for another load of grub?" I told him, I was at loggerheads already with the game department and the forest service on account of a fire I had had on McCabe Creek the year before when I was working for the forest service. A man named Tatro and I fought the fire a week and it was getting away from us all the time and I asked the ranger for a crew and a cook and bedding so we could stay with it and get it out. Finally he said us punks didn't know what we were doing anyway. He pulled 20 men off of the trail crew and went over and took charge of the fire. It got away from him and



This photo shows Keith in 1951 sighting in an 18-pound .45-100-566 Sharps Sporting rifle.

burned up 20 square miles of Anaconda Copper Company's saw timber.

There was hell to pay.

The supervisor came up from Missoula and he questioned everybody. Finally he questioned a man named Clarence Herring. Clarence says, "I been the cook here all this time." He says, "Keith has come in and asked for men for a week." He said, "Him and Tatro stayed out there three days on one lunch fighting that fire, trying to hold it, and" he says, "Beard, the ranger, wouldn't give them any men. Finally when he did go, it was too late and the fire got away from them." I knew Beard held that against me and there was nothing I could do about it.

When Harris wanted me to kill an elk I told him, "He's got two smokechasers here and if they hear a rifle shot I know they will investigate."

"Well," Harris says, "you get me an elk." I says, "Will you be responsible, Mr. Harris?" He says, "I will." He says, "It's customary for survey crews to kill meat in the hills and live on it when they can't get any fresh meat and the camp is far into the wilderness." I knew that because I'd already acted as meat getter on a couple of surveys. I had my sixgun and a little .250-

3000 Savage for a saddle gun, so I went over to a lick I knew about and sponched myself behind a log 50 yards from the lick. I laid there and after a while I saw an old cow elk coming with several more behind her. She came up to some timber about 50 yards from the lick on the other side. She poked one eye and one ear around the bole of the tree, and watched for several minutes. Then she slowly pulled her head back and those elk all disappeared without a sound. I laid there until nearly night. Finally a five-point bull came in. I took a bead on his heart, and was going to pull the trigger, when I had a feeling somebody was watching me. I put the safety on, made a circle, and found tracks of a man, but I never found him. So I went a couple of miles farther over where I knew there was another elk lick and I waited there. Just before dark a big dry cow came in. I shot her right in the front of the neck, and down she went in a pile. She jumped up and whirled to go around. I shot her again in the side of the neck. I didn't know it at the time but I cut the jugular vein that time, too low for the spine. She went down in a pile again and jumped up and ran again. I chucked the darn Savage, pulled the six-shooter and taking both hands, I hit her in the back of the head and that did it.

I took the feet, hide, head and all the guts, dug a hole, piled them in it, covered them up neat, sacked the four quarters and with ropes I had along, pulled them up in fir trees and tied them. I took the heart and liver and went to camp. The next morning Harris says, "We'll break camp today and head on up Babcock Creek, over the ridge and down to Big Salmon Lake from the back side."

We had most of the camp down and when we pulled down the cook tent, bless Moses, there was the heart and liver laying in a dishpan. At the same time along came Bud Beard and two of his smokechasers and sat down in the camp. They knew darn well I'd killed an elk. They had a pow-wow with Harris and wanted to take me to Ovando, Harris told me. They had quite a pow-wow. Finally they said if I would turn over my guns to them they'd let me go on and pack. I had no intention of going anywhere with them. If they wanted a gun fight they could have it because I knew them too well. I didn't know if I would get to Ovando if I did go with them after turning my guns over to them. So finally I agreed to turn my rifle over to them.

When they first came to camp they walked over by my saddle. My rifle and sixgun were on it so I walked over, buckled the sixgun on and ran the strap around my leg, threw a saddle on a horse and led him over to the other side of camp. After the pow-wow and they decided I'd turn a rifle over, they let me go on the pack. So I pulled the little Savage out of the scabbard, walked over and turned it on the three of them. I slowly worked the shells out of the magazine while I looked them in the eyes. Their faces got as white as chalk. I re-

continued on page 15

GUNNOTES

continued from page 12

versed the gun and handed it to Beard. He says, "Let me have your sixgun."

I said, "Never. I'm not going to be in the hills with you birds without a gun." They let me go on and pack.

We finally made it up Babcock Creek and over Holbrook Ridge, down into the head of the creek that fed Big Salmon Lake and established camp. There Arkwright and I pulled out for Ovando. We left the elk with them, but even so I knew they were going to run out of grub. It was six days one way back to Ovando, then a day to go over the packs, cargo up the grub, and start the next six-day trek back. We did our part of it, but the survey crew at Big Salmon Lake ate all the food they had, ate all the elk, boiled the bones, and they were counting the number of beans each man got with his soup the day before we got back. They said they intended to try to hike out to Ovando the next day, but without grub they never would have made it.

We packed out of Ovando for about half the summer, then went down past Holland Lake to the head of Swan River to a ranch there. From there we took a Dodge truck and went to Missoula, and freighted the food up to the ranch in this Dodge truck. It would twist an axle off about every trip so we carried a couple of spares. Then we'd

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pack up around the old goat trail above Holland Lake, over the divide, and down Holbrook Ridge into the camp.

Horses had never been taken around the mountain on the right side of the lake to intercept the old South Fork of the Flathead trail. I asked a ranger that came in one day if it was possible. He said he didn't think so, but we could try it. So Arkwright and I elected to go out that way and save the long climb up over Holbrook Ridge, down into Babcock Creek, and down to Sullivan's cabin. We had a rough time of it getting off that mountain. We skinned some of the horses up but we didn't break any legs, and we made it. Up past Big Prairie Ranger Station we intercepted the trail over the Montour at Sullivan's cabin.

After the survey was over and I was home, Dad wrote Bud Beard for the return of my rifle. It didn't come. Dad said, "Send it, Bud, or I'll come over after you and it too." Then the rifle came. In the meantime they killed an elk, for evidence, probably one of Bud Beard's, took the front quarters, shipped them to Helena and put them in cold storage. They were determined to get us some way.

Continued Next Month

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THE SINGLE SHOT HUNTING RIFLE IS DEAD.

The turn of the Century saw the transition from black to smokeless powder, and with it the gradual change from single shot to repeating rifles. After World War One, the trend was all to small caliber, high-velocity rifle cartridges with the bolt action predominating. Pump, lever and autoloaders also became very popular.

Popularity of the bolt action repeaters as well as the autoloaders led to more development work on the rimless rifle cartridge than on the old, time-tried rimmed cases suitable for most single shot and lever action rifles. The Winchester models '94, '86 and '95 were very popular and their cartridges lasted much longer before becoming obsolete. Today we have very few rimmed cartridges of modern design for high-power rifles. The venerable .30-30, the various rimmed cartridges for the Model '95 Winchester, .30-40, .35 and .405 W.C.F. and the later .33 W.C.F. for the last model '86 and the still later .348 for the model 71, about completes the list suitable for single shot rifles. There is one notable exception in the 9.3 x 74, a most excellent modern cartridge for most all American game and ideal for single shot rifles.

When I was a boy in Montana, most of the old timers, who settled the country, were Confederate veterans. A great many of them still did all their big game hunting with single shot rifles. Everything from the .50-70 and .45-70 trapdoor Springfields to the side hammer Sharps, the Sharps Borchardt, the Ballard Pacific and the fine, heavy high-side single shot Winchester. The British went us one better and developed their fine Farquharson rifles in a variety of single shot actions far superior to anything we then produced in America, but I never saw a Farquharson until the close of World War One when our boys brought a lot of them home from England.

Those old timers were hunters and real riflemen. They had to be to survive. They depended on placing that first shot just right or not shooting. Ammunition was scarce and expensive by the standards of those days. Black powder .22 shorts usually went at ten cents per box and I well remember when the Lesmoke powder .22 short hollow points came at fifteen cents per box. .30-30s were usually 60 cents per box and the heavy 12-bore duck loads went at 85 cents per box. We were taught to make every shot count in all our hunting. The Krag rifles and carbines sold through the N.R.A. to individual members of the N.R.A., at that time, were a great boon to all of us. Later the 1903 Springfield was sold the same way. I remember my first Springfield cost the great sum of \$18.24, complete with front sight cover, oiler and thong case in the butt and included a sling strap. Military ammunition was then issued to gun clubs affiliated with the N.R.A. and could also be had through the N.R.A. at cost. We all rolled our own ammo at that time as well.

I can well remember that when this country went into World War One, the old 2nd Montana Regiment was on the rifle range. Most of the time, and each Sunday, those of us in the Helena Rifle Club who were available, coached the members of the Montana National Guard Regiment before they were shipped to France. Krag rifles then cost \$1.50 each and the cut-off carbines sold for the sum of \$3.50 each. Most of us kids in Montana then graduated from the trapdoor Springfields and Sharps to the Krag, and later the Springfield, for our hunting rifles. However, many of us found them lacking in killing power on elk and went

back to the single shot Sharps for our elk hunting. The '88 Winchester in .45-70, .45-90, and .50-100-450 were very popular for elk as were the model '95s in .35 and .40 Winchester Center Fire.

If we are ever again to become a "Nation of Riflemen," as we once were, and as the Swiss still are, then it will have to be through civilian rifle training of our youth. The arm has retrogressed; first by the adoption of the less accurate M-1 Garand over the old 1903 Springfield, then by the adoption of the 150-grain service load for that autoloading Garand action over our good, old 173-grain boat-tail service load. Now they have further retrogressed in the adoption of the NATO .308 cartridge. Today, the arm teaches youngsters to point a "fire-hose" and use semi and full automatic arms, rather than real rifle training to hit individual enemy targets. Only the Marine Corps still maintains real rifle training in the armed forces and they do not now have a really accurate rifle to train with. The NATO .308 cartridge is at best a 500-yard round and the M-14 is not an accurate, long-range weapon in any sense of the word. It climbs just like a BAR and is useless, except at a very close range, in full automatic fire. This present arm training has in turn influenced the youngsters in sporting arms and many now like autoloading weapons and "fire power" as they call it. Every war we have ever fought has proved the value of careful, aimed rifle fire over any type of fast, automatic rifle fire, in actual combat.

In the game fields, most tyro hunters depend on a barrage of poorly aimed shots in the hope some slug will land on their game. It's high time we came down to earth and again learned to place that first shot on the game or on an enemy soldier under combat conditions. Except for dangerous game or fast, running shots, I would as soon hunt most any big game with a single shot rifle. In taking over 200 head for my own use from Africa to Alaska, most of my game has been killed with a single shot when I use rifles of adequate power. Some poorly placed shots at long range, or on running game, or heavy dangerous game, have necessitated follow-up shots to finish. But in the main most of my game has been taken with one or at most two well-placed shots.

A good, single shot rifle is not so very slow to reload if you will clip a couple extra cartridges between the finger of the left hand. Usually if you place the first shot, no second shot is needed. If you don't get it in exactly right, it requires but a few seconds to drop the lever or pull back the hammers on a Remington rolling block and insert another load. You are again ready for a careful, follow-up shot.

If all big game hunters were armed with a single shot rifle, they would be a darned sight more careful in placing that first shot. There would, in turn, be far less wounded game to die a lingering death in the hills and fewer hunters would be killed accidentally by those Nuts - I won't call them hunters - who take "flash" and "sound shots." I started small game hunting with a Kentucky muzzle loader and learned early that I had to place that first shot or the game would be long-gone before I could reload that long

G & A Shooting Editor Elmer Keith looks over part of his collection of single shot rifles he has used over the years. Keith firmly believes that it's the first shot that counts and a good single shot will deliver the goods. Note the fine Sharps rifles on the wall

EK60

LONG LIVE THE SINGLE SHOT!

Veteran rifleman ELMER KEITH firmly believes today's shooters and hunters are passing up a good bet on the single loader. You may want to dust yours off when you read what he has to say.



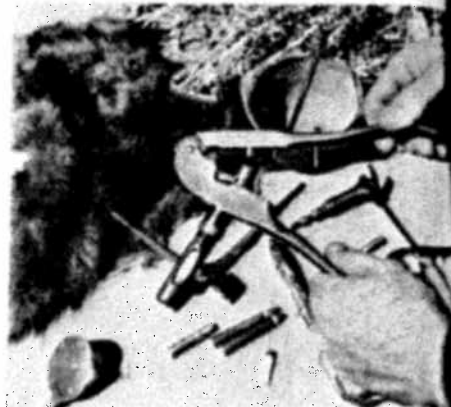
Kentucky "fence rail." Next, I used single shot .22's as well as two .32 rim-fires — a Hopkins & Allen falling block and a Remington rolling block. I later acquired a 1906 Winchester .22 repeater and a .22 W.R.F. Winchester 1890 repeater with which I then learned running shooting on jack rabbits. I believe it is a mistake to arm a youngster with an autoloading rifle. Better to give him a single shot and let him learn to shoot first. Only then should he be given a repeater.



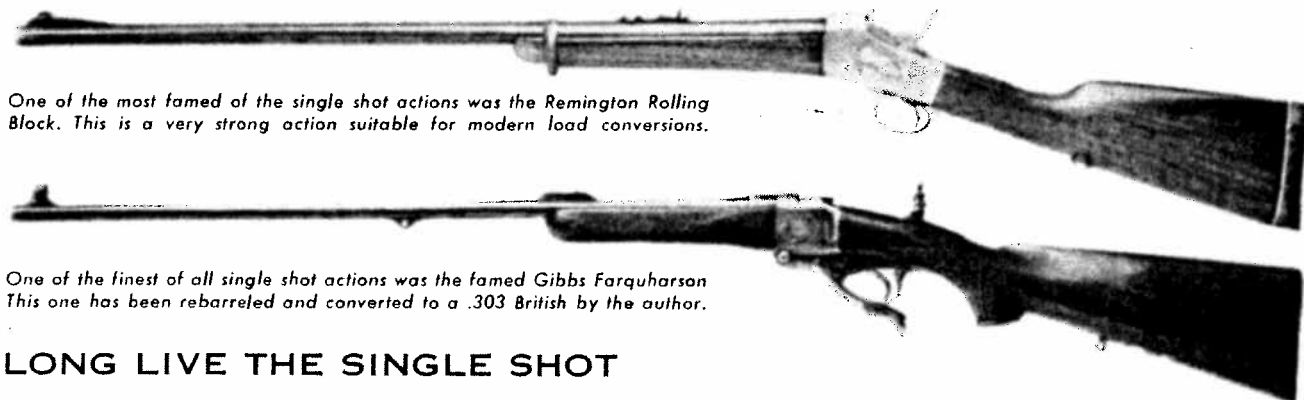
This is one way old-time hunters used the single-shot rifle effectively. California collector Bill Knepp demonstrates the crossed-sticks hold with his .45-120-550 Sharps.



Left: Sharps rifles, like this .45-120-550, accounted for many a bison. This one was killed by the author in 1947. Single shots, converted to more modern calibers make ideal game rifles and are very accurate.



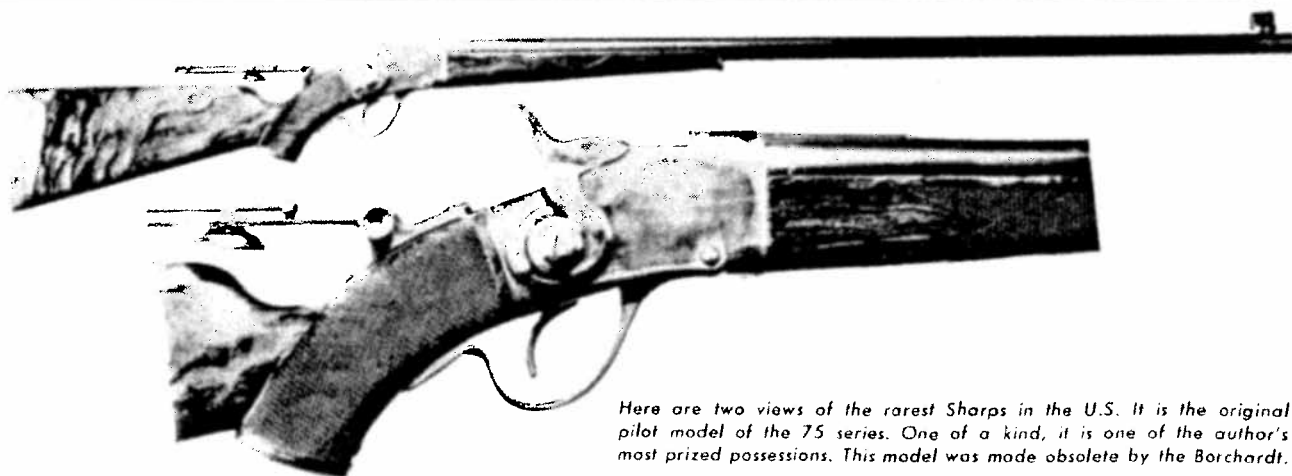
Right: This shows some of the reloading paraphernalia used by hunters who owned Sharps. "Nut-cracker" type reloading tools were part of any game hunter's field kit.



One of the most famed of the single shot actions was the Remington Rolling Block. This is a very strong action suitable for modern load conversions.

One of the finest of all single shot actions was the famed Gibbs Farquharson. This one has been rebarreled and converted to a .303 British by the author.

LONG LIVE THE SINGLE SHOT



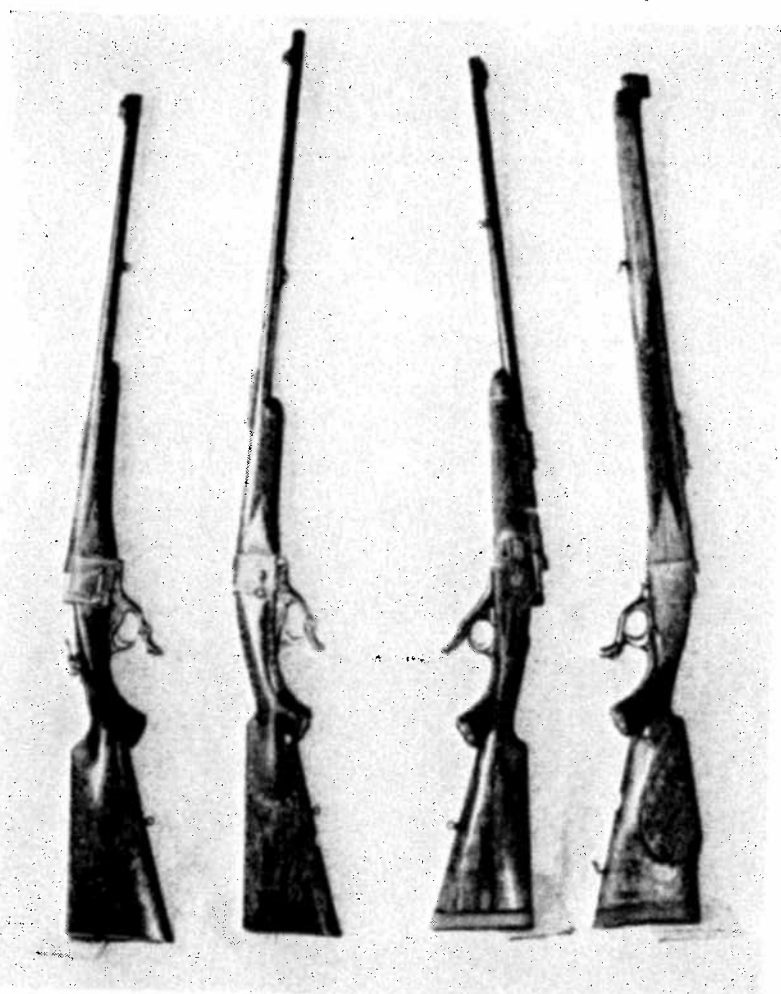
Here are two views of the rarest Sharps in the U.S. It is the original pilot model of the 75 series. One of a kind, it is one of the author's most prized possessions. This model was made obsolete by the Borchardt.

block actions are also good. When improved with larger and harder action pins and a bushed firing pin hole as well as a smaller firing pin, will take a lot more pressure than is generally imagined. One correspondent has made one up for the British .450 3½" Nitro Express cartridge, loaded with 70 grains of Cordite and a 480 grain bullet, and reports excellent accuracy and easy extraction of fired cases. The Sharps side-hammer, 1859 through 1874, actions are, to my notion, not suitable for any modern cartridge as their huge, offset firing pins leave an opening from the primer right back in line with the shooter's eye. I once owned a .44-77-470 which had a Berdan primer pierce badly in a '69 Sharps. A piece of the primer was driven straight into and halfway through the cornea of my right eye. I had to have it cut out and the hole cauterized to keep the eye fluid inside. It left a "black spot" in the center of everything I looked at for many years. The later '74 Sharps rifles, in side hammer persuasion, usually had a dovetail piece of steel directly behind the firing pin and locked by a tiny set screw. These are the only actions that should be fired today, even with black powder, unless the shooter wears shooting glasses. Their firing pins were very large but the hole could be bushed which would help. The very design of that old side-hammer Sharps firing pin is unsuitable for rebarrelling to any modern smokeless load and those having these Sharps, from the early ones through the model 75 and model 77 Creedmoors, should stick to black powder for shooting.

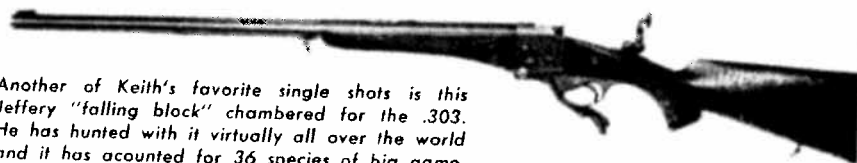
The Sharps Borchardt is a horse of another color. It was never very popular as a hunting rifle because most all old Sharps ammunition was Berdan primed and a pierced primer, or one flowing back into the firing pin hole, tied up the gun until it had to be taken apart to get it into action again. These Borchardt breechblocks can be easily corrected, however, and the block bushed for a smaller modern firing pin. They then make very nice actions for most any reasonable modern load. The old Ballard actions are not strong enough and are only suitable for black powder or low power rimfire cases. But I have seen the Pacific Ballard for the .45-100-550 Sharps buffalo cartridge that worked well with black powder.

The only modern single action of note, currently manufactured in this country, is the Hauck. This is a fine, modern action but very expensive. The one I had in .300 H & H magnum did not have a kicking extractor, something necessary on any fine single shot that is used with a scope sight. This facili-

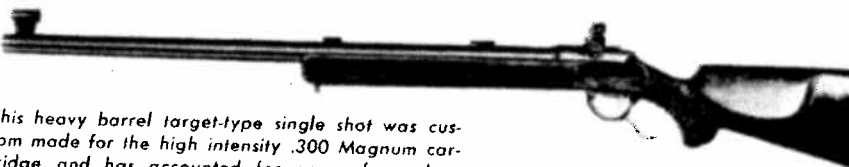
continued on page 58



These four superb Farquharson rifles are part of the author's collection. From left to right, they were made by Jeffery, Gibbs, Greener and Holland & Holland. Such actions can be converted to handle modern loads without undue difficulty.



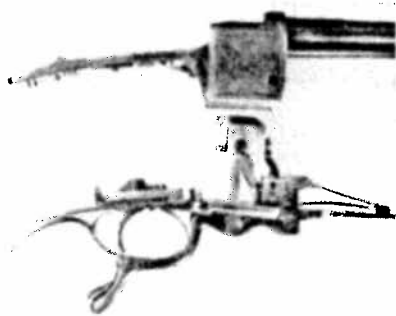
Another of Keith's favorite single shots is this Jeffery "falling block" chambered for the .303. He has hunted with it virtually all over the world and it has accounted for 36 species of big game.



This heavy barrel target-type single shot was custom made for the high intensity .300 Magnum cartridge and has accounted for game from short range to over 300 yards. It's a one-shot killer!



This shows what can be done with a fine old Winchester High-Wall action. Single shots seem to have an appeal all their own and lend themselves to "customizing."



Details of a fine Farquharson action made by the famed British firm of Alex Henry, shows trigger group and breech block removed from receiver. Note rugged simplicity.

SINGLE SHOT HUNTING RIFLE

continued from page 31

tates extracting empty brass out of the chamber when the lever is dropped. I do not like the Hauck as well as the Farquharson. Farquharson actions come in almost as many varieties as Heinz pickles. Some are side lever and some under lever, some have a single weak extractor and some have two heavy extractors like the Jeffery. These latter extractors are the best.

I used a fine Swiss Heeren single shot action for a time for the .244 H & H Magnum cartridge. It was a fine, modern action with the trigger guard forming the lever, but was also a very expensive action and I did not like it as well as many Farquharson actions. I would recommend the Farquharsons as the best actions obtainable for making up a modern, single shot big game rifle. Next, the old Winchester high side is very good as is the rolling block Remington when properly worked over.

For the small-bore varmint cartridges we have plenty of .30-40 Krag or .303 British cases that can be necked down as well as the .30-30 and others. For larger calibers, since the .35 and .405 Winchester have gone into obsolescence, we still have the .348 Winchester which can be necked into a very good cartridge from 7mm to .450 caliber. For cartridges under .40 caliber or .375, I would prefer the 9.3 x 74 case as it is available for modern primers from Norma and is an excellently shaped case for calibers such as 7mm, .30, .333 or .338, .35 and in its original form, 9.3 x 74. This latter cartridge will make up into a very fine big game rifle in any caliber from 9.3 down to 7mm. You can write your own ticket as to barrel length, weight and type of stock. Stocks can be high or low comb, as desired, for the use of scope or iron sights.

I have one H & H Farquharson in .30-40-220 and it is my favorite deer

rifle. Jack Ashurst rebarreled it with a Pfeiffer blank, fitted a good English five leaf, wide-angle "V" back sight and Redfield Sourdough blade front. Fitted with a beautiful fore-end to match the original stock and with its folding tang peep sight, it is a very nice, light and handy little rifle. Its 26" tapered barrel will group under a silver dollar all day at 100 yards using Remington .220-grain Corelokt ammo. It makes an excellent timber deer rifle. I have a similar Farquharson chambered for the big .500/.450 Cordite elephant cartridge and that also is one fine shooting rifle. I have two good Jeffery side safety Farquharsons; one in .303 British and one in .450/400 3". Another Farquharson in my little collection has the big Webley 1902 action and was made up by W. W. Greener for the .450 straight 3" cordite load. It is unique in that on each side of the action a strap of steel is dovetailed into the frame with a round doll's head and extends back the full length of the grip on each side. Both the steel and the fine Circassian stock are checkered until you can hardly tell where steel ends and wood begins. It is a very accurate rifle. These two .450's are, of course, adequate on any game on earth with the proper bullets of 480 to 500 grains.

Good single shot actions can be sighted to suit the individual, either with a good hunting scope, or with receiver sights. For light recoil rifles, any of the good tang peep sights can be satisfactorily used.

My friend, F. A. Johnson of Jamestown, N. Y., rebarreled a heavy Remington rolling block with a .35 barrel, worked over the action pins and firing pin and block and chambered it for the .348 Winchester case necked up to .35 caliber. He proof fired it by tying it to an auto tire and firing with a string. He started with 66 grains 4064 and a 250 grain slug and finally settled on about 60 grains 4064 and the 250 grain bullets as a very good big game load. These heavy Remington rolling blocks are among the best American-made actions for conversion to a modern single shot rifle.

Old Nelson Story once told us of taking the first trail herd from Texas over the old Bozeman trail to about where Bozeman, Montana, now stands. He fought Sioux every day from Fort Phil Kearney, where Col. Carrington forbade him to take the herd over the Bozeman trail, to the Yellowstone River. He had purchased a supply of .50-70 Remington rolling blocks and a wagon load of ammunition at Dodge City. The ammunition was the old copper-cased inside center-fire primed that looked like rimfire ammunition. They fought the Sioux nearly every day and moved the trail herd by night and only

lost a very few men moving through the heart of the Sioux nation. Nelson Story was in his eighties and I a young cow poke at the time he told me. Kauffman and I of that trip. He swore by the old Remington rolling block and claimed they had no trouble with them at all. The Sioux had very few guns in '66 and their arrows were no match for the potent and accurate .50-70.

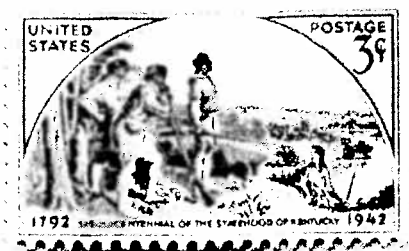
The Remington rolling block action never received the publicity accorded the Sharps, but old-timers, including Samuel H. Fletcher, who served through the Civil War in the 2nd Illinois Cavalry and who was my tutor for some years, always claimed the Remington rolling block was the better action of the two.

At any rate, the three best actions of American-make and reasonable price, to rebarrel and restock, are the Sharps Borchardt, the Winchester high-side and the Remington rolling block. All can be had at reasonable prices. When you go to a heavier powder charge or larger caliber than the .30-40 Krag then I, for one, prefer the Norma 9.3 x 74 case for everything up to .363 caliber. For larger calibers, the .348 case or a revamped version of the .45-120 modern primer case is best. With either one you can make up about any type of so-called wildcat cartridge desired in a rimmed case which is always best for all single shot and double rifles. Double rifles are really two single shot rifles and for that reason are the most reliable of all.

The long, straight tapered 9.3 x 74 and the Nonte straight taper .45 cases, allow thicker chamber walls than does the big, bottle-necked .348 case. But the latter seems to work very well, in the rolling block action, at any rate.

Try using a fine, single shot rifle and stalking your game within certain killing range. You will get more satisfaction out of that one, well-placed shot. Good shooting also leaves fewer cripples in the hills and you will have fewer regrets than the man who sprays the brush or landscape with rapid, poorly aimed automatic rifle fire. Granted, the single shot rifle is not the best for running shots, but running shooting, on the other hand, produces more crippled and lost big game than any other form of big game gunning. It is also the direct cause of many game animals having a strong or "wild taste" on the table. Kill the game cleanly, with one well-placed shot, dress it properly, and you have fine, sweet meat to eat. Cut, shoot it while running, or break a leg and trail it a half day, until it is hot, and it makes for poor eating.

In conclusion, I believe it high time we put more effort into properly stalking game to within a reasonable range, and placing that vital first shot.



(10) UNITED STATES — PURPLE STAMP — 1942 issue, commemorating sesquicentennial (150 years) of Kentucky Statehood. Pictures a group of renowned Kentucky mount men with their famous Kentucky rifles.

POWDER-BURNING POSTAGE

continued from page 32

freedom fighters many times postally, heroic citizen-soldiers with upraised rifles in hand.

In 1957 most of the Iron Curtain countries issued stamps commemorating the Russian Revolution of 1917. Central designs were rifles, clutched in the hands of Freedom Fighters. The South American nations, releasing independence centenary postage stamps, feature rifles in the hands of ragged revolutionaries. Greece, Spain, France, and a dozen others have postally symbolized Freedom as a rifleman.

Poland in 1958 issued a poignant reminder of WWII beginnings. It pictured a rifle-armed Polish mail carrier defending the Danzig Post Office against German assault in 1939. These civilian defenders suffered heavy casualties. The stamp is inscribed: "you were the first."

National pride and heritage?

Liberia postally immortalized cannon-firing Matilda Newport's defense of Monrovia with a 1947 stamp issue, 125th anniversary of the battle. Mexico remembered another cannoner, Jose Maria Morelos, on a 1956 airmail release; Mexico has postally portrayed many battle scenes from its turbulent history. Bulgaria celebrated national independence day in 1953, her 75th anniversary, with stamp issues depicting riflemen and cannoners of the period. Little Costa Rica did likewise, picturing the battle for independence at El Tejar on a 1950 airmail issue.

Hungary, Germany and Italy all leaned heavily on postal releases to publicize their war effort during WWII. Russia, which issues a special postage stamp at the drop of a shoe, has portrayed infantry, artillery, and rifle-armed sailors on many stamp issues. Even new nation Pakistan recalls romantic history: "Kim's Gun" of Rudyard Kipling's immortal story is pictured to the last brass

barrel detail on a 1960 postage stamp. Issued, incidentally, to commemorate the third Pakistani National Boy Scout Jamboree. No dove or olive branch here; guns were the theme.

On the competitive side, the Olympic Games and similar international meets have brought forth many attractive "gun" stamps. A set of Romanian diamond-shaped stamps for the 1960 Olympics picture all phases of shooting competition, both handgun and shoulder arms. Germany in 1944 gave her war-weary people a lift with a semi-postal stamp publicizing the 7th National Shooting Matches at Innsbruck. Germany made heavy use of semi-postals during WWII, as have many of the European and African nations in recent years.

A semi-postal is government-authorized and issued showing two amounts: ten francs plus five francs, for example. The purchaser pays 15 francs for the stamp. Ten is valid for postage, and the additional five accrues to a pre-designated fund deemed worthy by the government. The Red Cross, National Sports meets, art funds, child welfare, and a host of other activities have all benefitted from semi-postal stamp issues, and supporting them costs the individual letter writer little. The German stamp described paid for the National Meet costs.

Switzerland contributed a semi-postal to the philatelic rifle rack, a 1950 issue picturing Swiss riflemen at target practice. The Swiss, with long history of individual, independent firearms possession, have also never been invaded or subjugated in many centuries. Sweden similarly postally publicizes her citizen-shooting programs with the issuance of attractive postal issues.

Neighboring Canada, deciding to publicize her matchless outdoor recreation in 1957, featured an upland bird hunter and dog on a first class letter carrier. A 1962 Japanese issue, also featuring favorite sports, centered on a kneeling-position rifleman. With a magnifying glass, a gun expert can undoubtedly name rifle and scope make from this fine engraving.

That our own nation was based, built, and expanded on the rifle is plentifully proved by our commemorative postage stamp issues; to the everlasting credit of the clear-thinking Postal Department designers. While we've had our share of fuzzy-purpose issues, the rifle has some through in fine shape through the decades.

The 150th anniversary of Revolutionary War battles gave designers matchless opportunity, and they covered it thoroughly from 1925-32. The Lexington-Concord issue of 1925 featured the Minute Man, rifle in hand, powder horn slung. Alexander Hamilton's battery appeared on the 1926 Battle of White Plains commemorative; a rifle-armed Green Mountain Boy on the Vermont Sesquicentennial issue the same year. Major John Sullivan's New York State expedition was honored. General "Mad Anthony" Wayne and Continental troops with rifles appeared on a 1929 stamp, and George Rogers Clark's marksmen captured Vincennes all over again on a large commemorative.

The Army and Navy were honored with a ten-stamp series in 1936-37, featuring famous Naval engagements as background. During WWII, the National Defense issue pictured a 90mm anti-aircraft gun; and who over 20 years old will forget the Minute Man design of Defense Saving Stamps? The Kentucky rifle, held by Daniel Boone, dominated the stamp design for Kentucky Statehood's 150th anniversary in 1942. Various Statehood centennial stamps since have generally included riflemen along with covered wagons and State seals.

Iwo Jima, the Army, Navy, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine all were honored on U.S. stamps of the 40's, while the National Guard issue of 1953 showed a combat-ready guardsman armed with Garand rifle. A bit facetiously, the author of Virginia's Constitution and Bill of Rights George Mason over 200 years ago was honored on a 1958 issue: it pictured GUNston Hall.

Currently, the U.S. is issuing one commemorative per year remembering the Civil War. The first three — Fort Sumter, Shiloh, and Gettysburg — all pictured artillery and riflemen.

Special, or commemorative, U.S. stamp subjects are selected by a Stamp Advisory Committee, first established by President Eisenhower, later continued and enlarged by President Kennedy. They winnow the thousands of suggestions received annually, recommending issue of the fifteen or so "specials" presently printed.

Considering that the *minimum* printing of a U.S. special first class stamp is 120 million copies, it's apparent that this is saturation publicity — or advertising — at its best. The newspaper, magazine, TV and radio publicity accompanying issue of a "special" U.S. stamp in addition is tremendous in promoting the stamp subject, making it known and discussed world-wide. Not only by the world's estimated 70 million stamp collectors, but by everyone receiving the stamp on a letter or package.

To date, there have been no anti-gun stamps printed by any country. But, it could happen. Meanwhile, the rifles and artillery of Freedom continue firing mail around the globe.

EIMOR KATH
Gun Collection
Single Barrel Rifles
April 1972

Page 1 of 17

		Make	Model	Caliber	Action	Scope	Serial #	Price
1	R 1	Ruger #1	Single Shot	375 H&H	Lever	4X	15	1500
2			Fully engraved					
3			Bear on left					
4			E.K. on right					
5	R 2	Ruger #1	Single Shot	458 Win mag	Lever	Wheeler	122-2222	400
6						3X		
7								
8								
9	R 3	Sharps	1877	Creedmore			162244	1000
10			34"	Round Barrell				
11			Vernier rear sight	"Old Reliable" on barrel				
12			Circassian pistol grip	single trigger				
13	R 4	Sharps	1874	45-120-550-34"			No #	1000
14			16# Buffalo	30"				
15			Full Octagon					
16			Long Range Vernier Rear					
17			Double Set Trigger	E.K. Shot First Bison with this				
18			Detachable Pistol Grip	"Old Reliable" on barrel				
19	R 5	Sharps	1874	40-90-370 Bu			No #	1000
20			17 #					
21			Long Range Vernier					
22			Double Set Trigger					
23			Patch Box	Straight Grip Stock				
24	R 6	Sharps	1874	45-100-550-2 3/4"			No #	1000
25			18 # Sharps	Buffalo				
26			Double Set Triggers					
27			Long Range Vernier					
28			Hooded Front					
29			"Hank Waters Buffalo Gun"					
30			Montana Wild & Deer Co's					
31			30" Full Octagon					
32			E.K. Wan 34 Turkey and winter					
33	R 7	Sharps	1869	50-70-473	Carbine		2378	1000
34			single trigger					
35								
36								
37								
38								
39								
40								

Bob Thompson Vaccines