

The AMERICAN RIFLEMAN



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The Last Word

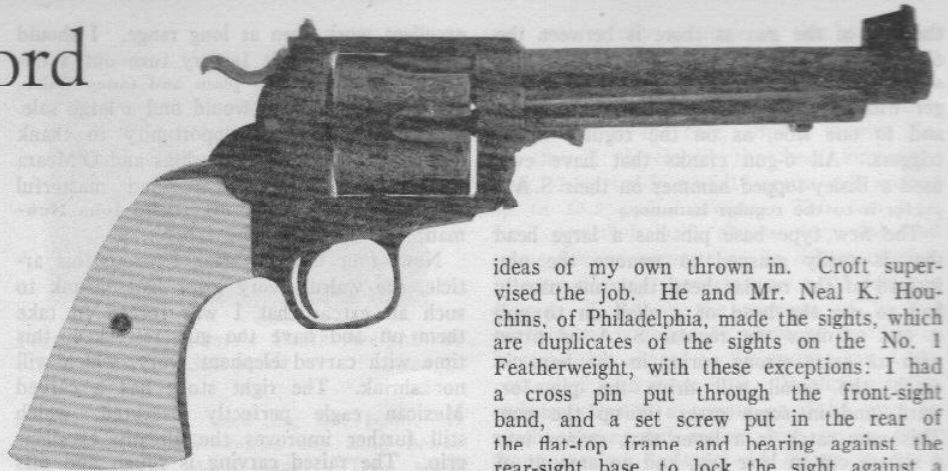
By ELMER KEITH

MOST men have a hobby—all men should have, as a recreation, pastime or diversion from their regular work. A very good friend once wrote me, "Whenever you find a man without a hobby, they had just as well put him to bed with a shovel, as he will never be worth a d—." I think that there is a lot of truth in this statement.

Like many another, for years I have been using the old Peacemaker and trying to improve its shooting through the use of better sights and ammunition. I have tried many different front sights, from the Sheard and Lyman down to the common rifle sight dovetailed into the barrel. I have also tried cutting out the rear notch into a U, or a square or Patridge rear, using small files for the job. It is very easy to improve the rear sights thus. The rear notch should be wide enough to permit of one's seeing a little light on each side of the front sight, so as to properly center it. How often I have wished for good adjustable sights that would bring the point of impact and point of aim together, for my heavy loads. Many times I've worked up loads to shoot right with the fixed Colt sights for elevation; then in case the gun shot to one side, I would bend the front sight by placing the sharp side or edge of a cake of type metal under the base of the sight, while some friend, often the better half, held the gun. Then with a hammer and some soft metal, such as brass, copper or type metal, for a punch. I would drive the whole sight over into correct line. This method, if done right, leaves the sight straight up and down, as it bends the whole sight at the base and will correct most guns laterally. It's often quite a job to get an S. A. A. with fixed sights adjusted for one particular load. These guns frequently come from the factory shooting high, low or out of line, unless one specifies that his gun be sighted up before it leaves the factory.

The Colt factory furnishes but one standard model of the S. A. A. now, in plain and fancy finish, though at one time they did furnish flat-top Bisley and S. A. A. models with target sights. It's a simple matter at the factory to adjust sights on the S. A. I have watched my friend Fitzgerald remove the extractor tube, slip a polished steel rod of land diameter into the barrel and clamp same tightly in a special barrel vise, with padded jaws to fit the contour of the barrel; then slip his hammer handle through the cylinder space in the frame and turn the barrel to correct line, though sometimes it required some sighting shots and additional moving to get it just right. That's all very nice if one has the tools, but we on isolated ranches and in the hills have no such tools, and do not care to be without our guns from three to six weeks, or more, either.

My good friend, S. H. Croft, put in a lot of time, thought and money improving



the S. A. Colt. He was working to obtain a light-weight weapon for self-defense purposes. However, a combination of some of his improvements added to the regular weight 6-gun makes the last word in a fine, trigger S. A. for target or game shooting. Mr. Croft has designed the changes necessary to convert an ordinary S. A. Colt into the finest trigger single-action imaginable, either in the Featherweight model, or, at my suggestion, in a heavy, all-around 6-gun.

Mr. Croft had four models of Featherweight guns made up from S. A. Army and Bisley Colts, which I described in a previous issue of the RIFLEMAN. He worked out and had made up his No. 3 grip, which is perfect. At about the same time, or a little later, J. D. O'Meara finished up his pet 6-gun grip. Both he and Croft used the Bisley back strap and S. A. A. guard and front strap. The Bisley back strap is bent to the same angle as the S. A. A. When O'Meara had finished, I found that his grip and Croft's No. 3 were almost identical. For a gun to be used with trigger this No. 3 is the latest and best grip ever put on a 6-gun.

In giving Mr. Croft's Featherweights an extensive and thorough try-out, I discovered their strong points, as well as their few weak ones. Personally, except for a pocket gun, I prefer the S. A. left full weight. Croft designed these for pocket guns, however. I favor leaving the extractor on, unless the barrel be cut down too short for it to work. Of the different Croft grips, No. 1 was standard S. A. A., while No. 3 was the best grip of all. For the slip gun the regular S. A. A. grip is the best, and about the only one that can be used.

The S. A. A. is one of the best-balanced and easiest handled of 6-guns. The regular S. A. A. back strap, while by far the best shaped of any on the market, and the only one for the slip gun, does not come up as high in back as it should to completely fill the hand. By bending and welding the Bisley back strap to the same general contour as the S. A. A., and combining with the S. A. A. guard and front strap, we have the No. 3 grip.

Needless to say, after playing with Croft's guns a while I decided to have one of my S. A. A. guns worked over to incorporate some of Croft's improvements, with a few

ideas of my own thrown in. Croft supervised the job. He and Mr. Neal K. Houchins, of Philadelphia, made the sights, which are duplicates of the sights on the No. 1 Featherweight, with these exceptions: I had a cross pin put through the front-sight band, and a set screw put in the rear of the flat-top frame and bearing against the rear-sight base, to lock the sight against a possible blow.

Mr. Croft had Mr. R. F. Sedgley weld up the frame into a flat top, and extend it back over the top of the hammer; and also fit the new type base pin and catch. This pin is a tool-steel job, and is a very close fit. Mr. Sedgley also made the No. 3 grip, welded the base onto the S. A. A. hammer to fill the long cut in the top of the Bisley back strap, and made the wide trigger, which of course required some cutting out of the trigger hole in the guard. The hammer is one J. D. O'Meara had previously fitted with Bisley top for me, by dovetailing and brazing in the Bisley thumb piece. O'Meara also made and fitted the walrus ivory stocks. Sedgley made and fitted the new type mainspring. He and Croft designed this very excellent spring for the S. A. A. It is not as liable to breakage as the regular S. A. A. spring and is very much more sensitive and quicker than the standard spring; and the gun cocks as easily as when Newman's "far country" spring is used. This Newman spring is unbreakable, and the best for absolute reliability. The Croft-Sedgley spring is without a doubt the fastest in action of any S. A. A. spring, and should improve the S. A. greatly for target-shooting.

We decided to call this gun model No. 5. The sights are square, or Patridge; the rear one adjustable for windage in the same manner as the S. & W. target sights. The front-sight blade is adjustable for elevation by the turning of a screw in the rear of the base. This gives very close micrometer adjustment, with a locking screw on the side of the base. This type of sight and blade gives maximum sight radius. The front sight elevates at the muzzle and not an inch to the rear, as on most target 6-guns. The front sight is fitted by means of a barrel band, base and band being one piece of steel. Two blades were made for this gun. One of them I am going to have fitted with a Call type gold head.

I had long wished for a wide trigger instead of the narrow S. A. A. one placed in the left side of the guard. Croft had one made by Sedgley for this gun that seems to fit perfectly the contour of my trigger finger. This trigger is set back close to the guard, which greatly improves the gun, to my notion. It gives about the same difference in

the feel of the gun as there is between the old and new model .45 Auto. Colt. This also helps one to properly squeeze the trigger without exerting pressure too far ahead and to one side, as on the regular S. A. triggers. All 6-gun cranks that have ever used a Bisley-topped hammer on their S. A.'s prefer it to the regular hammer.

The new type base pin has a large head that is easily grasped to remove the pin, instead of the regular head that one usually had to use the head of a shell on to pull it out. Unless the regular S. A. is fitted with an extra strong spring in the base-pin catch, the recoil will drive the pin forward, and in some cases tie up the gun. This new catch is a lever that swings into a square cut in base pin, and no amount of firing can loosen the pin. At the same time it is very easy to remove the pin for cleaning. A spring plunger locks the lever.

The illustration is an exact likeness of this gun. However, one must handle and shoot it to appreciate the excellence of its grip and balance. The grip has very close to the same angle as that of the regular S. A. A.; and the gun is quickly aimed and fired. The gun is a natural pointer to any one used to the S. A. A.

Mr. Houchins fitted the barrel up very close to the cylinder, for smokeless powder. Both he and O'Meara do a very good job of fitting barrels and cylinders.

The flat-top frame is extended back about one-half inch more than standard, which adds materially to the sight radius and to the general beauty of the gun. The front-sight band is sweated and taper-pinned to the barrel. The trigger pull is around $3\frac{1}{2}$ pounds, and is very clean and snappy.

Using a charge of 5 grains of Bull's-eye and a 250-grain cast bullet sized to .431, I have put five shots under a silver dollar at 15 yards with the right hand, and all five under or touching a dollar with the left hand; and I am not a target 6-gun shot. Such accuracy is good enough for me and will get meat when I need it. Understand, I can not hold that well at all times.

For self-defense and quick draw these sights can be improved by having the front blade a straight taper from rear to top, and non-adjustable, so there will be nothing to catch on clothing or holster. Also the rear sight can be made lower by eliminating the adjusting screws, and driving the sight to either side to line up, then locking with a set screw or by tinning and sweating.

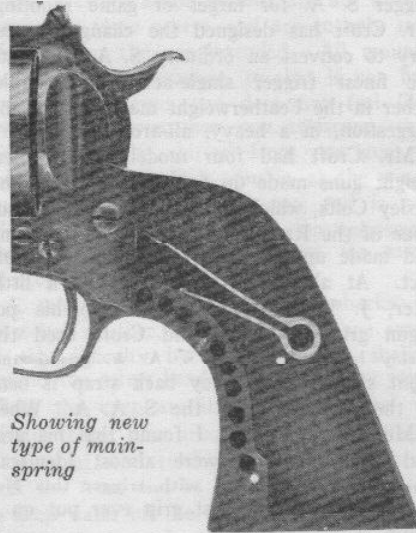
To my notion this is the finest and best Colt in existence. I know there are many with inlay work and finer finish, but they lack Croft's many improvements, which are to me worth far more than all the inlay work, as they are a real help in landing a bullet where I wish it to go. For general excellence of grip, balance, sights, trigger and hammer, I do not think this gun can be improved upon.

Last spring I killed with this gun over 59 magpies, around two dozen crows and hawks, six horned owls, and a bobcat, to say nothing of over a hundred blacktail jack rabbits and a few woodchucks. It does

excellent work even at long range. I should like to see the Colt factory turn out a duplicate of this gun in plain and fancy finish, and am quite sure it would find a large sale. I wish to take this opportunity to thank Messrs. Croft, Sedgley, Houchins and O'Meara for their painstaking care and masterful workmanship; and also my friend John Newman, who gave me the ivory.

Now, four months after I wrote this article, the walrus ivory grips had shrunk to such an extent that I was forced to take them off and have the gun restocked, this time with carved elephant ivory, which will not shrink. The right stock has a carved Mexican eagle perfectly executed, which still further improves the already excellent grip. The raised carving is rough and fills in the palm of one's hand.

It has been quite recently that I have changed from .45 Colt to .44 Special caliber for my 6-guns, for a number of reasons. For one thing, I have found it much easier



Showing new type of main-spring

to obtain good, reliable, accurate reloading tools for the .44 than for the .45 Colt. The bore diameter of Colt's .44 Special guns does not vary to anything like the extent of the .45 Colt. I have seen .45 Colt guns with groove and cylinder diameters measuring only .450, which with a heavy load is very apt to scrap the old Peacemaker. Remember, the .45 Colt has been built for over half a century, and several different generations have bored the various guns; so is it any wonder that guns of various ages vary in bore diameter?

If a man wishes the most powerful handgun, and still wishes to use only factory ammunition, then the .45 Colt is the one best bet, with Remington black-powder loads. However, if he wishes to reload, then the .44 Special is the best of them all. The walls of the cylinder in the .44 are thicker than in the .45, also the rear end of the barrel; and the .44 will stand more pressure with safety than the .45. The .44 Special is more accurate and can be safely loaded to give equal or often better velocity than the .45 Colt with the same weight bullets.

I am all through with heavy smokeless loads in the .45 Colt. F. C. Ness worked

up a charge of 16.3 grains of No. 80 behind my .45 Colt bullet of 260 grains. This load gave 935 feet per second, with around 15,000 pounds' pressure, and was by far the best and most powerful load I ever used in the Peacemaker. However, it took just seventy-odd of these loads to crack the rear end of the barrel in four places, and bulge the walls of all chambers over the bolt cuts, in my wife's pet 6-gun. This gun was No. 335000, and in perfect condition. These cartridges were loaded by the B. & M. factory and charges carefully weighed. So nothing but black in the .45 for me. I have found that King's Semi-Smokeless is the dirtiest of all powders in a 6-gun, though excellent in a rifle.

I designed my .45 Colt black-powder bullet of 260 grains some three years ago, and lately Mr. Croft had an exact duplicate made up in .44 Special. He had two weights of bullet made up, one of 260 grains and one of 280 grains, as man-stoppers. I worked up to a maximum charge of 15 grains No. 80 behind the 260-grain bullet. I believe this load develops 1,000 feet per second, as it gives over 2 inches more penetration than the Ness load in the .45, or the Remington black-powder load. Both this Croft .44 Special bullet and my .45 Colt bullet have short seating depth and extend nearly flush with end of the cylinder, which leaves room for really powerful loads. These bullets also cut down the jump from cylinder to barrel, and improve accuracy. They were designed to give maximum shock up to 50 yards. However, I made several long-range kills on jack rabbits at over 100 yards, and some up to 150 yards. This 15-grain charge with the Croft 260-grain bullet is a maximum load, and I am sure that a load of 14 grains of No. 80 is just as accurate and a lot easier on the cylinder bolt cuts. I fired several hundred of these heavy loads without damaging a new .44 Special Colt S. A. in the least, except for a slight burring of the bolt cuts, which can well be expected when one uses a 6-gun with such heavy charges.

I started in with a light charge of No. 80 behind the 280-grain bullet, and gradually worked it up to 12 grains before the powder burned very well, finally stopping at 13 grains as the maximum safe load. This really is an awful load—sharp report, and recoil fully as heavy as the heaviest .45 Colt black loads. I used bullets of around 1 to 10 tin and lead. Never shoot bullets in a 6-gun that can not be shoved through cylinder mouths by hand. For these maximum loads bullets should be not over two one-thousandths over size of grooves. All charges should be carefully weighted to one-tenth of a grain.

These loads both burn well, and will stay in a 2-inch circle at 15 yards like a possum in a hollow log. I really believe the 280-grain bullet too long and heavy, and with its very blunt nose, like the old .41 Colt, for long-range work; and what 200-yard shooting I have done did not indicate that it is very accurate at this range. Both bullets are amply accurate for the purpose in-

tended—namely, as man-stoppers up to 50 yards. The 260-grain load seems to be considerably more accurate at long range. The 280-grain load is, I believe, the most powerful man-stopper in existence. The blunt point delivers an awful wallop. Couple that with its extreme weight and fairly good velocity—858 feet per second with 15,000 pounds' pressure—and it is bound to knock all the fight out of most any sized man if hit anywhere between the pelvic bone and where his hair ought to be. However, these bullets are not the thing for target-shooting, or for game-killing at a distance of over 50 yards.

The experts all advocate a small powder space for smokeless powder. I believe they mean powders like Bull's-eye and No. 5. At any rate, my experience leads me to believe just the opposite when using No. 80. I find Bull's-eye at its best when bullets are seated down to standard depth; yet with No. 80 I can load much more powerful loads when I have more powder space.

After fooling with different bullets in the 6-gun for years, and carefully noting their effects on game and their grouping on the target, I have finally designed what I honestly believe to be the best all-around bullet in existence. I drafted this bullet for the .44 Special to go with my No. 5 gun. I found that to suit the target shooter a bullet must be long and heavy, with correct balance; and must be extremely accurate. Last, but not least, it must cut a clean hole in the target. To be extremely accurate at long range it must have some taper at the point and have a long bearing on the lands. It must provide space for plenty of lubricant. The base band must be wide to insure accuracy. There must be a wide band of groove diameter in front of the crimping groove to snugly ride the throat of the cylinder and insure perfect lining up of the cartridge in the chamber. The bullet must have a good crimping groove to properly hold it in the case against recoil.

It should seat nearly flush with the end of the cylinder, to cut down the jump as much as possible. It must provide sufficient powder space for heavy loads of black or No. 80, and still provide correct space for accurate medium loads of Bull's-eye or No. 5. The S. & W. cylinders are shorter than the Colt; so this had to be taken into consideration in designing the length of bullet point. My bullet seats flush with the end of the S. & W. cylinders, and nearly so in the Colt.

Now the question of killing power. A bullet must have a blunt nose like my .45 Colt or Croft's .44 Special, or have a flat point like the .44-40. The two first-named bullets are not the best as regards point for



Testing one of Croft's Featherweights at 300 yards

long range, so I used the flat point. A long, tapered point bucks the wind better than the short .44-40 point. Then again enters that question of wad-cutting on the target. To get both an excellent long-range missile and one that would cut a clean hole in the target or game, I designed my bullet with a long, flat point, with a wide band just ahead of the crimping groove. This band has a square shoulder at the forward edge, and cuts a clean hole to a certainty. It also lines the cartridge up perfectly. As I size them they measure .431 in diameter. The base of point just forward of this band mikes .378; the flat point is about .280 in diameter. This makes a bullet with enough taper to insure maximum penetration on heavy game, and one that will tear tissue at the same time.

So far I have used this bullet on a great many jack rabbits and ducks, and have killed several trapped coyotes with it from No. 5 gun. It is the most accurate bullet I have ever used, and tears an unbelievably large hole in game. I have shot several jack rabbits up to and including 150 yards, and even at this distance the bullet never fails to knock all the run out of them. Many that I shot broadside had a 2-inch hole in their opposite side where the bullet emerged.

Now I am going to make a statement that many will doubt: *A jack rabbit will stand just as much killing as a man; and I have seen both killed with 6-guns.* I have had any number of jacks run off after being shot broadside through paunch or lungs with the heaviest .45 Colt loads with standard bullets. Many of them I never found.

I worked up a charge of 5½ grains of Bull's-eye behind the new Keith bullet for use in No. 5. This is a fine medium load

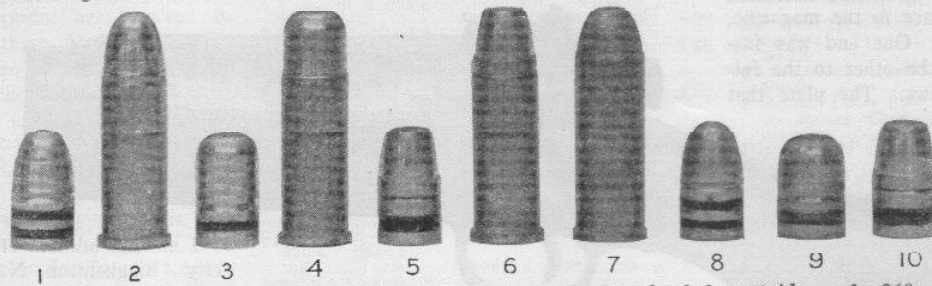
and wonderfully accurate in this gun, even at long range. For my other .44 Special guns I loaded up to 35 grains of FFG black by pouring the powder through a long tube, to settle it in the case. But it is with No. 80 that I developed the best long-range load. I started in with 12 grains and worked up to 13.5 grains' weight. This last is a very powerful load, shoots very flat and seems just as accurate as its lighter cousins. It must develop very close to 1,075 feet per second. I believe the pressure to be not over 15,000 pounds. It might be possible to increase this charge to 14 grains; but I am contented with it as it is. It slips a bullet endwise through a coyote as if he were so much cheese, and messes him up in great shape inside. I found 13 grains to be a wonderful load and not as hard on bolt cuts. My Colt guns mike .4285 to bottom of grooves, and I size bullets down to .431 for these loads. Recently I killed a duck at 75 yards with this bullet and 5½ grains of Bull's-eye in gun No. 5; also several porcupines at around 50 yards, and jack rabbits at much longer ranges, all with one hit each.

I was shooting at a big white jack at 300 yards, and though I did not get him I put one bullet just under his belly and one within an inch of his back. Many will doubt that a man can shoot a 6-gun this accurately. However, Mr. Croft saw me demonstrate this summer, killing an eagle and several jacks at 150 yards. For this long-range work I nearly always lie down on my back and hold the gun between my knees with both hands, though I have killed jacks at 150 yards while standing. I have another position which I use a great deal for this long-range work. I lie on my side, prop my head up with one hand and rest my gun arm along my right leg.

Anyone wishing to reload with this bullet can obtain moulds from the Lyman Gun Sight Corporation, Middlefield, Conn. The bullet will be known and catalogued as the Keith .44 Special. The photos show the bullet even better than I can describe it. A mould will also be made by Lyman for this Keith bullet in hollow-base type, to use 14 grains No. 80 for long range.

I wish to stress the fact that anyone reloading with No. 80 should first find the groove diameter of their barrel, and keep their bullets sized to not over .0025 larger than this size. See that bullets will slip easily through cylinder mouths by hand.

Weigh all powder charges carefully to one-tenth grain, and crimp as nearly the same each time as possible. The above loads referred to all had bullets crimped in their proper crimping groove. One should start in with a light charge of powder and carefully work up to the de-



1—Standard bullet for .44 Special and Russian. 2—The loaded cartridge. 3—260-grain Croft Man-Stopper, .44 Special. 4—Loaded cartridge. 5—Keith .44 Special, 280-grain. 6—As loaded in cartridge. 7—.45 Colt factory load, for comparison. 8—255-grain standard bullet for .44 Special. 9—Keith .45 Man-Stopper. 10—New Keith .44 Special bullet

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5. D. G. Place, Lima, Ohio	349
6. Harvey B. Taylor, Las Vegas, N. Mex.	343
7. H. D. Fashbaugh, Monroe, Mich.	341
8. S. S. Yeaton, Annapolis, Md.	330
9. Frank L. Yorlan, Tarrytown, N. Y.	262

DISQUALIFIED—CERTIFICATE NOT RETURNED

10. Luther W. Mumford, Wymore, Nebr.	175
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NOT REPORTED

11. C. D. Wild, Janesville, Iowa	
12. G. L. Noland, Columbia, Mo.	
13. Dr. Carl W. Wahrer, Sacramento, Calif.	
14. Lt. F. M. Alexander, Fort Missoula, Mont.	

BULLETIN NO. 20—FEBRUARY 25, 1929

SLOW-FIRE 20-YARD PISTOL MATCH—31 ENTRIES

Conditions.—Open to all, 40 shots slow fire.

Name and address	Score
1. Victor A. Sharrett, Doylestown, Pa.	366
2. Harry S. Menkel, New York, N. Y.	366
3. Walter A. Grear, Cleveland, Ohio	361
4. H. D. Fashbaugh, Monroe, Mich.	359
5. E. Mannie, St. Louis, Mo.	359
6. J. W. Aitken, Overly, N. Dak.	357
7. D. G. Place, Lima, Ohio	352
8. A. H. Amick, Jr., Cumberland, Md.	349
9. R. Wilzewski, Fort Bliss, Tex.	347
10. Norman Sterrett, Beaver Falls, Pa.	344
11. H. A. T. Harris, Westfield, N. J.	342
12. Jules A. Gredalis, New York, N. Y.	339
13. Sgt. Karl Krauthelm, Honolulu, T. H.	338

14. Kenneth W. Wright, Chanute, Kans.	337
15. H. M. Webster, Hartford, Conn.	329
16. Hubert W. Amundsen, Plainfield, N. J.	327
17. David Armitage, Philadelphia, Pa.	325
18. G. A. Hughes, Youngstown, Ohio	317
19. Raymond D. Bierly, Buffalo, N. Y.	315
20. Glenn H. McClellan, Buffalo, N. Y.	314
21. Fred B. Momen, Jr., New York, N. Y.	307
22. Renny Nichols, Buffalo, N. Y.	296
23. Daniel F. Cain, Buffalo, N. Y.	296
24. Edward J. Beitz, Buffalo, N. Y.	292

NOT REPORTED

25. Dr. Carl W. Wahrer, Sacramento, Calif.	
26. W. M. Christophers, New York, N. Y.	
27. Raymond J. Brown, South Orange, N. J.	
28. Tom Threepersons, Gila, N. Mex.	
29. Philip P. Quayle, Kings Mills, Ohio	
30. J. S. Crowther, Jr., Cleveland Heights, Ohio	

DID NOT SHOOT—TARGETS RETURNED

31. Oscar C. Eidman, Belleville, Ill.	
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BULLETIN NO. 27—FEBRUARY 25, 1929

TIMED-FIRE 50-FOOT PISTOL MATCH—8 ENTRIES

Conditions.—Open to all; 40 shots timed fire.

Name and address	Score
1. C. D. Wild, Janesville, Iowa	376
2. R. Wilzewski, Fort Bliss, Tex.	374
3. Sgt. Joseph Might, Fort Ontario, N. Y.	372
4. D. G. Place, Lima, Ohio	369
5. G. A. Hughes, Youngstown, Ohio	363

6. H. D. Fansbaugh, Monroe, Mich.	358
7. W. R. Gildard, South River, N. J.	313

NOT REPORTED

8. G. L. Noland, Columbia, Mo.	
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BULLETIN NO. 28—FEBRUARY 25, 1929

TIMED FIRE 20-YARD PISTOL MATCH—20 ENTRIES

Conditions.—Open to all; 40 shots timed fire.

Name and address	Score
1. G. A. Hughes, Youngstown, Ohio	387
2. Harry S. Menkel, New York, N. Y.	383
3. H. D. Fashbaugh, Monroe, Mich.	381
4. Walter A. Grear, Cleveland, Ohio	380
5. J. W. Aitken, Overly, N. Dak.	378
6. Hubert S. Miller, Cincinnati, Ohio	378
7. D. G. Place, Lima, Ohio	377
8. R. Wilzewski, Fort Bliss, Tex.	377
9. Kenneth W. Wright, Chanute, Kans.	375
10. H. W. Amundsen, Plainfield, N. J.	373
11. Fred B. Monell, Jr., New York, N. Y.	370
12. J. S. Crowther, Jr., Cleveland Heights, Ohio	370
13. H. M. Webster, Hartford, Conn.	365
14. J. A. Gredalis, New York, N. Y.	364
15. G. H. McClellan, Buffalo, N. Y.	356
16. H. A. T. Harris, Westfield, N. J.	349
17. Raymond D. Bierly, Buffalo, N. Y.	342
18. Daniel F. Cain, Buffalo, N. Y.	332
19. Renny Nichols, Buffalo, N. Y.	317

NOT REPORTED

20. Tom Threepersons, Gila, N. M.	
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THE LAST WORD

(Continued from page 17)

sired power, watching primers and noting if the cases extract easily, as they should. If this is done and one uses common horse-sense he need not be afraid of No. 80 in a 6-gun. One more thing. Bullets for maximum loads should always be very hard. Though a soft bullet of 1 to 20 or 1 to 15 works beautifully with medium powder charges, and also upsets well on impact, a bullet should never be used softer than 1 to 10 or 12 with heavy No. 80 loads.

What we really need now is an improvement in 6-gun powders; something suitable alike for small, medium and heavy loads, and that will bulk well, so that it can be loaded through the Ideal measure. It should not be sensitive to climatic changes, as is

No. 80. One should never load a maximum load of No. 80 without first testing with lighter loads, as this powder dries out from heat; hence different cans purchased from different parts of the country may vary in the permissible load. Bull's-eye I have found to be a very stable powder, but it is more or less erosive. Could we get such a powder as I have outlined above that would be no more erosive than black, then we would have the proper thing. In view of the vast strides the powder companies have made in the past few years in modern rifle powders, I do not think it is too much to hope for something better for our belt artillery.

Anyone wishing my bullet for the standard pistol powders can order the 255-grain flat-base mould, while those desiring a mould for No. 80 and long-range work, with high

velocity, can specify the 235 grain hollow base. I have suggested that if possible the moulds be made with an interchangeable plug in the base, so that one can, by turning the plug, cast either the Keith 248-grain or the 235-grain hollow-base bullet. I have requested that this hollow be made very narrow across, thereby leaving heavy walls around the cavity, so that, when the bullet is cast hard, it will be practically impossible for the powder gases to expand it. I believe the Keith 235-grain plus 14 grains of No. 80 will develop close to, if not fully, 1,100 feet per second.

I believe, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that my new bullet is accurate and capable of performing with the very finest of holding. I should like to see just what it will do in the hands of a skilled target shot.

That Good Old American Spirit

**"We Have
Just Begun
To Fight!"**

is still existent among riflemen, even though it may show signs of dying out among others of the citizenry. Beaten twice by both Swiss and Swedes, we are going back in 1929 to fight it out again—this time on the home ranges of our Swedish friends at Stockholm. You may not be able to go over and shoot it out shoulder-to-shoulder with the others at Stockholm in August, but you can help the lads who wear the Red, White and Blue on their shooting jackets to put up a good fight by seeing that they are well equipped and live comfortably while they are on foreign soil.

Use the blank below to send in your contribution to the 1929 International Team Fund. "We have just begun to fight!" Let's carry the battle to the other fellow on his own grounds!

I wish to be credited with \$..... as my contribution to the 1929 International Team Fund.

Name

Address

NOTE.—International Team contributions are promptly acknowledged and subsequently are published in *The American Rifleman* magazine.