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New Crane EconoPower cams increase horsepower, torque, throttle response and driving fun for your V-8 powered car, truck, 4x4 or van. What's more, installing an EconoPower cam won't hurt your fuel economy either!\*

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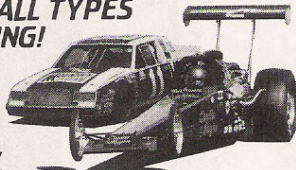
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\*When used with properly matched and installed bolt-ons, engine efficiency and fuel economy frequently increases! Send a self addressed, stamped envelope for free test data.

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The knowledge we gain from designing racing cams goes directly into all Crane

cams. Our EconoPower series is designed, tooled and manufactured using the same experience that won the Daytona 500, Indy 500, NHRA Nationals, IHRA World Championship and World Offshore titles.



**ECONOPOWER CAMS  
PERFORM BETTER-**

VEHICLE	SUMMARIZED TEST RESULTS*			
	ECONOPOWER M.P.G.	HIGH ENERGY M.P.G.	CRANE HIGH ENERGY 0-60 MPH	CRANE HIGH ENERGY 40-60 MPH
79 Buick Camo 305 V-8 8000 7" throttle HE 254-2 NC	21.92	WINNER!	12.53 sec.	WINNER!
High Energy CR 260H-15	21.73		13.26 sec.	7.15 sec.
78 Chevy C-30 Crew Cab 4x4 V-8 4800 Camper HT 288-2 NC	11.96	WINNER!	11.39 sec.	5.50 sec.
High Energy CR 260H-15	11.34		11.37 sec.	5.84 sec.
77 Chevy Van 300 V-8 4 800 Throttlecam Plus HP 264-2 NC	19.71	WINNER!	10.54 sec.	WINNER!
High Energy CR 260H-15	4.40		10.83 sec.	5.00 sec.
81 Camaro 350 V-8 4 bal. Blower 288H	13.91	WINNER!	8.31 sec.	WINNER!
High Energy CR 260H-15	8.33		8.75 sec.	4.77 sec.
High Energy CR 260H-15				3.72 sec.

**HERE'S PROOF!**

Crane Cams' testing is done with actual road driving, using everyday vehicles like you drive. Don't be misled by dyno tests where wind resistance, gearing, weather and road friction cannot be measured! You don't drive a dyno, why use a dyno to compare cams? Our "real world" road tests prove EconoPower cams are better!

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\*Not legal for sale or use in California on pollution controlled motor vehicles.

**CRANE  
Cams**

Hallandale, FL 33009 P.O. Box 160 305 457 8888

**GUN  
NOTES**



By Elmer Keith, Executive Editor

**EDITOR'S NOTE:**

This month Elmer Keith relates more valuable tips, along with his experiences, gathered from years of handgun hunting. This text, continued from last month, is from his 1965 book, Guns & Ammo For Hunting Big Game, published in 1965, and now out of print, by Petersen Publishing Co.

It was a magnificent pair of .41 Magnums I received from S&W. I asked for gold inserts in the front sights rather than the red inserts, and also had the hammers trimmed off about 1/4 inch so they will not hit the web of my hands in double-action shooting. I also had the triggers narrowed to 3/8 inch as I like that width better for double-action work than the wide target trigger. My name, engraved on the side plates, completed the job and I fitted plain clothes-type stocks since the target grips were too large for my short-fingered hands. They're not only a beautiful pair of guns, but they shoot as well as they look. Trigger pulls are very good in both single and double action, and both guns have very close fitting throughout the actions and cylinder and barrel joints. The new cartridge is much better for long range work than the .357 Magnum as its bullets throw up more dirt, mud or snow which helps to locate the point of impact.

I carried these two new .41 Magnum revolvers with me to Alaska where I hunted polar bear with outfitter Ken Oldham. On an off day, Ken and I went caribou hunting with the big sixguns. The intense cold, about 40 degrees below zero, reduced the rounds' normal effectiveness. I was using the Remington soft point jacketed bullets, loaded to 1,500 fps and shot from an 8 3/8-inch barrel.

The sub-zero weather seemed to slow them noticeably, however. I had to shoot the caribou three times through the ribs before it went down to stay. I saw bullets kicking up snow beyond the animal. Apparently, the bullets did not expand as they should have.

I believe the new guns and cartridges are going to prove the finest of all for police and peace officer use. They will also serve very well for game as well—under normal



Petersen Publishing Co.'s Robert E. Petersen dropped this Idaho mulie buck with his .44 Magnum S&W Model 29, while hunting with Elmer Keith.

conditions—but the .41 Magnum does not have the power of the .44 Magnum which I still prefer for my own use on game. The .41 is wonderfully accurate, flatter shooting than the .44 Magnum; recoil is negligible from the heavy guns on the .44 Magnum frame. I was delighted to find both my .41s functioned perfectly in such cold weather, even though they had been lying

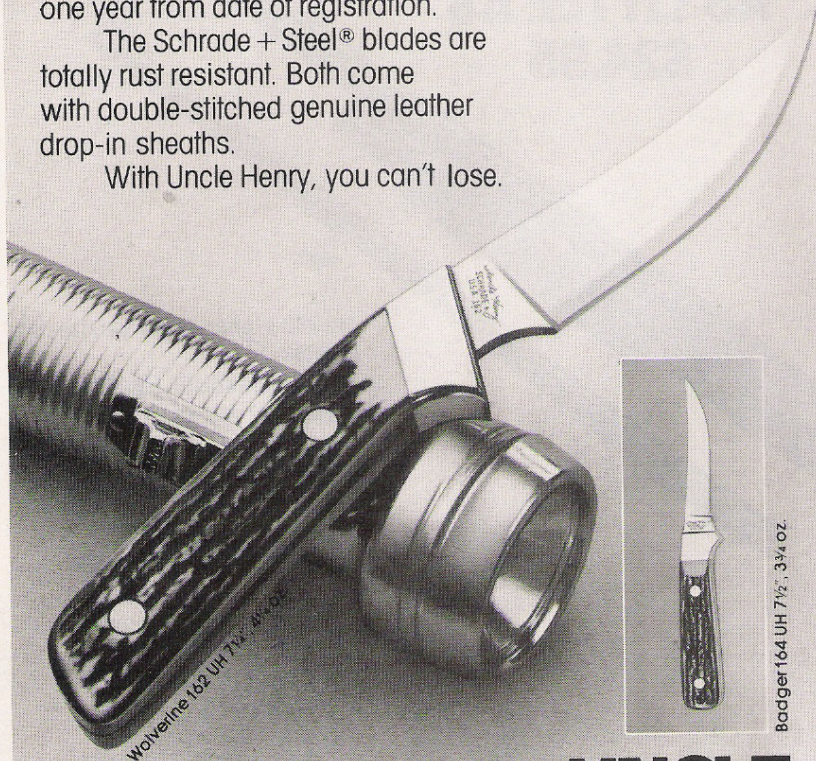
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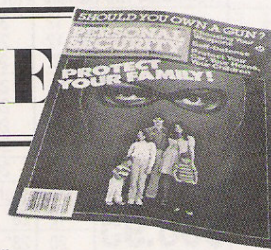
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## GUNNOTES

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in the plane and not near our bodies to absorb warmth.

My first long-range shooting here in Idaho was at ranges from 400 to 450 yards and I found I was holding too high and shooting over everything. This new .41 Magnum load is flatter than my handload for the .44 Magnum of 22 grains of 2400 and my 250-grain cast bullets, that I have shot so long and am used to. When I used the same sight picture on the new four-inch .41 Magnums I invariably shot high. When shooting Norma, Remington and Winchester jacketed soft point .44 Magnums, the sight picture seems about the same for both the .44 Magnum and the new .41 Magnum with these factory soft point 210-grain loads. My handload for the .44 Magnum goes only around 1,400 fps but is so accurate I prefer it for all my shooting to the factory 1,470 to 1,500 fps load.

At long range I noticed that the 210-grain, .41 bullet strike is harder to locate than that of the heavy 250-grain, .44 Magnum handload, or the 240-grain factory load. The larger caliber, heavier bullet certainly throws up more stuff.

I tried the new guns at 400 yards. My misses were all high until I cut down the amount of front sight held up over the rear sight bar in my sight picture. At 200 yards I tried several five-gallon tins, having little trouble hitting them once I found out how little front sight to hold up on these short-barrel police guns. The new cartridge is much more powerful than the .357 Magnum, cuts a larger hole and throws 50 grains more lead. On the other hand it is considerably lighter in recoil than the .44 Magnum. Report and muzzle blast are, of course, sharp and fairly heavy with both .41 and .44 Magnums.

These four-inch barrel guns surprise me for accuracy every time I shoot them and for some crazy reason I seem to make as many freak, long-range hits with them as with my longer-barreled guns. Of course the four-inch barrels do not deliver the power of their longer brethren, but they seem just as accurate. I never could do well with a sixgun having a barrel over 7½ inches. There is a much longer barrel time, and they seem far more sensitive to change in grip than do shorter barrel guns. I have used the Buntlines and the S&W 8¾-inch, and unless I am shooting from a sandbag, three-point rest, I much prefer shorter barrel guns.

For game shooting the 6½- to 7½-inch barrels are about right. Here's where you need maximum power from a sixgun. But for police work the four-inch or at best a five-inch is long enough.

On light animals the Winchester .41 Magnum 240-grain hollow point, with lot of lead exposure, will tear a bigger wound channel than a cast bullet, but deep penetration, which is desperately needed when

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# IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO 12-GAUGE RIFLED SLUG SHOOTERS

It has recently come to the attention of Remington Arms Company, Inc., that a small quantity of 12-gauge rifled slug shotshells manufactured in the summer of 1982 may produce substandard performance.

A small quantity of these shotshells were found to have been loaded with insufficient powder with the result that the slugs could lodge in barrels. Our tests have shown that use of this ammunition can result in gun damage, and could present a hazard to the shooter. To eliminate any possibility of an accident, the ammunition is being recalled.

To determine whether you have any of the shotshells in question, look for these markings on the package:

**PRODUCT:** 12-Gauge Rifled Slugs

**INDEX NUMBER:** (on end flap) Remington SP12RS-5PK  
Sluggger 12-Gauge 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " 1 oz.  
HPRS Five Hollow Point Rifled Slugs

**LOT NUMBER:** (on inside of end flap) AT01H218

If you have rifled slugs in boxes so marked, please return them to Remington for a prompt, no-charge replacement. The ammunition should be sent via United Parcel Service (UPS) transportation collect to:

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## GUNNOTES

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you shoot anything the size of an elk, moose or bear with a sixgun, is best obtained with my heavy load. In factory loads, the Norma cartridge, with a 240-grain steel jacket, will give the best penetration on heavy stuff like moose and big bear. The Remington 240-grain soft point is next best for penetration, but opens a very big wound channel on light game like deer, antelope and javelina.

A .44 Magnum with a 250-grain bullet, cast of hard lead alloy, will usually penetrate deeper in big game than most high-velocity expanding soft point or hollow point rifle bullets. This is something that few people realize and cannot believe until they've actually seen it. I've killed around 40 head of big game with sixguns—elk, bear, deer, caribou, cougar, mountain goat, and javelina, also 16 sharks and an awful lot of livestock and horses that had to be slaughtered due to being crippled. Properly placed, a sixgun slug will kill surprisingly well. However, it does not expand as much as a rifle bullet nor tear as large a wound. It must be carefully placed, preferably in the spine, shoulder, or in the brain.

For hunting use, the best guns in .44 Magnum and .41 Magnum are the Smith & Wesson revolvers with 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch barrels. The big dragoon-styled Ruger Super Blackhawks in .44 Magnum and .41 Magnum are also wonderful trail guns. They are about the best for big-game shooting.

You must realize that any handgun cartridge is relatively small for big game. It should be used in a six-inch to a 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch barrel. I have never been able to shoot barrels over 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches as accurately as those 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches or under. The long Buntlines are a total loss for me. Of course the longer barrel gives more velocity. There's a marked difference in penetration from a 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch .44 Magnum and a four-inch, on steel plate. The same difference applies when the bullets are lobbed into a deer. Guns with four-inch barrels are very handy to pack. They are excellent for peace officers, especially when riding in cars. On a belt holster they don't dig into the seat or push the belt up. However for hunting, a six- to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch barrel gives more velocity, and a longer sight radius.

The sixgun is a firearm of opportunity. It is short and light. You can carry it with you at all times. In the hills, you'll have many opportunities to kill big game that would otherwise be lost.

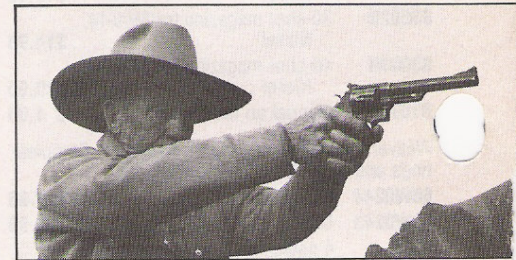
Hunting handguns should be fitted with the best possible sights. I favor a gold or red post front sight,  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch to a full  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in width, with a Patridge rear sight of corresponding width. Have the rear notch wide enough so you can see a little daylight on each side of the front sight in the normal offhand stance.

For hunting in adverse weather conditions, the best way to pack a heavy sixgun is in a shoulder holster. Under a coat or a

wool shirt, it's out of the weather, clean and dry, ready for instant use. Both hands are free to pack game or to part brush. A shoulder holster beats a gun belt if you're in steep country, where you may have to slide downhill on the seat of your pants or fight brush. Brush will be whipping the gun, or it will be battering against rocks, if you're sliding down crevices and cliffs.

Scope-sighted revolvers can be used for big-game hunting. They offer the ultimate in accuracy and aiming, but personally I don't want a scope on any handgun. I want a handgun to be something I can use in one hand, from the hip or any other way, and do it quickly. On the other hand, if people want to hunt with a handgun with a scope on it so they can place their bullet, more power to them. It simply gripes us Old Westerners to see a scope on a sixgun. If I have to pack that much bulk and weight, I'd far rather have a small carbine for the same or a bigger cartridge.

Very accurate slow-fire shooting can be done with these outfits, but they require cumbersome holsters and the use of both hands to hold them. The scopes have small fields of view, making it difficult to follow moving game. I prefer Patridge sights, so I can swing ahead of running game, which I couldn't do with a scope-sighted pistol.



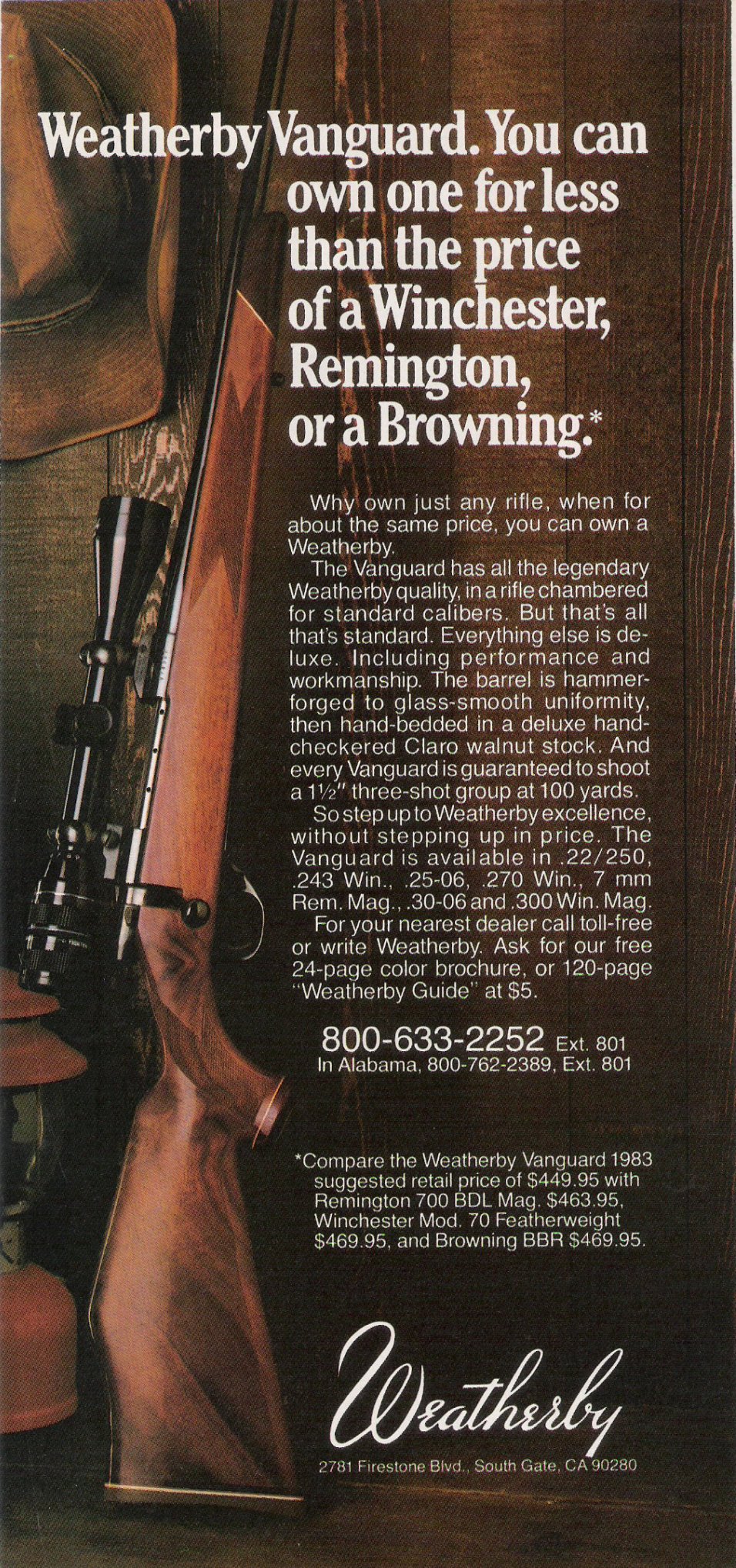
A good sixgun shot will have little trouble hitting big game out to 200 yards. Years ago there was a revolver club in Kentucky that regularly held 300-yard turkey shoots. Members shot at a silhouette of a life-sized turkey at 300 yards, using one hand. Several of those old boys were able to get three out of five hits offhand at 300 yards on the turkey silhouette. This is history, well-documented, published in many sporting magazines.

Many old cavalymen were able to make it awfully hot for an adversary out at 400 to 600 yards on the plains, where they could see the dust rise from near misses of their old .45 Colts, with 40-grain black powder loads. They were good pistol shots and had unlimited ammunition.

Some years back, Hugh Duncan asked me to go down to the river with his boy Norman and his boy's wife for steelhead fishing. As we drove along, Hugh was telling Norman what a good pistol shot I was. I told Hugh to shut up or I'd probably have to prove it. Just as we rounded a corner, there was a nice mule buck standing 250 yards away, across a field, on a sand bar at the edge of the river.

Hugh said, "Elmer, there's your buck!" His boy stopped the car. I got out and

*continued on page 16*



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## GUNNOTES

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crossed the road, trying to sneak to a fence post. The buck saw me and turned half way around so I sneaked back to the car and crawled in. I rolled the window down, and used the sill as a rest for both arms for as steady a position as I could possibly get. I held the front sight higher than normal, and set the deer on top of it. The shot went just over the top of the animal's shoulder and splashed in the river. This happened with a four-inch .44 Magnum Smith & Wesson. I reduced the amount of front sight I held up for the next shot. I saw the deer hump up and lunge into the brush. I knew I had hit him. Then I saw his head twice in the jumble of logs and brush. I held on it as carefully as I could and shot twice more. I heard the bullets chunk into the logs, but I didn't hit the deer. Then the deer came out through the heavy brush and logs into the rye grass; I could see all the body except the legs.

My next shot hit squarely in the right shoulder and out behind the left shoulder. I was shooting my 235-grain hollow points, cast by G.E. Murphy, and copper-plated. At that range, with a four-inch gun, they didn't open at all. The deer jumped, kicked at his belly, ran in a circle and piled up. I marked the deer's location from an old log with the bark peeled off. We went down across the field, and crossed the slough. When I found the log and got on it, I soon found the buck. We field-dressed him and washed him out. Then we dragged him to the car, and went fishing.

At extreme range the hollow point bullets failed to open entirely. They're still good killers, because of the large caliber. I have made a good many sixgun kills anywhere from 40 yards to 250. I actually hit a wounded buck two out of four shots, beyond 500 yards, and then lobbed another through his lungs at 600 yards or more. This, of course, was with a 6½-inch .44 Magnum. This shot has been the basis of my being called a liar more than anything I've ever written, but Paul Kriley was with me and witnessed it all.

The pistol hunter must be a still-hunter of the highest order. He should strive to get as close to his game as possible. In many sections where whitetail and Pacific Coast blacktail as well as the Texas whitetails are hunted, you're hunting in thick brush and your shots are usually anywhere from ten yards to 40 yards. A 100-yard shot is a long one. This applied equally well to the little deer on the Alaskan southeastern coast. A man is just as well off with a six-shooter. If he's a good shot, he's better off than packing a rifle. Then when he makes his kill, he can dress his little deer out, put it on a pack board, and have both hands free to help climb hills, packing out his game. Likewise, for hunting wild boars and hogs in the brush, I'd just as soon have a heavy .44 Magnum, 6½-inch barrel as any rifle; it's handier. *Continued Next Month*