



Keith had a favorable opinion of the .458 Winchester cartridge. He owned various rifles for this caliber such as this custom-built Champlin and Haskins bolt action. Note the top-tang safety, the "square" trigger guard, and the great distance between the scope mounts.

APRIL

REPEAL THE GUN-CONTROL LAW

It is high time every thinking American looked up the voting record of his congressmen and senators on this vicious gun-control law that has put thousands of small businessmen out of business completely. The major arms and ammunition companies have told me that their sales of rimfire rifles and ammunition were down 30 percent this year. One can but wonder what our legislators used for brains when they passed this crazy, unworkable, unenforceable law. Both *Guns & Ammo* as well as *The American Rifleman* published a list of all Senators and Congressmen and how they voted on this particular law.

By all means get a copy of the list. It won't be long until the next election and it is, in my opinion, the duty of every thinking person to vote out any legislators who sponsored or voted for this law. Our young lads are drafted for Vietnam at age eighteen, yet when under that age they cannot purchase a box of sixgun or rifle ammunition or even the lowly .22s for practice. So how can they learn to shoot and better equip themselves to serve our nation with a much better chance of survival in the conflict?

Rifle and pistol training should begin at home, in my opinion, and under proper supervision at a very tender age. Only thus can our boys become expert shots with either rifle or pistol. This is necessary if they are to perform their service duties to the utmost. The military training they will receive helps, but they must:

barrels are very handy in brush or timber or for pest shooting from Jeep or auto. For moderate-velocity cartridges of around 2,000 to 2,400 feet per second at the muzzle, such short barrels are about as efficient as longer ones.

However, when you start using big magnum, ultra-high-velocity cartridges in short barrels, you defeat your purpose. Heavy charges of slow-burning powders like 4350 and 4831 require long barrels for complete combustion. I believe it is a mistake ever to cut a barrel down to less than 24 inches for any of the big magnum cartridges, from the .264 and 7mm magnums through the .300s and the .338s, if maximum velocities are to be obtained. In the .375 and .458, which may be wanted for jungle and close-range work as well as on heavy, dangerous game, short barrels are in order when needed, but for the rifle employed on the lighter big game out at long range, 24 inches should be the minimum and 26 inches is even better. Bullet jackets designed for a given high velocity will not expand much if at all at any considerable range when fired from barrels shorter than those for which the cartridge and bullet were designed. Short barrels will, of course, give much deeper penetration with a given bullet for the simple reason that velocity is lower and they expand less, hence penetrate deep in the game. While there is a definite need for short-barreled weapons, there is also a need for long-barreled high-velocity jobs for the long-range shooting of goat, sheep, antelope, coyote, and so on.

DISMANTLING FINE GUNS

Each year I receive many inquiries on how to dismantle a particular gun. My best answer to all is not to do so. Leave it to the gunsmith when service is needed. Many curious individuals think they must see the working parts of their guns and will hop on a fine gun with a bunch of ill-fitting screwdrivers, promptly ruining the screws. They get the gun apart and then wonder how to get it back together. More fine guns are ruined every year by fools trying to see what makes them tick than by actual use in the field. If you want to become a gunsmith, go to an accredited gunsmith school and learn to make and grind screwdrivers to fit screw slots and also how to take the various guns apart and service and repair them. Otherwise, leave them alone unless they need service, in which case take them to a competent gunsmith. Most mule packers would make darn poor preachers, and blacksmiths seldom become watchmakers. By the same token, mighty few gun handlers are competent to take a gun apart, let alone repair it.



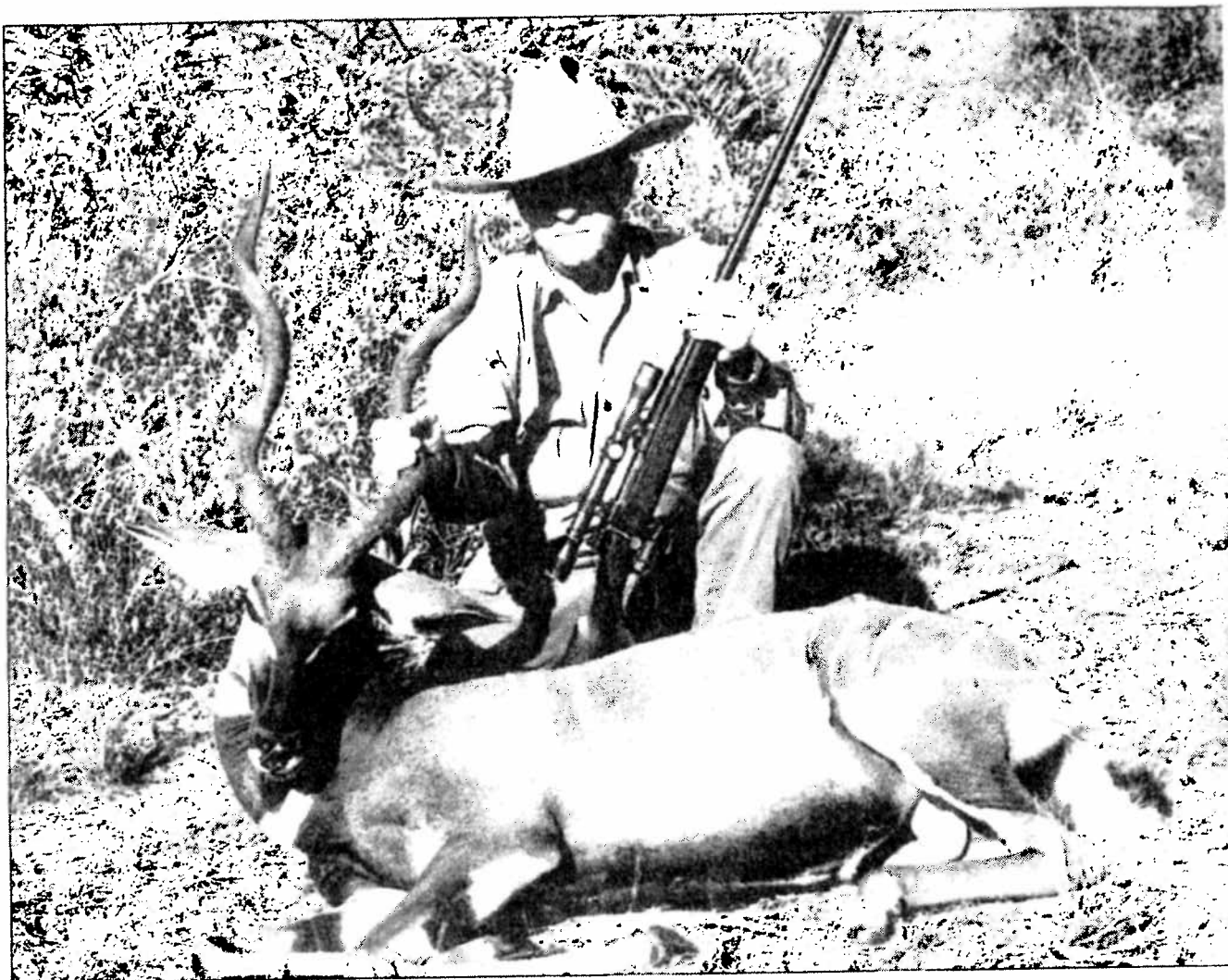
Barrel length is an important consideration, especially for magnum cartridges. This roan was shot with a .375 H&H Magnum, a caliber that performs well with a 24-inch barrel.

LEFT-EYED SHOOTERS

Many shooters have lost the use of one eye and are thus handicapped. One answer I have found for those with a good left eye who are right-handed is to have a Pachmayr swing mount altered to position the scope for the left eye when a rifle is held in normal position by a right-handed shooter. In that position, the scope can be swung over and sighted-in, and such shooters can again do good work. In sighting-in such a rifle, be sure to sight so that groups print the same distance to the right as the axis of the scope is from the bore. The rifle will then not shoot "off" at long range. For target use, it can be sighted to print at the exact point of aim at a given range, but in the field it should be sighted to print parallel with the scope reticle. This is handier for some than trying to shift over and shoot from the other shoulder.

CLEAN ELK KILLING

Tommy Thomson, who outfits, guides, and operates a hunting camp by pack string out of Glenwood Springs, Colorado, each fall, sent me the following report. Last fall was the first in 29 years of guiding and outfitting that he has not had to trail up or lose wounded elk. This year Tommy told his clients he would not book them unless they used rifles with a rated muzzle energy of at least 3,150 foot/pounds or 250-grain bullets at not less than 2,800 foot/pounds.



When choosing rifles for African game, it must always be remembered that any size animal can suddenly appear—from the smallest antelope to a one-ton buffalo. Keith used a .375 H&H Magnum on this lesser kudu, which Keith felt to be a good caliber for all antelopes but too small for thick-skinned game.

if he had used your .577 instead of straining his heart running after elephant he had wounded with 7mm."

Forbes made three trips across Africa with W.D.M. Bell in the old days. He used a pair of .405 Winchesters, backed up by a .577 double rifle, and accounted for a lot of heavy ivory. Gerritt Forbes was a cousin of the late Franklin D. Roosevelt and was the man who first recommended the .405 Model 95 Winchester to Teddy Roosevelt before he went to Africa.

In 1957, I spent 45 days in Tanganyika hunting with that great professional hunter, John Lawrence. I used a .333 OKH, with 300-grain softpoints and solids, and a .476 Westley Richards for my heavy rifle. Since then, I have recommended nothing smaller than a .338, which by the way is just our old .33 OKH short-belted with bullet diameter increased .008 inch. Don

Hopkins used the .333 OKH for his plains-game rifle on some 12 long safaris. My recommendation has long been the .338 Winchester, with 275-grain Speer softs and solids, or the .340 Weatherby with the same bullets, the .378 Weatherby with softs and solids, or our latest .338-378 KT, with 275-grain Speer softpoints and solids. Use the softnose bullets on all the larger antelope, especially greater kudu, eland, roan, zebra, *kongoni*, oryx, sable, etc.; on the tiny antelope, simply use solids that won't destroy meat or trophies. For the Big Five, use the biggest double rifle you can handle.

On that 1957 Safari, I took all the Big Five plus a 54-inch greater kudu, good sable, and roan and oryx, mostly with one shot each. Since then, I put in a 10-day safari with Bob Petersen, Tom Siatos, and Dave Shane as hunters and John Northcote and Nicky Blunt

Elmer Keith
Gun Collection
Single Barrel Rifles
April, 1972

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| Rifle-R | Make | Model | Calibre | Action | Scope | Serial # | Value |
|---|-------------------------|-----------|-------------|---------|--------------|-----------|-------|
| R 40 | Marlin | 336 | 44 Mag | Bolt | — | 14468 | 150. |
| R 41 | Sako | L-461 | 222 Rem | Bolt | K-G Weaver | 111489 | 300. |
| R 42 | Ruger | 77 | 243 Win | Bolt | Redfield 4x7 | 15 | 225. |
| R 43 | Ruger | 77 | 7mm Rem | Bolt | Leupold 6X | 70-23529 | 225. |
| R 44 | Ruger (Bull Gun) | 77 | 25-06 | Bolt | Weaver 4x12 | 70-31945 | 250. |
| R 45 | Marlin (Carbine) | 336 | 30-30 | Lever | — | 129093 | 150. |
| R 46 | Winchester | 94 | 30-30 | Lever | — | NRA 43969 | 175. |
| NRA Commemorative | | | | | | | |
| R 47 | Marlin | M-1 | 22LR | Auto | Scope | No # | 75. |
| (Miniature of M-1 Carbine) | | | | | | | |
| R 48 | Sentinel Arms Co | | 38 | None | — | 140 | 330. |
| 1/2 Stock Percussion Replica "Plainsman" Fully Engraved | | | | | | | |
| R 49 | Thompson Center Arms Co | | | | | | |
| (Replica Hawkin) 50 2073 200 | | | | | | | |
| R 50 | British Lee Enfield | | 303 British | | | 6582 | 50 |
| Special Snipers Rifle Full Stock & Handguard. | | | | | | | |
| R 51 | Chaplin & Haskins | 458 Win | C&H Bolt | 23/4X | — | #1 | |
| Keith grade, Keith design externally Redfield, tiron sights | | | | | | | |
| R 52 | Browning Olympic | | 338 mag | Mausser | Leupold 6X | 1X7378 | 750 |
| Fully engraved Bolt Action 4X | | | | | | | |
| German DDmt, | | | | | | | |
| R 53 | Custom | | 338 Mag | FN Mag | Browning | EK 777 | 1,200 |
| Stokeby Gail & Skip Bartlett. 4X | | | | | | | |
| Metal work Iver Henriksen | | | | | | | |
| R 54 | Hoffman Arms Co | | | | | 361 | 2000 |
| Mag mauser Custom 404 Jeffry Bolt | | | | | | | |
| fully engraved mag mauser | | | | | | | |
| new condition | | | | | | | |
| Gold Mountain Goat on Floor Plate | | | | | | | |
| R 55 | Hoffman Arms Co | | 375 H&H | | | 28171 | 1,500 |
| english Folding Leaf sights | | | | | | | |
| H. Whalen Peep sight | | | | | | | |
| R 56 | Chaplin & Haskins | (338-378) | | | | 61 | 2,000 |
| Keith Grade (Keith-Thompson) | | | | | | | |
| Octogan barrel 3x 9X | | | | | | | |
| tiron sights Redfield | | | | | | | |
| R 57 | Chaplin & Haskins | | 375 H&H | | Leupold | 27 | 5,000 |
| Keith Grade 3 Power | | | | | | | |
| fully gold an laid, octogan barrel | | | | | | | |
| 2 Cape Buffalo on Trigger Guard | | | | | | | |
| Mtn sheep on Trigger Guard & Left Side Receiver | | | | | | | |