

people, clean, neat, and very high-class people. A lady sat across from me. I noticed she was eyeing the apples. She ate the two she had and was eyeing mine. She said, "Mr. Keith, aren't you going to eat your apple?"

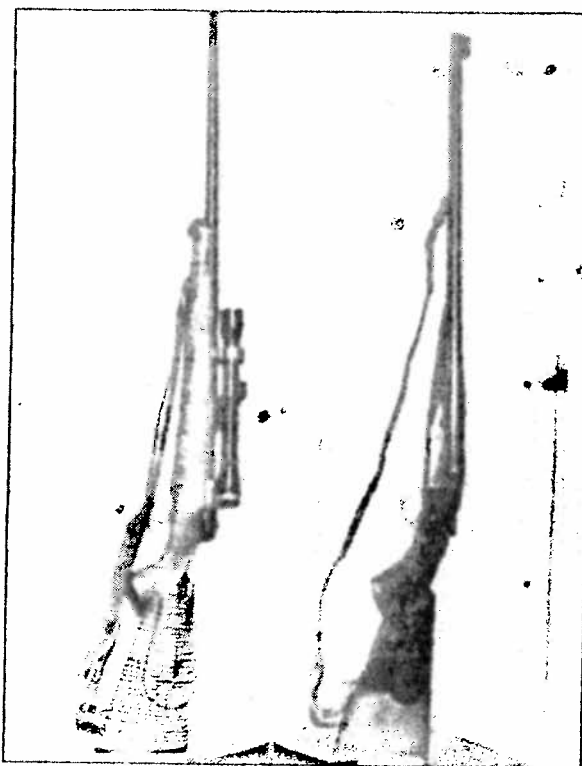
"No," I said. "They are falling off the tree at home. Take mine." She had only drank about a half of a bottle of her wine and I told her I could use the wine if she didn't want that, so we made a trade.

We landed at Khartoum, one of the hottest, dirtiest, stinkingest airports I believe I was ever in. Beer, warm, was 90¢ a bottle. On the trip I flew with a South African soldier, a very nice chap. We didn't bother with any of their warm beer, but had a cup of tea and finally took off for Nairobi. There was a thunderstorm on at the time and we flew around for some time before we landed on the runway. Mud was ankle deep on each side of it.

Colonel Caulfield met me and took me in tow and up to the New Stanley hotel where I had a room. Rooms there then were \$4 per day. This also included a breakfast. There was a table covered with all kinds of breakfast food and various kinds of fruit for you to make a selection. Then you went to the table and ordered your toast and bacon or toast and eggs. I didn't see any hotcakes listed on the menu.

Caulfield told me that John Lawrence would be in off a hunt sometime the next day. Sure enough, he came in and I liked him from the start. He had enlisted in the King's African Rifles as a private and at the end of World War II had come out as captain of his company. They fought the Italians and later fought against the native uprising against some other settlers, and was headed by the man who is now head of the Kenya government. I met and got acquainted with several of the firm's white hunters—all fine chaps. I took along two rifles: a best-quality detachable lock single-trigger ejector .476 Westley Richards, and a .333 OKH Mauser made up by Iver Henriksen with an Ashurst barrel. I had both solid factory Kynoch loads for the big double, and also my own handloads, and some 200 of the .333 OKH.

White Hunters Limited were having a meeting at this time, and John went with them while I stayed around the office and prowled around the town. It was quite a city, even then. They asked John what he was going to do and he told them he was going to take his jeep and a trailer and four boys and give me a rough, tough trip but a good one and try and get me the big five. They informed John, "You're not going to do any such thing



1041

Keith's favorite African rifles included his .333 O.K.H. Mauser with 26-inch barrel, mounted by a K-4 Weaver scope, and the .476 best-quality Westley Richards with detachable locks and single trigger.

You're going to take the big truck, ten boys, and give Elmer 'the works' because he has done enough for us in recommending adequate rifles for Americans coming out here for many years now. It's time we gave him the full treatment." This they did.

I wanted elephant, buffalo, and I had my heart set on a sable. I didn't think much about getting lion or leopard. I thought they would be very hard to get, as well as the greater Kudu, but John said, "We're going to get them all, Elmer," and we did.

John drove his jeep while one of his boys, his "boss boy" he called him, drove the big truck with ten boys and all our safari equipment, and we headed for Arusha where we had to go through all the formalities of obtaining the licenses, registering my guns and ammunition, and finally made it out into the bush. John's two gun bearers, which he called trackers, were Galu-Galu and Goyo. Goyo had fought with John during the uprising. Galu-Galu would weigh about 80 pounds soaking wet, and his wife had just died in childbirth. I guess she was a very young girl from what John said. So John said the best thing for the little guy was to take him out on a hunt.

(Near right) One of a pair
of .476 Westley's
used by Keith in Africa.

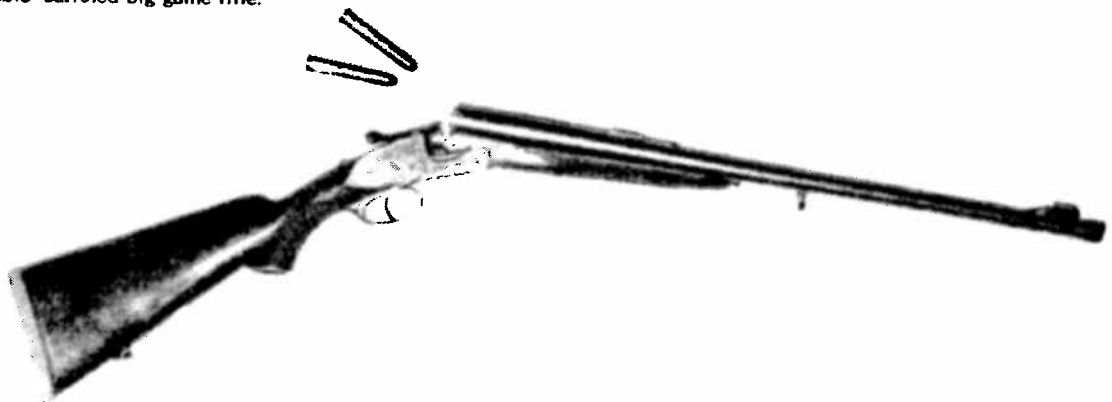
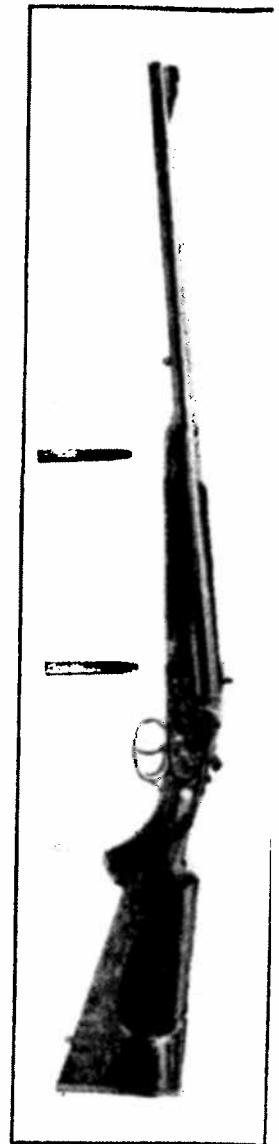
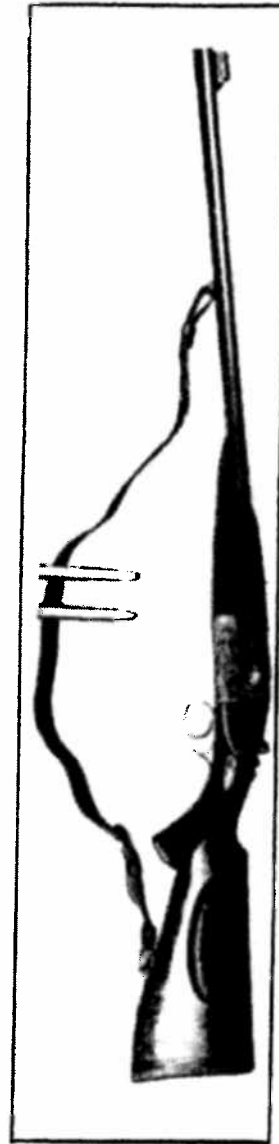
(Far right) D.S.H. .470 Purdey
owned by Don Hopkins
weighs just over 10 pounds.

66



Loading the .577 caliber double-barreled rifle.

Royal Grade H & H .577 caliber Nitro Express
double-barreled big game rifle.





These two record bison heads decorate the wall of Elmer's study. One was taken with a .45-120-550 Sharps. The other fell to a .476 Westley Richards double rifle.

The next time I held all of the front sight up and a bit of the ramp, just perched the deer on top. After the shot the gun came down out of recoil and the bullet had evidently landed. The buck made a high buck-jump, swapped ends, and came back toward us, shaking his head. I told Paul I must have hit a horn. I asked him to let the buck come back until he was right on us if he would, let him come as close as he would and I'd jump up and kill him. When he came back to where Paul had first rolled him, out about 500 yards, Paul said, "I could hit him now, I think."

"Well," I said, "I don't like to see a deer run on three legs. Go ahead." He shot again and missed. The buck swapped ends and turned around and went back right over the same trail. Paul said, "I'm out of ammunition. Empty." I told him to reload, duck back out of sight, go on around the hill and head the old buck off, and I'd chase him on around. Paul took off on a run to go around this bunch-grass hill and get up above the buck

Bison #48037

45-120-530 Sharps
:476 Westley Richards

HI WT p. 200
(#11 I was There)

p. 12
L. 11

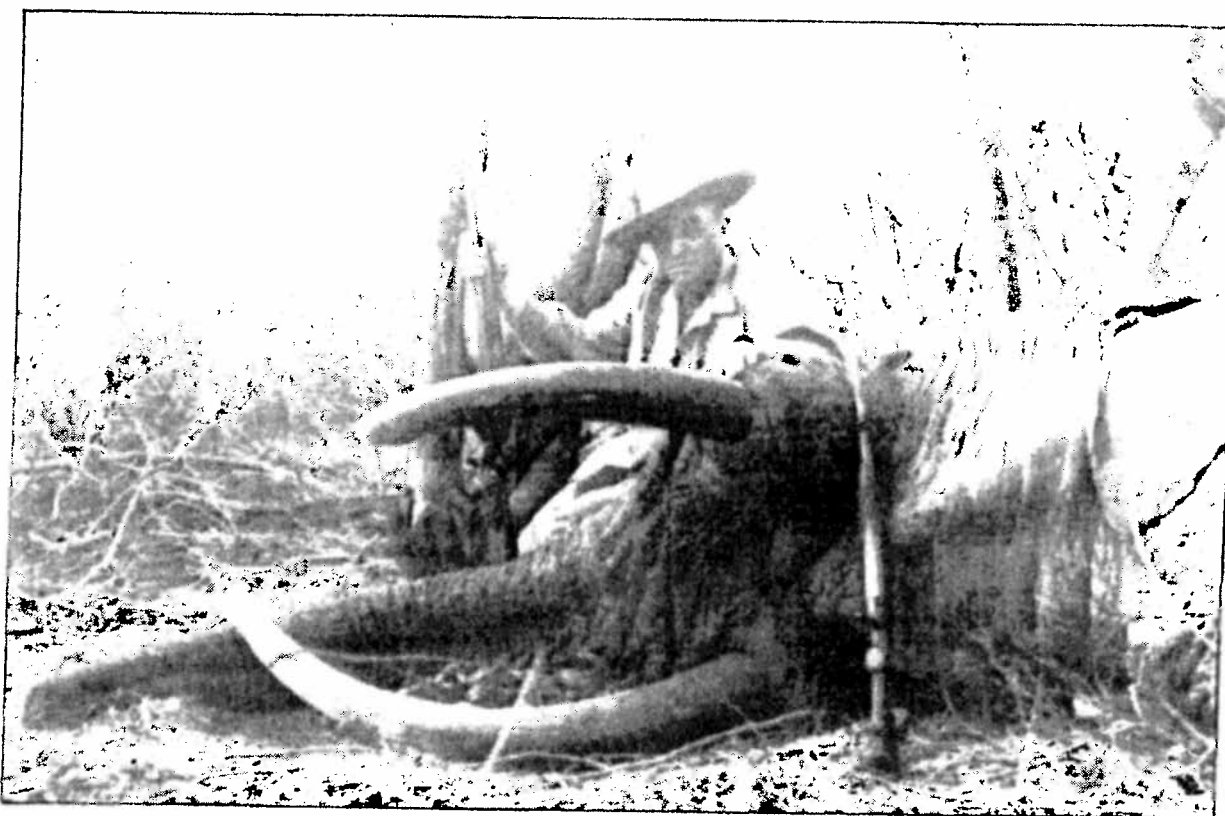
#47960

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up and walked from the tracks to the ridge in front of us. There were a few pine trees down below, so I cut across to intercept his tracks. I could see he was bleeding out both sides.

Just before I got to the top of the ridge I heard a shot up above me and then another shot, and I yelled and asked if it was Paul. He answered. I asked, "Did you get him?" He said, "Yes, he's down there by that big pine



It took two heart shots from the .476 to anchor this bull, and although the range was just 40 yards, the angle of the elephant prevented Keith from noticing the broken tusk.

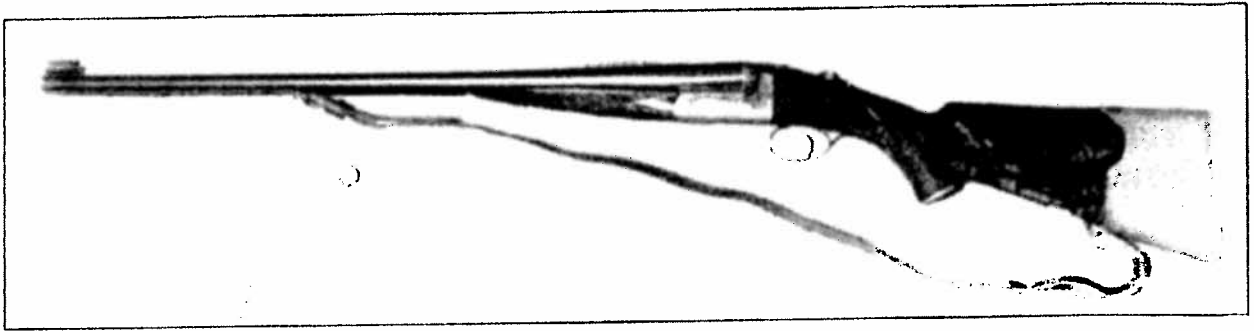
a weasel, traveled like them, and I was sure he was a weasel. When we were camped at Makalama Mission one morning, a golden mongoose came along and stood up on his hind feet right in front of my tent about fifteen feet away and he had a sheen of gold in his hair. His tail tapered, heavy at the butt and tapered to a point like an otter. So I knew I'd seen a golden mongoose then. After that we saw several more of those weasels. John said if I got a chance at another one to shoot him with a shotgun and I could get a hide for a specimen, but we never got another chance.

We saw a great many mongoose at the different camps. They'd travel in groups of four to a dozen spread out several feet to yards apart and they seemed to drift along at a fast run and shift back and forth. They were hunting snakes and lizards. There were several different kinds of them. One was a little brown mongoose that John said made a wonderful pet. He'd had one for several years. He'd put him in a cage or in a lantern when he moved camp, and then turn him loose. The little fellow would clean up any snakes or vermin around the camp and sleep in his bed with him. He said the natives caught them and

tamed them. They made wonderful pets and kept the snakes away from camp.

The boys killed a big old adder in front of my tent after we'd gone hunting one morning, and another one we found had crawled under the tarp that covered my trophies, and we killed him. I saw very few snakes on the trip. One day after we'd trailed a big rhino all day from one water hole to another, I saw about six feet of a great dark-colored snake go into a bush. I was in the tail end of the procession, all in as we had covered about 20 miles, and I yelled at John about it. John says, "Ah, come on. It's nothing but a darned cobra." He didn't even stop, so I went on. Another day we were driving up the road and two long slim pale green snakes were wrapped around each other. John stopped the jeep, got a club and proceeded to hit them as hard as he could. One of them he killed, and the other one slithered away into the grass. I asked him what they were and he didn't answer. However, on a later trip in '69 I saw some of them in a zoo. They were mambas.

At one camp where we hunted rhino, the natives at the village said a huge bull rhino had killed one of their men about a week



This .476 Westley Richards double rifle had a stock too short for Keith. Rather than restock it, he wisely added a rubber extension since restocking a double may alter the accuracy of such a rifle.

field gun which must be mounted and fired quickly. I like a heel drop of just $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches on about all my guns, both rifles and shotguns, and a length of $13\frac{3}{4}$ inches on bolt- or lever-action rifles and a length of $14\frac{1}{4}$ inches on shotguns or double rifles, as they come up and handle much the same.

The comb should be full enough and high enough to afford firm support without crowding. If you have to crowd your cheek bone down hard to see the sights on a rifle or at proper elevation over the rib of a shotgun, then the comb is too high; and if it is not high enough to afford proper facial support, then its too low.

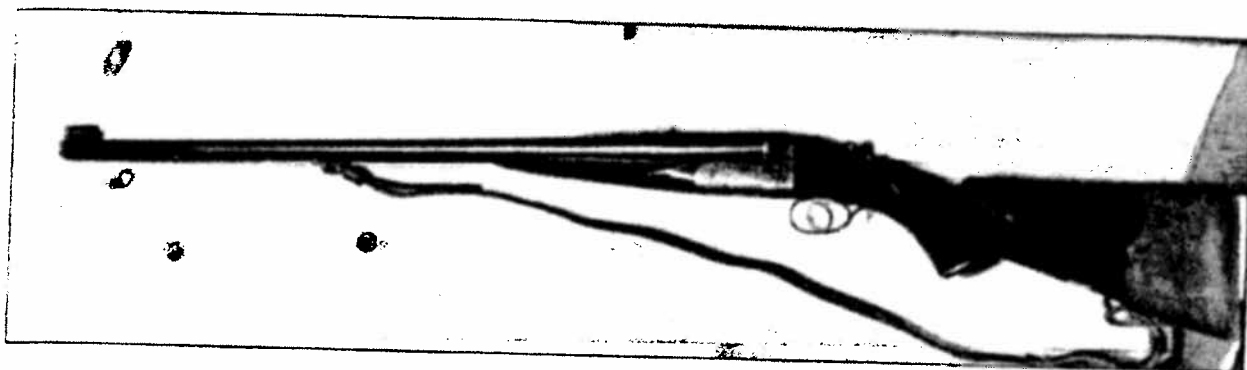
Height of comb is governed largely by the cheek bone of the individual, and those with very fine features and high cheek bones need a much higher and thicker comb than those with full faces and lower cheek bones. This has to be worked out by the individual for proper fit and comfort. I like a comb drop on rifles of $1\frac{5}{8}$ inches, and on shotguns a drop of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. On all rifles, and particularly shotguns of some recoil, I prefer the Monte Carlo comb. On shotguns it should be exactly the same height at both nose and bump, so when swinging for a crossing shot from either side the cheek bone is held at exactly the same elevation on the stock.

For this reason, Monte Carlo stocks are best of all on both rifles and shotguns as they maintain a more even elevation of the cheek bone, and consequently the shooter's eye over the rib or through the sights or scope. On rifles, the rear end of the Monte Carlo comb should be $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ inch higher, particularly on rifles of heavy recoil, so the comb will slip out from under the cheek bone in recoil rather than rise and bump the cheek bone. That is the way I designed my first Monte Carlo rifle stocks some 30 years ago, and it has proven so correct that about all makers in this and other countries have now adopted the design.

Some 30 years ago, I also designed a shotgun stock with a straight-grip Monte Carlo comb cheekpiece, and Frank Pachmayr made the stock for an old No. 4 Ithaca ejector for me. It proved to be the best shotgun stock I had then used, and I notice a great many shotgun stocks now follow that same design. Both nose and bump of comb on that stock had $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches of drop, the heel $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches of drop, length $14\frac{1}{4}$ inches, and I have never used a more comfortable stock on any shotgun. Fred Shaw so stocked my old Magnum 10 Ithaca in Circassian to my design, and that also fits and gives no appreciable facial recoil whatever. The best-fitting rifle stocks I have were made by Iver P. Henriksen, Jack Frost, Gale Bartlett, Nate Bishop, and Reinhart Fajen, all to this design.

In down pitch I like from one to two inches, not more except on lever-action rifles. On those, if necessary, it can be increased to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches to help hold the buttplate on the shoulder as the lever is worked. Remember, a zero-pitch rifle or shotgun tends to kick off the shoulder and, to my notion, the heel should be slightly longer so it will stay in place on the shoulder. Also, zero pitch on shotguns usually makes for a high-shooting gun and excessive down pitch makes for a low-shooting gun. A zero or up-pitched gunstock often wants to slip down off the shoulder when mounted and is hard to hold on the shoulder. Such a stock on rifles or heavy-recoil shotguns like the magnum 10 will invariably kick downward off the shoulder as the barrels rise in recoil.

Next, let us look at fore-ends. I like a good rounded fore-end for rifles and do not like beavertails at all on any rifle, as they serve no useful purpose, for me at least. I do like the fore-end full and round and large enough to afford a firm grip, as you can take up a lot of recoil with the forward hand, but I do not like a huge sawlog of fore-end on any gun, either rifle or shot-



Keith handloaded for the large nitro calibers extensively. He used just about every caliber between .400 NE and .600 NE. Shown here is a Westley Richards in .476 NE caliber.

cartridges. I am leery of most fillers in the big cordite cartridges for the following reasons. Anything but Kapok fiber greatly increases pressures and even Kapok shows marked increases in pressure with any otherwise normal load of our IMR Powders. Owen Rutherford has been killing elephant and buffalo in Zaire with a .475 No. 2 Jeffery double rifle and his load for it is just 77 grains of 3031 with the new Kynoch hot No. 172 primer and a wad of Kapok fiber to hold the powder in place. The normal cordite load for the .475 No. 2 Jeffery with 500-grain bullet is 85 grains. Rutherford's load of 77 grains of 3031 with Kapok filler and 172 Kynoch primer shoots to normal elevation and both barrels shoot together, showing it duplicates the 85-grain cordite load with 500-grain bullet and the old No. 40 primer. This shows conclusively how much more pressure is generated by the #172 noncorrosive cap as well as increase in pressures from the Kapok filler. He even shot elephants in the rear end and had the slugs penetrate clear to the shoulder muscles. He used Barnes or Colorado Custom 500-grain solids.

I had a load of 115 grains of 4895 with the 750-grain Kynoch jacketed bullet worked out for my .577 rifles using the Old No. 40 corrosive primers. Thank Allah I fired it in my big Rigby/Farquharson after switching to No. 172 primers, instead of my best Westley Richards double. The case was stretched clear up into the rifling and split on three sides. It would have ruined any double rifle I believe, but the big Webley 1902 action Rigby/Farquharson held it safely. Needless to say, I stopped use of the 172 cap in that load.

Chuck Mallick has also worked out a load of 81 grains of 4350 with the 500-grain Colorado Custom and Kynoch bullets for the .470 and 172 primer. The 172 primer works well with our slower powders like 4350 and 4831, but is dyna-

mite when used with our fast powders like 3031, 4895 and to a lesser extent 4064. He uses a light Kapok filler in this load and claims extraction is free and easy with no undue pressure signs, despite the original cordite load being 75 grains.

I have also had reports of using 81 to 83.5 grains of 4350 with the 172 primer in the .465 H&H cartridge with excellent grouping and pressures. I would advise anyone working up loads in any double rifle to start way low and go slow and stop at the least sign of excessive pressure or hard extraction. Back off the charge a couple grains and if you use Kapok fiber for a filler over the powder, then be sure to start low with the powder charge and the same can be said of the new 172 Kynoch primer. It is very hot and all loads must be reduced with fast powders and, to an extent, with slow powders until the grouping of the two barrels is together. The hot 172 primer seems to work well in the .500-450 H&H as Phil Robinson worked up an excellent load of 81 grains 4350 and 480-grain bullet. Colorado Custom Bullets can furnish excellent bullets in most calibers and their .049-inch-jacket softnose in the big calibers has been working well in Africa on Cape buffalo and their solids on elephant.

In the past I have worked up loads for five double rifles in the .450-400 Jeffery caliber. Using No. 40 corrosive Berdan caps, all five regulated perfectly with 63 to 67-grains of 4064 and the 400-grain softnose or solid Kynoch or Barnes bullets. Be sure and stop increasing powder charges when you get normal grouping.

OFF-DUTY POLICE GUN

Most experienced officers pack their heavy-duty weapon when in plain clothes but many also insist on a lightweight gun for such service. Personally I prefer to pack a .44 Magnum S&W

SPECIAL REPORT HOW YOU CAN 'GUN FOR PROFIT'

GUNS & AMMO

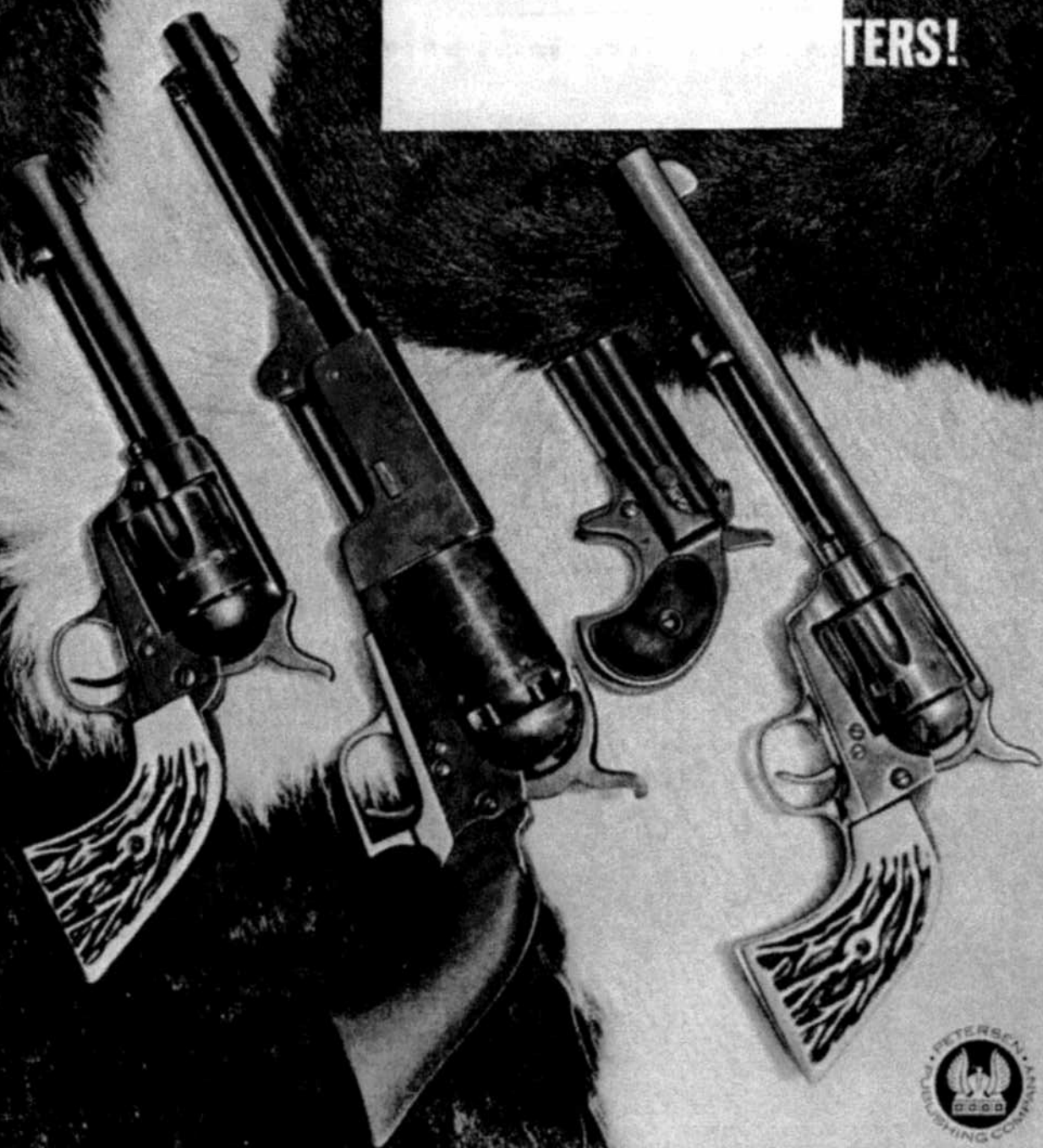
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couple

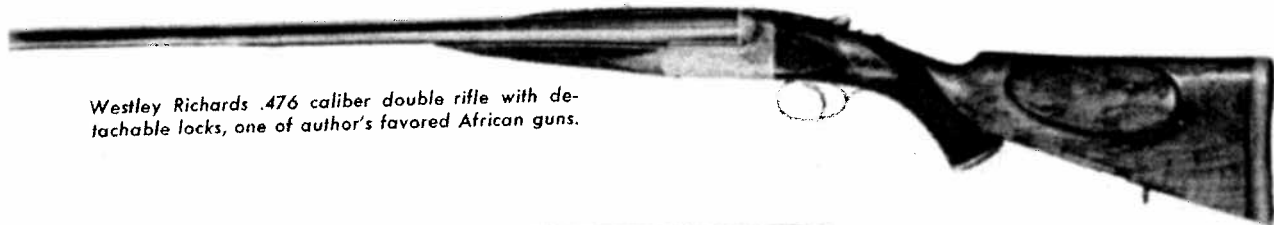
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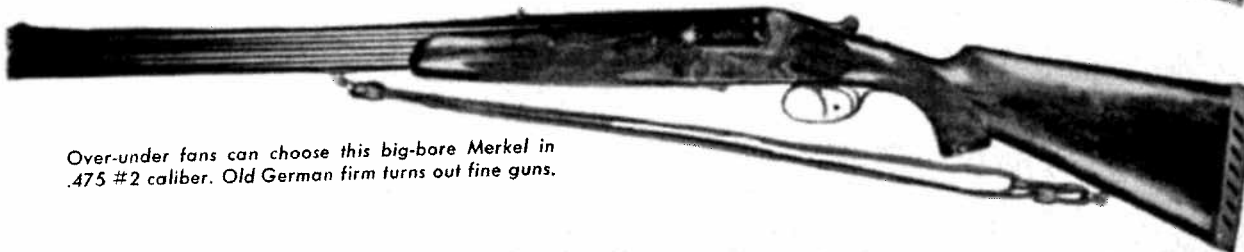
Elmore two Westley
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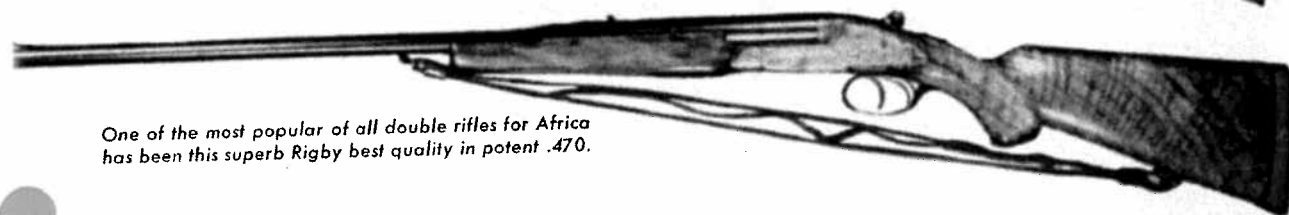
One of the most popular combos for African hunting is this Westley Richards double in 450/.400 3-in. cal.



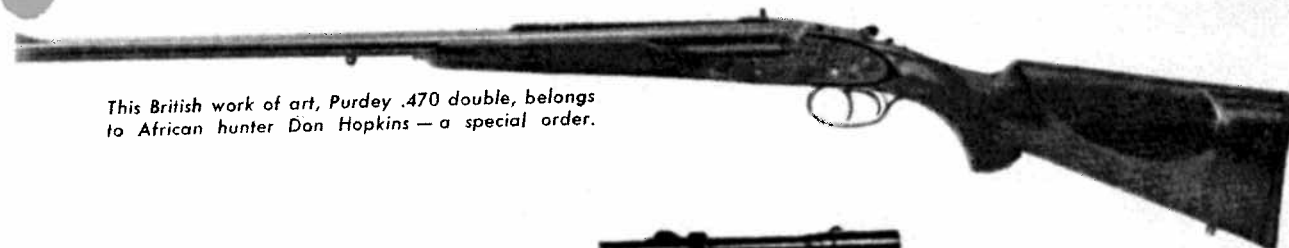
Westley Richards .476 caliber double rifle with detachable locks, one of author's favored African guns.



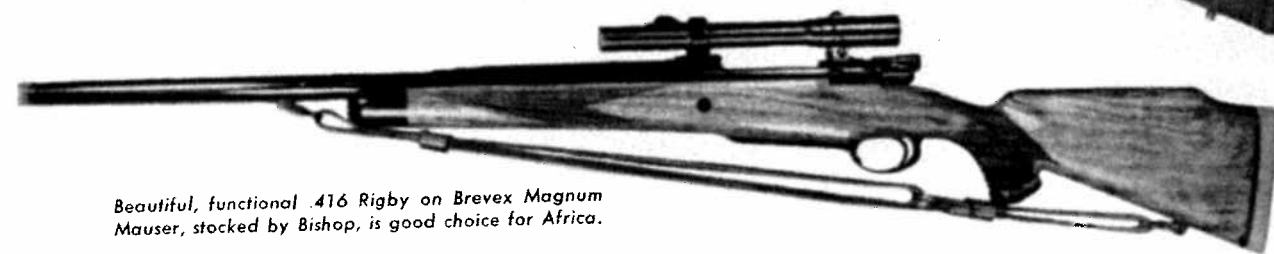
Over-under fans can choose this big-bore Merkel in .475 #2 caliber. Old German firm turns out fine guns.



One of the most popular of all double rifles for Africa has been this superb Rigby best quality in potent .470.



This British work of art, Purdey .470 double, belongs to African hunter Don Hopkins — a special order.



Beautiful, functional .416 Rigby on Brevex Magnum Mauser, stocked by Bishop, is good choice for Africa.



One of most powerful of all bolt action big-bores is .505 Gibbs. This one was turned out by Hoffman Arms.

Elmer Keith
Gun Collection

April 1972

Double Barrel Rifle

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Rifle	Make	Calibre	Serial #	Value
R 58	Charles Boswell-Ejector	500 NE	17109	4,500
	Cased with Accessories with EK on stock			
R 59	Holland & Holland Royal Grade	375 Mag Rim		
	Scope Sighted-Hand Detachable Side Locks		30423	5,000
	Fully Engraved-Cased w/ all accessories			
R 60	Westley Richards Cape Gun	303 British	T2247	4,000
	ejectors, Hand detachable 16 Gauge			
	locks, & pistol Circassian stock			
R 61	Jeffery - Box Lock			
	fully engraved	450-400	20176	10,000
	24" Bbl.	4"		
	Jim Corbets Tigre Rifle used to kill man eating			
	tigres, some who have killed 100-300 natives			
	Oak & Leather case w/ accessories			
	Worn bright but good condition			
	2 triggers / w ejectors.			
R 62	Westley Richards	476 NE	17222	5,000
	Best Quality, Hand detachable locks			
	ejectors, single trigger			
	fully engraved			
	Circassian stock			
	Used by EK to kill big 5 in 1957			
	Cased w/ all accessories			
R 63	Westley Richards #2 Grade	500 N.E.	09367	4,000
	ejectors, cased w/ all accessories			
	plain gun - new condition			
R 64	Westley Richards - Best Quality,	476 NE	9331	5,000
	plain finished, ejectors, Hand			
	detachable locks, cased with all			
	accessories			
	made for Stewart Edward White			
	used in Africa - Big 5			
R 65	Josh-Springer - Best Quality,	9374 R	10506	5,000
	full side lock, ejectors			
	Hand detachable locks			
	set triggers, Scope sighted w/ Zeiss Zielvier			
	4X scope P.A. mounts			
	fully engraved			
R 66	Westley Richards - ejector, Best Quality		17336	5,000
	Hand detachable locks	577 NE		
	fully engraved + extra set of locks			