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HANDGUNS AND YOUR INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY

# GUNS & AMMO

AUGUST 1976 02010

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**BUYER'S GUIDE:  
TO THE SUPER ACCURATE  
.22 AUTO PISTOL**

**NOW! A LEGAL VERSION  
OF THE FAMED  
.45 TOMMY GUN**

**HUNTING BONUS:  
SQUIRRELS**

**BARREL LENGTH VS.  
VELOCITY—  
GETTING THE MOST  
FROM YOUR .38/.357**

**KEITH GRADE  
.375**

## FIELD TESTS:

- GOLDEN EAGLE  
0/U 12 GAUGE
- SAVAGE ANSCHUTZ  
.22 RIMFIRE
- JAC LONG SLIDE  
.45 AUTO

**YOUR POLICE**

THIS MONTH  
SHAKER HEIGHTS,  
OHIO



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A good many years ago Frank Pachmayr, Howard Vermillion and I sat on the steep slope of Squaw Creek, far down the Salmon river. I was teasing an old bull elk farther up the creek with my bugle. I told Pew, Vermillion's guide to take Howard up the creek, circle down wind and kill the bull while I held him with the bugle. They took off. Just across from us at

rear sight and also at the muzzle. Around each section of engraving was silver-line inlay, beautifully done, and on the receiver, was a bull elk head, on the bridge a bob cat, on the floor plate a standing grizzly and on the trigger guard a rams head. Each inlay was surrounded by deep hand engraving and silver line borders. The bolt handle had been reshaped, customized and well en-

of the ebony tip, also ran upwards toward the barrel—the best possible grain structure for fine accuracy. The rifle was stocked to my old Monte Carlo cheek rest specifications and design. It was fitted with Pachmayr's finest Old English style solid recoil pad. The grip cap carried a gold center well engraved. The sling swivels are the best I have ever seen and feature a small rounded

# Pachmayr's Model 70 Masterpiece

Grace, Elegance And Beauty Have Been Combined With Pachmayr Gunsmithing Excellence To Produce The Finest Model 70 Ever Made

—Elmer Keith, Executive Editor

400 yards we had another fine six point bull bedded broadside in the dense tangle of new production and fallen logs from an old burn and a foot of wet snow. I told Frank to wait until Howard killed his bull, then he could shoot the one across the canyon. Frank carried a .30 P.M.V.F. and I my old .334 O.K.H. Soon a cloud of fog closed in and obscured our elk from view. Then we heard three shots from Vermillion's .375 Hoffman.

For some unknown reason the outfitter took off down the slope in the fog. We dared not yell at him as we knew it would spook Frank's bull. Soon we heard him shoot and when the fog lifted, no sign of either outfitter or elk. I had told them all that a big spruce in the bottom of the creek would be our hotel as we had no chance to climb out of there the same day. Frank and I waded the snow and crawled over logs to where the elk had been—no sign of either elk or outfitter and no blood trail. I had told Pew to bring in the tenderloins and heart of Vermillion's bull (which he did) and we ate it roasted on sticks and spent the night under the big spruce. On that ill fated elk hunt Frank said, "Elmer I am going to build you a real elk rifle." When asked what caliber I preferred, I told him that a .375 would suit my needs.

Years later when I was in Los Angeles Frank showed me an old Model 70 in .375 H & H (serial number 104326) that he had sent to Europe and had beautifully engraved—both action barrel from receiver to beyond the leaf

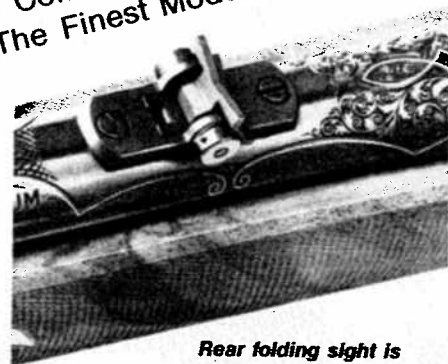


**Grip cap features a beautiful engraved gold plate signifying this rifle was custom made for Keith by Pachmayr.**

graved. The bolt handle was topped off with the silver line inlay, sharp hand-checkering with the bottom of the ball engraved. The trigger guard has been narrowed and thinned and also engraved. He had also fitted the action with the base for his swing mount and the barrel with a good Sourdough front and the usual two leaf wide angle V-back sight that came on that model.

Frank stated that he was not going to finish this fine rifle for me until he found the piece of Circassian that would do it justice.

Years passed and I had completely forgotten about the rifle. When his workmen showed it to me down at the 1975 San Diego N.R.A. Show the surprise was overwhelming. It carried the most beautiful and gorgeous stock of marbled Circassian that I have ever seen. The beautiful grain ran the full length of the stock, not just the butt end. The grain at the forend, just back



**Rear folding sight is standard twin-leaf model with wide angle V.**

button projecting through butt stock and forend, it's barely noticeable. To remove the swivels you simply press down hard on the spring tension and give them a half turn and they lock in position. They're light, strong and have no rattle or movement; and, no projecting studs when the sling is removed. This is the finest set of detachable sling swivels I have seen to date. The rifle stock was plain then and had not been checkered. Frank said the checkering would have his father's fleur de lis design in 32 lines to the inch. Pete Thacker did the checkering and it is the finest and most extensive job of checkering I have seen on any gun. Not a single flaw can be detected in this fine work and the wood, being as hard as ivory, takes and holds such fine checkering perfectly. I have three fine Hoffman rifles and several best-grade English doubles (shotguns and rifles) but have yet to see as elaborate or as perfectly executed checkering as Pete Thacker did on this rifle.

Over the years the .375 H & H has proven (for me at least) to be one of our most accurate big game cartridges and one of the best for all around useage. You can kill a small deer with less

continued on page 90

## MODEL 70

continued from page 40

meat damage with the .375 than with any of the .270, 7mm and .300 Magnums, and, when you turn to heavier game, the 300-grain bullet is superb. When Don Martin, Sinque Thomson, Jay Williams and Oscar Waterood and I designed the old Model 70 in the early '30s, Winchester gave me a pair of Model 70s in .300 and .375 configuration. The .375 featured a straight taper 24-inch heavy barrel. They also then loaded the most accurate factory .375 ammo I have ever fired. I put 16 consecutive 300-grain soft nose Winchester factory loads in a 1 9/16-inch hole at



Deep floral patterns have been engraved into the floor plate, trigger guard and bolt on Keith's rifle. Game figures and silver inlay top off this rifle.

200 yards. I was firing from prone with sling and a 330 Weaver scope with big flat top post held at six o'clock on a 12-inch bull. I have not found any .375 factory ammo as accurate as that first batch of Winchester 300-grain soft point ammo. We now, however, have the fine 300-grain Colorado Custom, the fine Nosler 300 grain and also the new Sierra 300-grain heavy jacket spitzer boat-tail, and, with careful hand loading, the .375s will group with any gun-cartridge combination.

Over the years I have killed mule deer, elk, caribou, grizzly, black bear and in Africa a big roan and a record class lesser Kudu, all with the 300-grain ammo. The .375 and the .338 are our best all around loads for all American game and very good on the African plains game as well. Also a certain cure for leopards.

The finished rifle was sent to me while Frank Pachmayr was on vacation and he had no chance to make a final examination. The first scope mount would not hold the scope properly and the extractor collar had been sprung.

Also the trigger pull was over 5 pounds, far too heavy. Don Mihaljevic our local gunsmith cured these minor ills and Russ Hyde, Phil Richards and I gave it the first tests on targets at 100 yards from benchrest.

For several years, Earl Etter, Gene West, Ross Seyfried and I have been asking Sierra for a real long range 300-grain .375 bullet and they have complied with their new 300-grain boattail in spitzer form with very heavy jacket. We decided to test it in this fine Pachmayr rifle; however, more trouble developed as the rifle had a very tight chamber and I had to get another set of dies from R.C.B.S. that would reduce my old cases to fit the new rifle. We loaded up a supply with 75 grains of H 4831, CCI 250 primers and the new Sierra 300-grain Boattail. This bullet and hand load proved the most accurate .375 H&H ammo I have seen since the first production run of the 300 grain round nose as made by Western back in the early '30s.

Using double sand bags and benchrest, Russ Hyde put three of these new 300-grain Sierras in just three-quarters of an inch (center to center) at 100 yards. I fired two groups; one going a half inch center to center, and one going 3/8-inch center to center for the three shots. This new Sierra 300-grain spitzer boattail has a very heavy jacket and I hope it will open up some on the smaller big game; however, another hunting season will have to roll around before we can find out. Joe Merrill will kill a buffalo soon with the bullet and that will give us more information on the extent of projectile expansion. If it will punch a 1 1/2-inch hole through light big game, then it will suit me, as the heavy jacket should give very good penetration on our heavy game and African plains game.

This Pachmayr swing mount permits the fastest use of iron sights and still gives the shooter a perfectly positioned low mount, as you simply lift it up and out of the way in bad weather—it snaps back in place when you want to use the scope. Only those very high-mounted scopes with a hole through the mounts permit faster change from scope to iron sights and the scope is so high on them you cannot properly cheek your rifle at all. The Pachmayr swing mount allows perfect cheek position, a low mount and instant change to iron sights if needed.

For me at least, a rifle must perform, and regardless of how beautiful it is it must also shoot accurately—this rifle does just that. Really, it's a museum piece but I will, however, carry it in a Boyt scabbard when not hunting on foot as it will never go on a horse. With its superb Circassian stock, Gus Pachmayr's Fleur de lis pattern checkering by Pete Thacker, the extensive fine scroll and animal inlays, this is the most beautiful Model 70 I have ever seen.



# SH

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MOLDED TO GUN AND  
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HIGH RIDE STYLE WITH  
BUTTY CLOSE TO BODY

COMPLETELY HAND-  
CRAFTED AND  
DETAILED



MAKE AND MODEL

COLT 9mm, .38 SUPER, .45 ACP &  
S&W 9mm MODELS 39 and 59, 6"

MEDIUM AUTO WALTHER PPK

S&W CHIEF'S SPECIAL 2" and 3" 1  
2 1/4" BL., RUGER SECURITY S&W 2  
and 3" BL. (.38 & .44), COLT M&P  
COMBAT 2" and 3" BL., AGENT 2" &

S&W COMBAT MASTERPIECE 4" BL.  
M&P 4" BL., RUGER SECURITY S&W  
OFFICIAL POLICE, TROOPER MK II

\*BLACK OR TAN FINISH ONLY—

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