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AMERICAN

The Rifle 1885-1888 Shooting and Fishing 1888-1906 Arms and the Man 1906-1923

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COVER

The two sportsmen pictured on this month's cover have a woodchuck in their sights. Chuck hunting has become a popular sport for summer months when larger game cannot be hunted. Transparency was taken on the Eastern Shore of Maryland by Durward Allen.



a feature

NRA Staff in the Service-T. W. Child, J. S. Rose

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Vave Bushnell says ...

Stop being confused...try before you buy

Finest Binoculars!

... There's a BIG DIFFERENCE in optics!

WHY PRICES VARY



66-842

facts you gave last month on how a binocular works sure hit the mark. But how come there are so many different NOCHILAR prices for the same power? Joe's Camera Store advertises a 7 x 50 for \$34.95; yet you ask \$47.50 for one of yours." "Good question.

"Say, Dave, those

HOCULARS Fred, almost anyone can build a 'binocu-

lar', but it takes top quality materials and close adherence to the designer's formula, plus hundreds of careful inspections, to produce an instrument that-well, here's what I mean-look through this glass at the license plate on that car up the street. What do you see?'

"Well, I can read the numbers but can't quite make out the State."

"O.K. Now look through this pair that costs a few dollars more.'

"Boy, is that sharp! It's a Colorado MereMart concar. I can even see the scratches on the plate. Golly, if I only had these glasses on my last hunting trip! Why are they so much clearer?"

"Sharpness of image largely depends upon the degree of perfection of the objective lens-the 'heart' of any binocular. Optical engineers spend hundreds of hours computing the exact curvature and thickness of the two elements making up this achromatic lens, so there will be a minimum of aberrations. Unless these engineers do their work extremely well, even the world's greatest lens-grinding, polishing, and finishing technicians cannot create clarity. However, these 'follow up' operations often mean the difference between a good binocular and a poor one.

"Just how is that, Dave?"

"Here's one example. During the many stages of grinding, it's easy to scratch the lens. This requires re-grinding; but during the corrective process several thousandths thickness is removed, leaving it thinner than Design Specifications. This affects color correction and focal lengthboth essential to maximum clarity. Our inspectors reject such lenses-but some makers use these inferior lenses regularly, to produce the so-called 'Bargain' Binoculars.

"I'd like to go on and tell you more about the many differences-but must postpone it until next month. Let's get together then.

N.R.A. Life Member

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...a definite 'must' throughout the East. I recommend

Outdoors Editor WRC

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