

Incidentally . . .

Once a month we receive a letter from a reader in Oklahoma name of Bill Appleby. It invariably starts out like this:

Since I have bin laid up hear with this Coronary Trombosis and Angina Pectorous I think Ole Dock calls it I aint rightly bin muth good fer anything and I dont go down to the General store and P.O. like I ussta do all the time to listen to them fellers down the street and shoot a littel Hot air. A bunch of them fellers come up yesterday to see me and wanted me to write to here a telling it to my old woman an she writes it down as we go. Them fellers sed they figgered it was a good idee to get that woman with the typewriter to fix it up so you could read it better . . .

That introduction off his chest, Bill Appleby proceeds to take the hide off the current issue of the RIFLEMAN, thoroughly and unmercifully. Special target of his Oklahoma wit is Elmer Keith. Appleby is beautifully impartial in his criticism, otherwise, and lashes out pretty generally at RIFLEMAN authors as a group. But Keith sends fact, we were kind of worried here for a while. Seemed like another Keith article might push Bill Appleby clean off the earth, what with his blood pressure and coronary thrombosis and all and maybe we would be responsible somehow. ☆☆☆

Bill Appleby's last letter sort of got us. After all of these months of signing himself mark, which your friend Bill Appleby (X) His is ever your friend Bill Appleby (X) His finally, was an honest, homespun sort of critic who couldn't read or write but who still managed to give us the benefit of his practical get-ins-and-do-it-yourself slants, he let us down. Appleby is a fake! Appleby is an expert-in-disguise! A sheep in

Appleby's clothing! The illiterate Appleby is quoting ballis-

COVER

The Marine rifleman on this month's cover symbolizes the whole Corps—a fighting force that has taken symbols of new Garand rifle to its heart, tested it in battle, and now is readying it for long-term use as a peacetime training arm. Far from abandoning its rifles for a plane load of A-bombs, the Leathernecks are going to stick to their old Corps Plans, and see accurate "The Kodachrome was tried-and-



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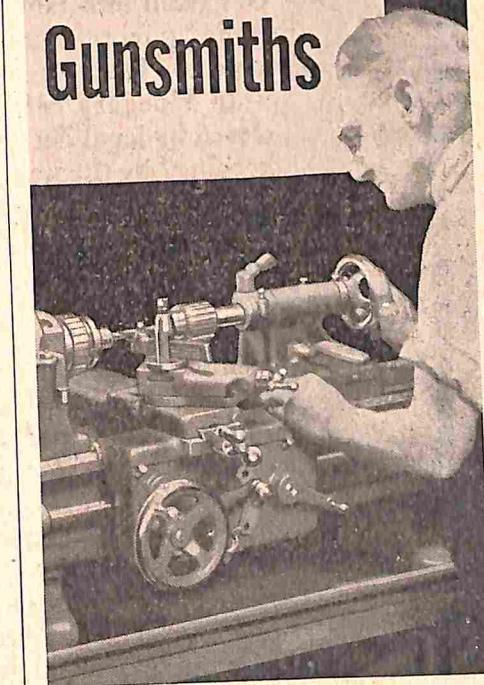
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