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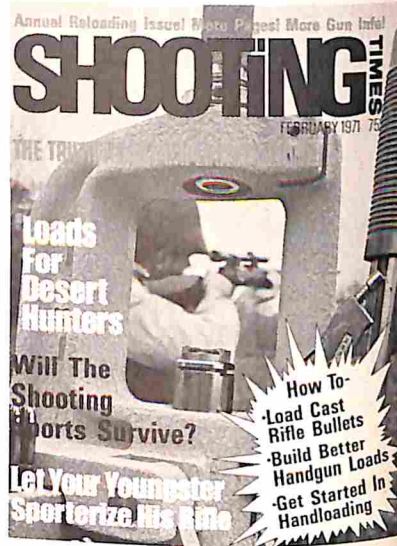
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ON THE COVER

Working up your own load through countless hours at the bench is a pleasurable pastime enjoyed by handloaders everywhere. Our cover scene this month depicts the happy event when that "special handload" is put through its paces, and it works perfectly! — (Sam Wilson Photo)

Question Policy

We respectfully request that readers enclose one dollar (\$1), either check or money order, and a stamped, self-addressed envelope with all letters requesting information of a technical nature. The sender's complete name and address must be on the letter, and only one question may be submitted for each dollar. This dollar helps us pay the writer-experts for their research and letter-answering time. The most interesting letters and answers will be published, unless you state that you want your letter kept confidential.

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By Bob Steindler

Bullshots

- Some "custom gunsmiths" simply aren't
- Explosives Law limits black powder sales
- New 24-hour service fits Poly-Chokes
- Israeli Army seeks new assault rifle
- Poly-Choke survives ST torture test
- Redfield offers new spotting scope

BACK IN THE DAYS when a loaf of bread set you back 20 or 25 cents, there were many gun craftsmen around. For what we today consider a mere pittance, these fellows would build a custom rifle that was guaranteed to do three things: Not break the family budget, shoot minute-of-angle groups with factory ammo, and give your shooting cronies acute fits of jealousy.

Today the same rifle costs at least twice as much, probably won't shoot any better than most factory rifles, and certainly won't create a stir at the local range.

Why?

I won't go into the cost factors. There are still men around who'll custom fit a stock to your barreled action, the total job setting you back two or three bills. There are also guys around who have the needed skill to take a Mauser 98 or an O3A3 action, stick a barrel into it, and make it look like something.

But some "custom" gun makers take a military action, alter the bolt handle, polish and buff a little, maybe trim and slim the trigger guard, and install a custom trigger if they can't stone it to an acceptable pull.

(Continued On Page 81)

Annual Reloading Issue! More Pages! More Gun Info!

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**Will The
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**Let Your Youngster
Sporterize His Rifle**

- **How To-
Load Cast
Rifle Bullets**
- **Build Better
Handgun Loads**
- **Get Started In
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