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THE COVER

The crashing volley of musketry ushers in a 4-part series on "Firearms of the American Revolution," on page 17. The First Maryland Regiment, shown firing flintlocks, uses some British muskets as many Americans did in the actual war. The sergeant and men in foreground carry 3d Model Brown Bess or Tower muskets. In the ranks is a great-great-grandson of Gen. U. S. Grant, 18th President of the U. S. and 8th President of NRA. Two national organizations, the Brigade of the American Revolution, including this unit, and the Colonial and British Armies of America, also appropriately armed and uniformed, are warming up this July 4 for the war's bicentennial.

Cover photograph by Bluford Muir of Washington, D.C., using a Linhof 4x5 camera with Ektachrome film. Exposure, 1/25 second at f8.

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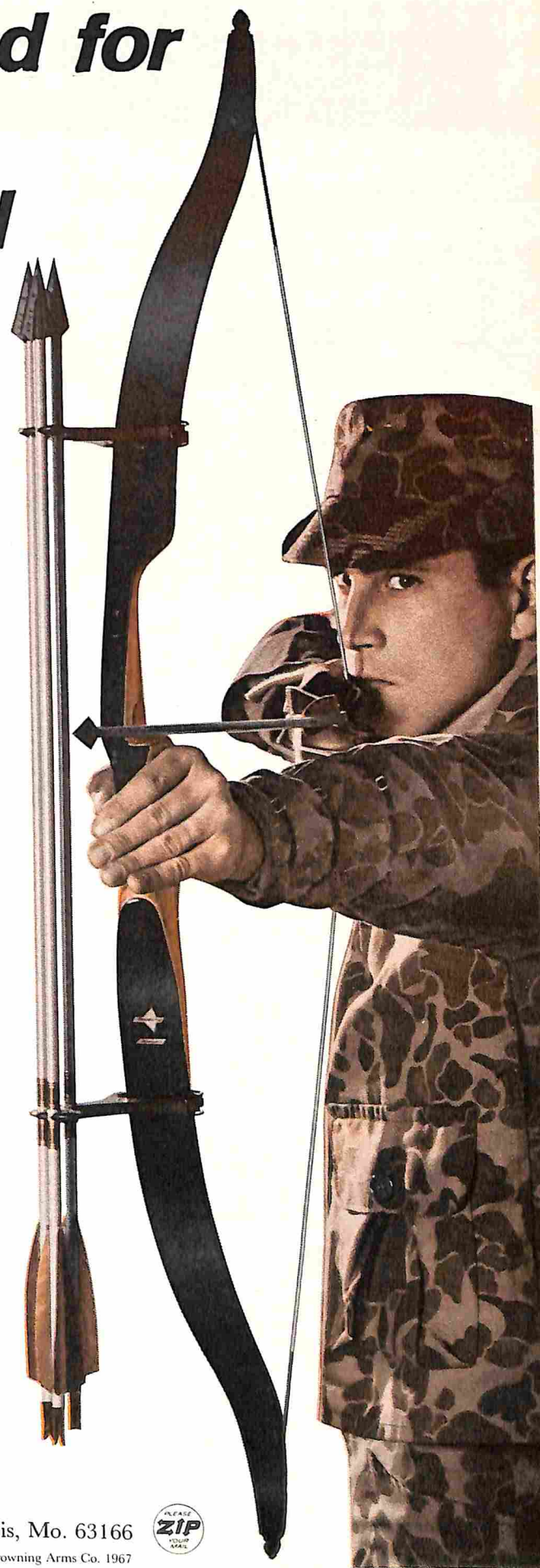
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