

Incidentally...

As we announced last month (page 27), the high cost of living has finally caught up with us. That grim appointment with Old Man Economics... the date we have postponed for so long... has upset the apple cart at last. Up go Association membership rates from three bucks a year to four.



There isn't much point in further hashing over the whys and wherefores of the increase. The price of ground roundsteak (if you can afford it) tells a plainer story of rising prices than anything we can say! But fortunately, there is a brighter side to the NRA's rate increase... and one not dictated entirely by that problem of increasing production costs. Luck being with us, the extra dollar coming in with every one-year membership will mean that we can not only keep pace with those rising costs and thus avoid curtailment activities... but also that we'll be able to do a good many things that were impossible in the recent past.

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Biggest advantage of operating without the deficit that has tagged us lately will be the opportunity of planning ahead to a much more effective degree. (You can't do much planning when the budget shows red ink on every other line.) Take the national rifle and pistol championships, for instance. Last year Congress dilly-dallied until the last minute, and finally appropriated a sum that would not have financed a cow-pasture event had the Marine Corps not come to the rescue and furnished personnel for small bore and pistol matches at Camp Perry. This year the story was the same... except that Marine Corps commitments had increased, and they could spare neither the men nor the money to lend that helping hand. So... the 1948 national rifle and pistol championships, as far as Camp Perry is concerned, are out of the picture. There will be nationals... decided between regional champions, who



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will fire shoulder-to-shoulder as a feature of the First Annual Convention of the NRA. It is a good system... one that we have long thought about... but the whole thing should have been decided months before—and would have been if that deficit in Association books had not been so evident.

Here's where that extra dollar comes in. It should now be feasible to plan and budget at the beginning of each year for championship events, to be held at a definite time and place regardless of Congressional whims.

Those national rifle and pistol matches are not the only activity of the Association which will benefit immeasurably from increased revenues. There is the matter of anti-firearms legislation. One thing we have learned... the anti-firearms fight is a never-ending conflict. As long as new legislators, new civic officials, new organizations displace old, there will be attempts to foist Sullivan Laws (or worse) on the country. With broad changes in high Government personnel all but taken for granted... whichever way the wind blows... there will be a whole new group who will be uneducated in our common-sense approach to firearms legislation. It is going to force aggressive action to forestall restrictive and ill-considered laws. That aggressive action will cost money.



There are many other services to the nation's shooters which can be continued on the old footing... and probably expanded as the need manifests itself. Broader distribution of field offices... an even better AMERICAN RIFLEMAN... improved research and testing facilities... many other projects which the American shooter wants.

So... as funds gradually become available, beginning October first, we'll be planning ahead for the development of a bigger, better program for 1949. Shooting has more adherents now than at any time in the past. Now is the opportune moment to solidify that interest by increased services and better facilities. The extra dollar will make it possible.—J. S.

COVER

First impressions to the contrary, the subject of Harry Pennington's fine color shot is no phony Diana. Says Pennington, "Mrs. Ruth Johnson is one of the best hunters in this part of the country (San Antonio, Texas). She gets her limit... every season, and has won several small shooting contests. The clothing she was wearing has been her regular hunting costume for some years, and we had considerable trouble lighting the picture so the moth holes wouldn't show." And for the record, Mrs. Johnson's dog is no pampered front-porch special. Those boots are must equipment for any dog whose beat is the sharp gravel and sun-scorched rocks of Southwestern hunting country.



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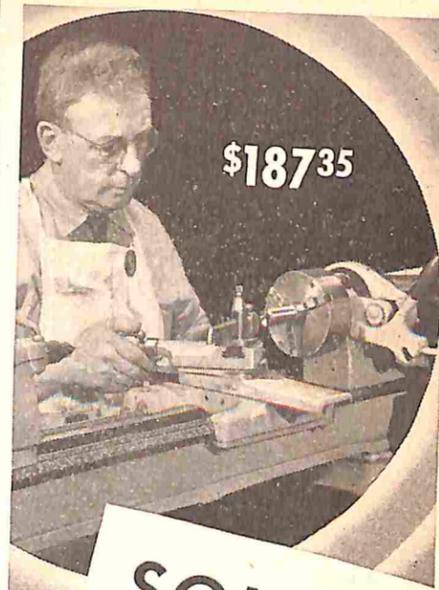
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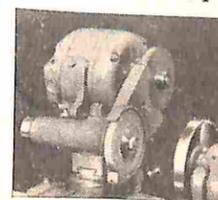
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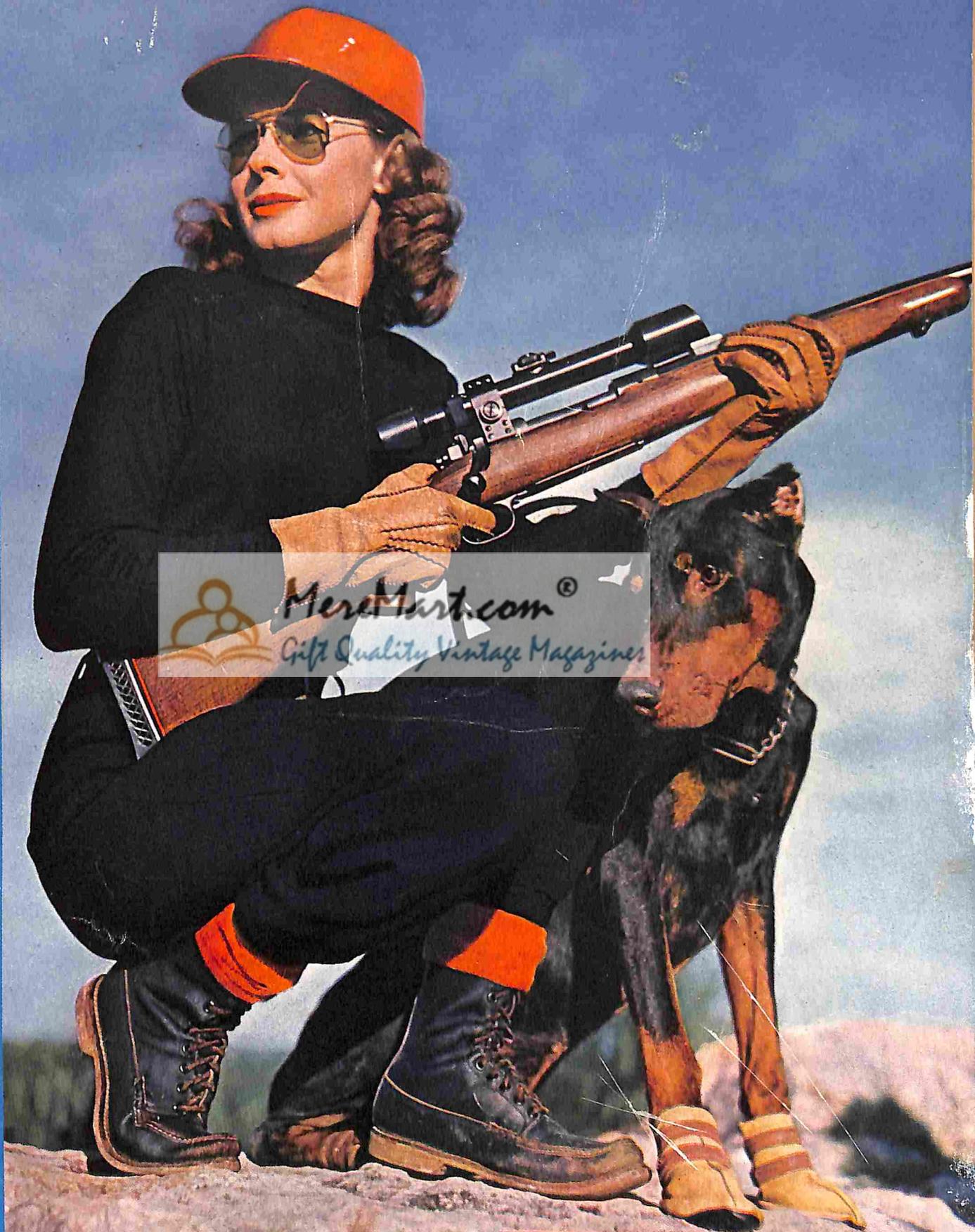
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