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#### FROM OUR READERS

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THE MAN'S BOOK OF THE OUTDOORS

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**publisher**  
FRED R. SAMMIS

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## FROM OUR READERS



**SIR:** In regard to the coupon appended to Larry Koller's column "Afterthoughts," in the March issue of GUNS AND HUNTING, I must vote emphatically against legislation that restricts or prohibits the ownership of firearms. It is absolutely revolting to see the same ill-advised bills introduced again and again at each new session of the state legislative bodies.

To my way of thinking, the people sponsoring such bills are either public officials looking for power, legislators seeking publicity or do-gooders of the sort who voted for Prohibition and gave criminals the greatest take in the history of crime. Many of these lawmakers honestly believe that crimes of violence could be greatly reduced if we only made it tough enough for criminals to get guns. Unfortunately, these anti-gun measures seem more intent on placing the blame for crimes on the guns than on the criminals.

There is only one good gun law: a mandatory long-term sentence for anyone who uses a gun for a criminal purpose. No other legislation has the least effect on criminals; no one who intends to rob a bank or commit a murder it deterred by a gun law. The only effect of such laws is to aid the criminal by disarming his victims.

Bills requiring the registration of all guns are the worst of all, for they threaten our survival as a nation. Such laws were the first step in setting up the police states that Americans fear and hate. Once all firearms have to be registered, the enemy need only get hold of the registration lists to know where all guns are; this is the pattern of dictatorship wherever it exists. It was not only a great aid to the Nazis who overran Europe but it is also an important part of Communist rule.

It is the essence of stupidity for a free and sovereign people to permit themselves to be disarmed. A disarmed people are docile; they have to be. Had our forefathers been disarmed and docile there would be no United States today. No people are free if they cannot, in the last resort, make freedom stick by force, for eternal vigilance guards the shine of liberty.

YONKERS, N. Y.

GEORGE C. CULLEN

**SIR:** I am very much against anti-gun legislation or any law that restricts the average citizen's use of any type of firearms, as you will see from the ballot I have enclosed. As a law-enforcement officer I feel that if the public is denied the right to own and

bear arms, the law officer's job would be twice as difficult as it is today.

SALEM, ORE. THOMAS A. HEDGECOKE  
(The above letters were accompanied by ballots—two of more than 700 we have received to date. The results seem clear: just over one per cent of the returns favor any form of restrictive gun legislation.—Ed.)

**SIR:** I liked very much the way you presented both sides of "The Fast Draw Craze" (March issue). Usually articles of this type appear in two separate issues and a person who is not genuinely interested will read only one side, forming his opinion from it. EAST POINT, GA. CARLOS C. HOPKINS  
(This is just one of many letters commenting on the positions taken by the fast-draw authors—Jon Eaton, who defended it as a worthwhile sport, and Chic Gaylord, who argued that quick draw should be restricted to lawmen and people who need to get a handgun into action quickly. More comments follow.—Ed.)

**SIR:** I agree with Chic Gaylord 100 per cent. All we need is for some jerk to shoot a member of his family or a friend while practicing. What are these fast-draw fans planning to do, throw down on a mule deer or get into a gunfight? All they're accomplishing is to help the do-gooders take away our arms.

UKIAH, CALIF.

KEN WEAVER

**SIR:** Chic Gaylord's article exhibits some rather twisted thinking. It is perfectly obvious that what the fast-draw boys do is quite different from combat shooting. Just because it's different, though, doesn't mean there is anything wrong with it. Gaylord seems to regard fast draw as rather childish (I agree), but again this doesn't mean it's wrong. Fast draw will last as long as we can buy and shoot pistols. It is up to the serious shooters to emphasize the need for caution and observe safety measures. We can't stop it unless we stop all pistol shooting—exactly what we don't want to do.

Gaylord's knowledge of physics is weak, too. He states that a silver dollar "falls much faster" than a lighter poker chip. This is not true: all falling bodies are subject to the same acceleration by gravity and it will take them the same time to fall from a height of five feet.

ANN ARBOR, MICH. WILLIAM B. ROOSA



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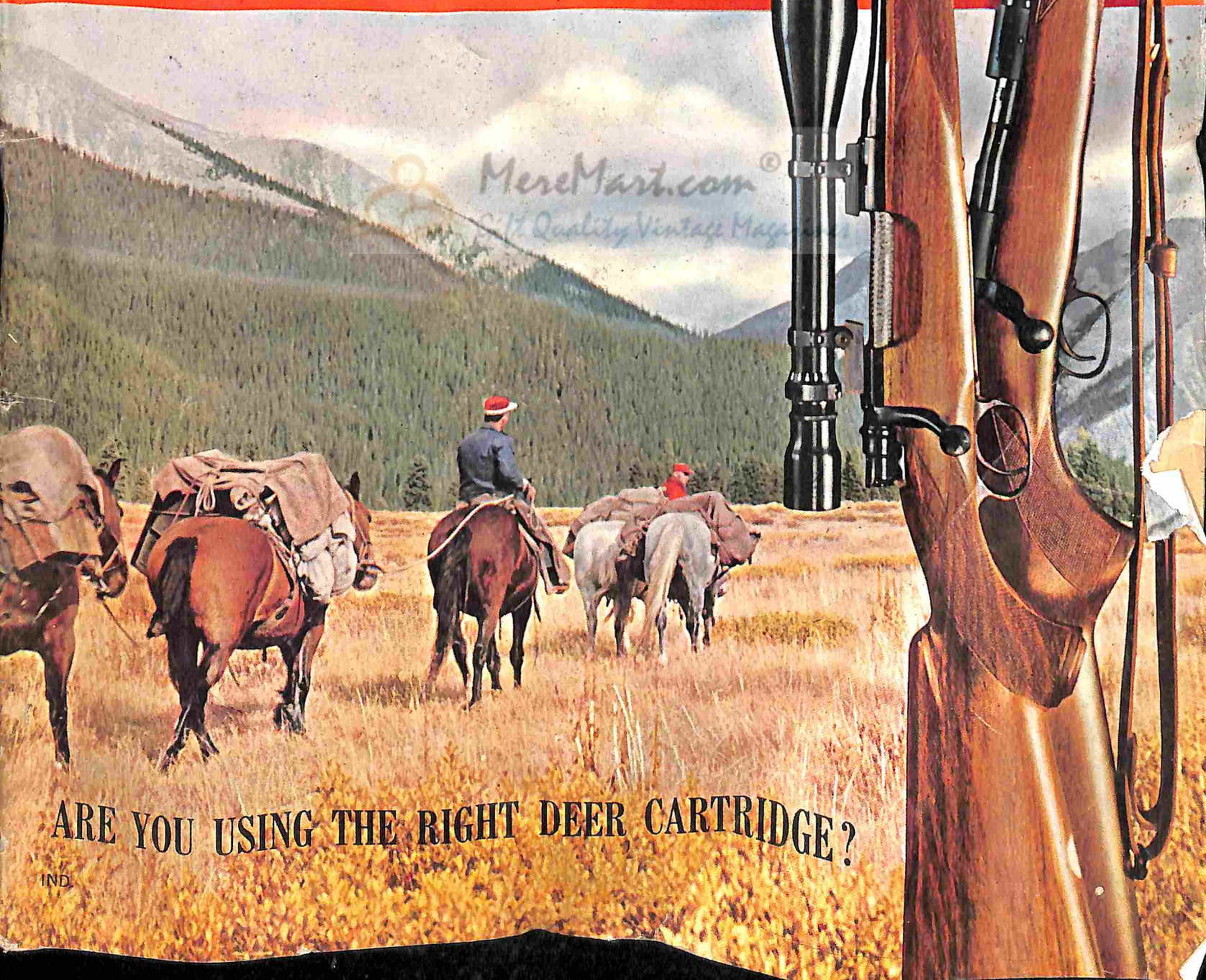
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## GREATEST HUNT

Larry Koller's  
record-smashing big-game shoot



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