

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

### SEPTEMBER 1968

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### THE COVER

Rare indeed is the shooter, even among ardent muzzle-loader fans, who has ever fired a matchlock. The few such arms available are usually too valuable and too antique for firing. So when Thomas J. Ford, Jr., of Los Angeles, craved matchlock shooting, he built his own Japanese-style long gun. It can't be called a "shoulder arm" because this type of matchlock, with its short, down-curved butt, was fired from the cheek as shown. The shooter's right hand, wrapped around the butt, cushions the recoil. (The same hold was used with some German wheel locks of the 1600's.) For details of how Ford made his matchlock and how it performed, see Page 58.

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