



Some of the jacketed bullets worked with in developing loads for the .357/.44 B&D were: l. to r., 110-gr. Super Vel soft-point, 110-gr. Super Vel hollow-point, 125-gr. Super Vel hollow-point, 125-gr. Speer soft-point, 137-gr. Super Vel soft-point and 146-gr. Speer hollow-point.

obtained with Lee Jurras' 25-gr. load of Hodgdon's H110 powder behind the 125-gr. Super Vel bullet. However, when fired in my pistol, 50-yd. groups with this load opened up to four inches.

My best heavy bullet load is 20 grs. of Hercules 2400 powder behind the 146-gr. Speer jacketed hollow-point. This load grouped five shots in two inches at 25 yds. and three inches at 50 yds. All of these groups represent respectable accuracy with hunting loads, and compare favorably with those from .357 Magnum, .41 Magnum, and .44 Magnum revolvers.

Data covering suggested loads for the .357/.44 B&D cartridge are given in the table. The velocity for Load No. 7 in a six-inch pressure barrel was 1854 feet per second (f.p.s.). Average velocity for this load when fired through the ten-inch barrel of my Contender pistol was 2182 f.p.s., and it developed greater energy than the advertised factory .44

The .357/.44 Bain and Davis cartridge is an accurate, easy-to-load powerhouse.

Magnum handgun loads rated at 1150 ft.-lbs. at the muzzle.

As might be expected, recoil with .357/.44 B&D hunting loads in the Contender pistol is heavy, but not what I would call punishing. The grip of this pistol is so designed that the web of the hand between the thumb and forefinger doesn't tend to travel up under the hammer when the pistol recoils. But, the shooter will have to keep his knuckles back from the trigger guard or he'll have swollen joints for a day or two.

Twice during my tests, recoil caused me trouble. On the first shot fired through my .357/.44 B&D, the 1.3X scope and its mount were ripped off the pistol and hit me in the forehead. I discovered that the screws I used to attach the scope mount to the barrel were too short. Recoil force tore them out, stripping the two top threads from each of the holes tapped in the barrel. It was necessary to return the barrel to the factory for repair.

The second accident occurred while I was chronographing some loads. This time the fore-end split lengthwise through the center of the screws which hold the fore-end catch to the fore-end. In this instance the culprit was the fore-end lug which loosened from recoil. I was able to make a temporary repair with epoxy, but its ultimate replacement was necessary. Before using your Contender .357/.44 B&D barrel, it would be wise to anchor the fore-end lug screws with Loc-Tite sealant.

I have found the .357/.44 B&D to be a superb magnum cartridge. I look for it to receive a lot of play from hunters who wish to test its mettle on everything from ground squirrels to big game. The only fly in the ointment at this time is that no commercial ammunition in this caliber is available. However, with cases so easy to make and dies reasonably priced, I don't think the absence of factory ammunition will retard the popularity of this interesting cartridge. ■

N.Y. Crime Rise Follows Gun Bill

NEW YORK City's rifle and shotgun registration and owner licensing ordinance coincided with a distinct increase in crime in the largest American metropolis, to judge by official reports.

Between 1968 and 1969, the first full year of the ordinance's effect, crimes against the person increased by 7.3%, the New York City Police Department reported. The 1,043 cases of murder and non-negligent manslaughter in 1969 represented a 5.8% increase over the previous year.

The ordinance, which was signed into law by Mayor John V. Lindsay in Nov., 1967 and took effect on Aug. 13, 1968, supplemented a New York State Sullivan Law provision which already required registration of concealable firearms.

Although Mayor Lindsay testified before the Juvenile Delinquency Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee on June 26, 1968 that "gun control legislation is a step that we can take now" to reduce crimes of violence, forcible rapes rose from 1,840 in 1968 to 2,129 in 1969 to indicate a 15.2% increase during the year after implementation of his recommended gun control ordinance.

In addition, aggravated assaults increased by 4.2%, from 28,515 to 29,717, between 1968 and 1969.

Robberies rose from 54,405 in 1968 to 59,152 in 1969—an 8.7% increase.

Motor vehicle thefts increased by 10.8%, from 77,448 in 1968 to 85,796 in 1969.

Burglaries decreased by 1.3% between 1968 and 1969, from 173,559 to 171,293.

Larceny of more than 50 dollars dropped by 11.8%, from 146,319 to 129,136. ■

R. L. Wilson, 27 Lakewood Circle North, Manchester, Conn. 06040, an AMERICAN RIFLEMAN contributor who is writing a book on Theodore Roosevelt's hunting and shooting activities, asks that NRA Members assist him by sending him any little-known information on TR's hunts in the U.S. and abroad.

PICTURE CREDITS: 21-Smithsonian Institute; 22-H. P. White Laboratory; 23-Dick Marble; 25-Allan M. Sicks; 32-34-Bob Milek.

