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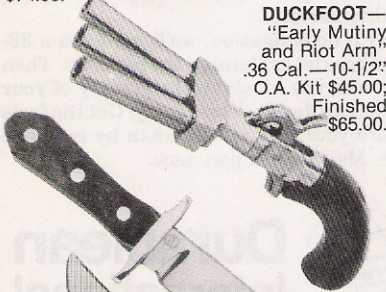
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Include \$3.50 shipping per item. Note: Black powder guns are exempt from Federal regulations and may be ordered by mail (except in the State of N.J. where licensing is required). Send certified check or M.O. State age 18 years or older.

Send for free color brochure.

Classic Arms Ltd

815 22nd Street
 Union City, N.J. 0708



GUN NOTES



By Elmer Keith, Executive Editor

EDITOR'S NOTE

The following excerpt is taken from Elmer's 1965 edition of the now rare and out of print, *Guns & Ammo For Big Game*, published by Petersen Publishing Co. This classic work covers the game animals of North America, rifles, handguns and many hunting tips, garnered from Elmer Keith's years as a big-game hunter.

HUNTING NORTH AMERICAN BIG GAME—PRONGHORNS

■ The American antelope is one of our strangest game animals, differing in several ways from any other animal on this continent. The horns are hollow at the base and the skull runs up in pronounced bony prongs, over which the horns grow, yet the horns are shed each year, or at least with all the younger bucks. The horns do not shed as do the *Cervidae*, nor are they maintained for the life of the animal, as with the *Bovidae* groups. What really takes places is that after the rut, or during early winter, a new horn starts to grow inside the base of the old one and between it and the bony base proper. As growth progresses, the old horn is raised ever higher, which accounts for some of the long tales we read of antelope with horns over 20 inches long. (The old record is 20½ inches, from 1899.) At such times an antelope might have a very long combined measurement, but it would be the length of both the old horn and the new inner horn.

When growth has progressed far enough, the outer shell becomes loosened and the animal usually hooks it off on the sagebrush. A great many shed horns will also be found along barbed-wire fences adjacent to antelope ranges, showing they pull them off on the wire as well. The horns are a hairy growth becoming hard

and slick as they age. The beast has solid bony horn bases, yet actually sheds his horns. Another peculiarity of antelope is that they have no dewclaws whatever, merely a bump, well rounded, where these



occur on all other herbivorous game, except the Javalina, which has but one on each hind foot and thus also differs from other game.

Another peculiarity of antelope is the fact they can erect the entire white rump patch when alarmed, or frightened, or flashing a signal to other adjacent antelope. This is a peculiar action; the white or creamy-white rump patch is large and when erected makes an antelope look for all the world as if someone had tied a big white pillow to his rump. In fact, when one is running directly away from you, little of the animal can be seen, except head and neck above and those flying nimble legs beneath that huge white rump. Halfway up the body, on each side of the barrel, is white or creamy white, and this extends from the hip and hind leg forward onto the rear part and knuckle of the shoulder. The

continued on page 18

"Your bullet was a lifesaver."

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to express my gratitude for producing such outstanding bullets. The quality and performance of your product was a LIFESAVER.

On September 18, 1981, while moose hunting west of Anchorage across Cook Inlet, I was charged by a grizzly from about 25 feet. Time allowed only a hip shot which luckily hit the bear between the eyes at about 12 feet. The 7mm 154 grain Spire Point exited below the base of the skull, taking out the spine. The bear dropped like a rock. The exit hole in the hide was clean and about the size of a nickel, which tells me there was maximum expansion without fragmentation. I believe that this excellent penetration was all that saved me from serious injury or death.

I didn't get a moose on that trip, but the following weekend I got a young bull, again with excellent bullet performance from your 7mm 154 grain Spire Point.

I have been reloading my Rem. 7mm Mag for several years and have only tried one other manufacturer's bullet. I was not satisfied with its performance, even on paper. I have always gotten good groups with your bullets and I doubt if I'll ever switch again.



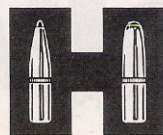
Sincerely,

Robert E. Jones

Robert E. Jones, Alaska



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GUNNOTES

continued from page 16

brisket is also white and with white strips extending up from the brisket on each side and tapering to a point just in front of the shoulder. Above this on the neck are two white bars across the frontal section of the neck or throat. Sides of the face, lower part of the upper lips and the lower jaw are also white. A white strip runs back under the middle of the chin and is fringed on each side with their beautiful reddish tan. Around the eyes is usually quite dark or black and the long eyelashes are black. Just to the rear of the jaw and below a line from eye to ear is a black patch, which is also one of their numerous oil and scent glands. The back of the neck has a stiff coarse mane of brown or black, and with some white hairs also at times. A narrow, dark cinnamon line runs from top of the rump down to the tail, which is usually the same color on top and white underneath. It is short and inconspicuous and when the flag or rump hair is erected does not show. The belly and inside of the legs are a creamy white, shading to tan, and the outside of the legs the usual tan. The rest of the body is also a varying shade of tan to cinnamon, young bucks in their prime being much darker and more reddish, or cinnamon, in color, while old bucks grow quite gray and have much more white hair on their faces. The top of the nose is usually a dark mahogany brown. Ears are small, pointed and edged with black. The black neck mane also extends well up to the back of the head.

The horns grow right above the eyes, in fact the eyes are almost set in the base of the horn. They are large for the size of the beast, but not prominent as in sheep, deer or any other herbivorous game. On the contrary, they have a sunken appearance and are a dark color with little light or pupil showing, just a dark, sad expression. The horns tip forward and arc well separated from the ears by several inches of the skull proper. The does also have horns, after about the second year, but they are merely slim pencil-size gray spikes usually two to four inches long.

The legs are very small in diameter below the knee and trim as those of a ballet dancer. When feeding slowly along over a sage flat at a distance, they look for all the world like a huge beetle bug, especially the old bucks. The hoofs are shaped about halfway between sheep and deer, and are rather short with wide heels like sheep, the toes cupping somewhat.

They are the most deceiving of all American game, when it comes to estimating their range. One time they may appear to be 100 yards or so away, then, when they change position as they feed, they may appear to be twice that far. As they change position, the sun strikes the numerous white patches, giving them an entirely different appearance. At times, under hot sunlight or mirage, they appear to be white all over.

continued on page 20

GUNNOTES

continued from page 18

Formerly, during the buffalo days, they numbered into the millions and the plains antelope annually migrated northward to some extent in the spring and southward to the Black Hills in the winter; but antelope were then spread from far into Canada down into Old Mexico. Today they are again on the increase, but in the past were almost wiped out. Old-timers considered them the best summer meat of all and they were hunted almost to the point of extermination. Under sound game management, they have staged a remarkable comeback, in many sections. We have plenty antelope here in Idaho and are now trapping and shipping to other sections where they have long been extinct. The late Julius Maelzer, an old friend of mine, told me that 30 years ago it was a very rare occurrence to see antelope in the Pahsimeroi Valley; now there are probably 500 there.

The rut occurs early in September, but varies somewhat from year to year. At this time, the bucks rub their horns on their oil and scent glands, then rub them on the sagebrush, until they fairly shine. They also rub the horns on those oil glands, then over their body, until their coat is covered with a fine oil. At such times the horns may be almost jet black. At other times of the year, the horns will be more of a blue black or blue gray. They are small, big bucks usually running from about 90 to 125 pounds, but a rare exceptional animal may well go to 140 or 150 dressed. I have seen just one such antelope and he stood a full six inches higher at the withers than other bucks that had horns over 16 inches in length in the band. His head with uneven twisted horns went as seventh place in the world's records, with a length of 17½ inches for both horns and a spread of 17½. I made an oil painting of the old boy, just as he looked in 1936 before I killed him.

Antelope are curious animals at times; they are also very intelligent little beasts, and when hunted a bit will give the sportsman all the work he wants to get in range—if he gets out and hunts them like a man, either from a saddle horse or on foot. Running them with cars has long been against the law, but here at least it is never enforced and I even saw one state game warden, with his party, chasing a band of antelope and promiscuously shooting both bucks and does, but when we reported the fact, nothing was done about it. Properly hunted, on foot or with a horse, antelope hunting is next thing to sheep hunting for real sport, but when hunters run them down in cars and then jump out and shoot them, there can be no sport about it and the meat is likewise not fit to eat after becoming heated. Antelope that range the sage flats and eat shad scale and alfalfa around the ranches are seldom good meat. Usually they are as strong as a sage jack rabbit killed in February.

Continued Next Month

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