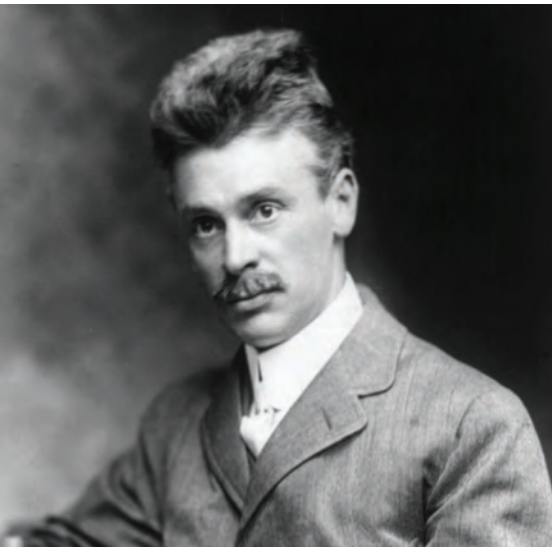


Radio Silence

I really enjoyed the October "Classics" column, and not only for the education on silencers. You see, I am an amateur radio operator, and Hiram Percy Maxim founded the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), which is the primary advocacy organization for amateur radio in the USA. You just never know how or when passions overlap! Thanks for another great issue.

*Brian Smithson
Clover, SC*



Hiram Percy Maxim was a true polymath. In addition to his invention of the firearm sound suppressor, he also developed some of the first mufflers for automobiles and was instrumental in promoting amateur radio.

Sight for Sore Eyes

As a 68-year-old who has worn glasses since the second grade and experienced cataract surgery on his dominant eye, Jeff Gonzales' article, "With and Without Glasses," in the October issue was a very useful read. While my left eye is still 20/170, and my right eye is 20/15 with no close-in focus, gaining a useful sight picture has been a challenge to say the least. Bifocals work fairly well when I am wearing them, but without them finding my focus is very challenging. Gonzales' insights have given me some new things to work on during my future defensive-shooting sessions. Thanks for looking out for us aging shooters.

*Ronald P. Andring, Sr.
San Antonio, TX*

Building Blocks

I thoroughly enjoyed Bryce Towsley's overview of building a relatively inexpensive precision rifle in the October issue and was intrigued by his results. I shoot primarily handguns along with sporting clays. Long-range shooting has always fascinated me and I have contemplated giving it try. I didn't want to invest big bucks into something I wasn't sure would produce the results I expected. Towsley's build makes a lot of sense for the cost versus the accuracy achieved. In addition, I am very mechanically inclined and love the

hands-on aspect of building my own rifle. I would love to build, own and shoot one of these frugal custom rigs and get the satisfaction of hitting a target with this kind of precision at long distances.

*Dale Skoch
via e-mail*

Discarded Danger

The October "Tech Wisdom" column on discarded ammo was interesting, but I have a cautionary tale on the subject. I witnessed a negative result of using discarded ammo at my local range when a police officer with range privileges came to the range to practice with a box of confiscated ammo. He loaded his revolver with the assorted rounds. As he fired, one could hear a distinct difference in the volume and sound of the reports. Suddenly, there was an extra loud *bang* and his revolver locked up tight from an apparent serious overload. Since then, I have only used ammo of unknown origin to salvage usable components.

*Eric White
Millbury, MA*

October Surprise

Kudos to Tamara Keel for her praise of I/J-frame Smith & Wesson revolvers in the October issue. I'm a senior citizen "dinosaur" who shuns the popular polymer semi-automatic pistols and carries a .38 Spl. Bodyguard (a very rare 3-inch-barreled and nickel-finish version) with Magsafe 38D or Federal Nyclud in a .38 Chiefs Special (both discontinued). Also, a word to Richard Mann regarding his take on caliber designations: It is my understanding that certain cartridges were named by the firearm manufacturers based on the outside diameter of the brass case. It made it seem more potent than a competitor's chambering. A .38 Spl. case has a .379-inch outside diameter, while the .38 S&W case is .380, for example.

*CDM
via e-mail*

Correspondence is welcomed and encouraged

Write to: Shooting Illustrated | NRA | 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400
e-mail: shootingillustrated@nrahq.org