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by Leyteno@aol.com
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By: Ward M. Clark (wclark1046@aol.com)

Reader's comments

For Sale,

Mauser 98k, in unissued condition, brought back from Viet Nam, Russian proof marks, Nazi Waffenamts on barrel and receiver (identical to picture on page 120 of Ball's book). No dings or storage dents on stock. Blueing is 100%. Bore is bright and shiny. Too good to be true. Missing trigger guard set screws only. Modified magazine follower-ground so bolt can cycle. Contact Greg Bowen e-mail: drbowen@world-net.net

Handloading Horror Stories

by Leyteno@aol.com

After tactfully extracting information from my handloading acquaintances I have deduced that they are not knowledgeable enough about handloading to be pulling a joke on me. I saw the remains of a Swede in the gun shop and the ruptured case-much of which was firmly brazed to the inside of the chamber. The powder used was an amalgam of stuff that Delbert Doofus inherited from his father along with a RCBS loading machine and lots of .357 magnum brass. Apparently he married up all the partial cans into two full ones since the powder grains all looked pretty much the same size and shape to him. Time and or roaches had pretty much eaten away the labels but he did remember the number 31 on one of the cans was still legible. I'm guessing 3031. These guys are just a little too big for me to even hint as to how stupid they are. They bought some very well made bullets about 150 to 160 grain SP at a local gun show loose in a plastic baggy. No brand name but they look to be high quality. The case was filled with this powder "put near where it angles off" (the shoulder) and the bullet seated about 1/4 of its length in the case. These measurements are of necessity pretty general but close. Frankly I felt uncomfortable holding the thing in my hand.

Further inquires disclosed that it was the second round fired that lunched the carbine, not the first as previously thought. I figure this is about a 2700 fps load which is not all that exceptional in some of the 6.5 magnums for the projectile. Unfortunately, I'm referring to the bolt's velocity. One of the locking lugs is distorted as if it had been worked on with a hammer. Sort of hard to describe. The local gunsmith refuses to consider attempting any repairs. There must be someone in heaven who looks out for people like this. The odd thing is that all but one of the group are avid blackpowder hunters. Perhaps they think that smokeless can be diddled with like black powder or Pyrodex. Just thought I'd clear up a few details. I have a wicked sense of humor but don't like to see someone get hurt but if they don't want to listen-oh well!

The one I'll call Aimo has a 7.7 Jap "takedown" which is almost certainly a paratroop model Arisaka. I found 40 rounds of ammo for it at a local gun show and bought it for him at 20 cents/round and gave it to him. Got a lot of beer, pickled eggs, and indigestion in return but figured that I'd done my good deed for the day. Told him to take it in and have the headspace checked before he fired it. The rifle was in

practically NRA excellent condition and seemed tight. Pretty strong looking action but I know nothing of the metallurgy involved. Hope he doesn't turn it into a .303 Kamikaze Magnum. He's heard something about using 30-06 brass for loads. Doesn't sound right to me.

Publisher's Comments

By: *Ward M. Clark* (wclark1046@aol.com)

Another thin month, folks.

Reprinted in this issue is some of the timeless adventures of the handloading aces Aimo and Delbert from our old friend Leyteno@aol.com. Comedy is the saving grace of our times, and hopefully Aimo and Delbert's adventures will leave them enough body parts for a few more priceless stories.

The Monthly has been getting pretty lean, lately; I confess my own time has been limited with other writing projects, and so my own contributions have been scarce of late. However, there are over 400 of you loyal readers out there, so let's get some of your funny stories, tips and projects written up for November! I hope to keep the Monthly as a monthly in truth as well as in name; even with the time involved in editing, formatting and so on, I'd hate to have to drop to a bi-monthly publication. So let's get those stories in, folks!

The aspens are turning here in Colorado, the elk are almost done with the rut and general rifle seasons open soon; the November issue will likely be delayed until sometime after the 10th, as I will be afield in the White River National Forest, pursuing bull elk with Thunder Speaker in hand. With luck and a well-placed .338 Barnes X, the freezer will be filled with elk steaks this year! For all of you who will be going afield with Mausers (or any other weapon, for that matter) in hand after big or small game, the best of luck, a sharp eye and a steady hand to you all.

Until next month, then;

Good shooting!

Ward