

One tough bullet

By HAROLD HARTON
Special Correspondent

I was on an old wagon road in north-eastern Burnet County on my way to Sherman and Dossie Cottle's ranch on Mill Creek when a good eight-point buck ran in front of me and stopped about 100 yards away in an oak grove on my brother-in-law's ranch. This was what I was waiting for ever since I completed building a new rifle on a Springfield action using a P.O. Ackley barrel in a wildcat caliber at that time called a .22-250.

I had been working with the rifle, shooting several loads to see what was the most accurate. I had been shooting called-up fox, jackrabbits and a few crows so I knew it was very accurate, but I wanted to try it on deer.

Since there were no factory loads or brass, I had necked down some .250 Savage cases, trimmed, sized and loaded for this hunt using 36.5 grains of IMR 4320 powder behind a Sisk 54-grain bullet. This



PHOTO: HAROLD HARTON

The .22-250 caliber is a good choice for deer hunting.

load had proven to be the most accurate, and I knew the Sisk bullet would perform since I had been shooting smaller targets with this load.

I put the crosshairs right behind the shoulder and pulled the trigger. The buck folded up right in his tracks.

In dressing out the deer, I found just what I expected: The bullet

took out a rib on entry, exploded both lungs and heart, and expanded and lodged up behind the hide on the off side.

This performance with the .22-250 has been repeated many times since that cold November morning a long time ago.

Although Sisk bullets no longer are made, there are some very fine bullets for this caliber that will perform in much the same way. I would have no reservation about using this caliber for deer hunting, and if I felt the need I would have the option to use the Nosler 60-grain partition bullet, which would have the ability to break shoulder bones and completely exit the animal.

It is one tough bullet, and the .22-250 caliber is a fine choice for our Texas white-tails.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHASE FOUNTAIN, TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE
Before it became known as Enchanted Rock State Park, John Johnston and his father took a hunting trip to this site with Boy Scout friends.

Sharing memories of my first deer hunt

By JOHN JOHNSTON
Special Correspondent

The Boy Scouts of America had a big influence on my life growing up in central Dallas. The Scout troop I belonged to was sponsored by my church and the parish school, so nearly all the boys lived

close to each other, went to the same school and played sports together. It was a very tight-knit group.

My best friend, Mike, and I did a lot together. His father, Jack, worked for a company that had access to a deer lease just north of

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Winchester lives up to its reputation

By HAROLD HARTON
Special Correspondent

The Winchester Model 43 rifle started production in 1949 and ended in 1957. During that period, Winchester produced 62,617 units in various calibers including .22 Hornet, .218 Bee, 25-20 and 32-20. To my knowledge, those were the only calibers made.

My first experience with the neat little rifle was a .22 Hornet that belonged to my old shooting buddy Skeet Skaggs. With factory 46 grain hollow-points made by Winchester, it would make 1-inch to 1.5-inch groups at 100 yards, but for some reason it would not maintain zero.

Skeet zeroed it one inch high at 100 yards, but two or three days later it would print its group five or six inches off, sometimes high and other times low, or left or right.

We shot that rifle killing jackrabbits by the hundreds, but you never knew when it was on or off. In disgust, it was passed on to some unsuspecting soul.

Around about 1953 or '54 my brother-in-law Bud Bell asked what I would recommend for a light rifle that didn't kick too hard and didn't weigh

too much. I told him I would try the Model 43 Winchester but not in .22 Hornet caliber. Instead, I would get it in .218 Bee caliber, as by then I had owned two or three in that caliber and had no problem changing point of impact.

So Bud followed my advice and bought a new one in that caliber.

About that time he moved from Austin to the ranch he had bought in Bell County. With that rifle he killed two deer every year for several years. He loved that little rifle and when he quit hunting, he gave it to me. I will own it as long as I live.

Timing is what killed the Model 43, since 1950 is when Remington brought out the Model 722 in .222 caliber, which was a hot new item filling the gap between the .218 Bee and the .220 Swift. Although the Model 43 was lighter, it lacked the velocity of the .222, which was 3,250 feet per second for a 50-grain bullet. The rifle itself was heavier, but something new was a push for sales, even though it was about \$25 more.

The Model 43 was light in weight, inexpensive and very accurate for varmints at 100-200 yards. With the

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