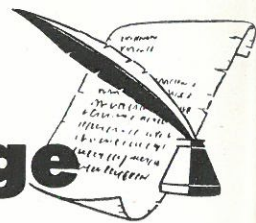


# The President's Page



The place normally reserved for the President of the National Guard Association of the United States is yielded this month to a distinguished soldier, educator and journalist: Major General Jim Dan Hill, Commanding General of the 32d Infantry Division, President of Wisconsin State College at Superior, and Member of the Reserve Forces Policy Board and the Executive Council of the National Guard Association, among his many activities, General Hill graciously has permitted republication of this issue of his syndicated newspaper column, "Let's Look at the Record."

**KENYA COLONY** news pictures are reminders that styles in gun wearing move in cycles, the same as tight skirts and wide brim hats. As with any other vogue, pistol propriety is purely a matter of time and place.

Classical Old West, with the six-gun well down on the right thigh, for the quick draw, is definitely coming back. Down Kenya way it is now all the rage.

**THE U. S. ARMY** was the first to depart from the low slung holster. Dismounted, cavalymen needed more leg freedom. Thus, army automatics were hip high.

In most British regiments, Tommy Adkins wears his pistol elbow high, on the left side, grips forward, with a shoulder lanyard attached—"to keep some blighter from stealing it. Hits 'er Majesty's property; the Lor' bless 'Er'!"

Nazi officials were incurable pistol packers. A stub-nose Walther, well up and full on the starboard bow of a copious, aldermanic stomach was a surer sign of good Party standing than any number of conspicuous swastikas.

The French Underground, as I briefly knew them, were trigger-happy, gat men, but usually with the weapon carried loosely in a side pocket. Today, I am told, thousands of Europeans in troubled areas are still carrying hand guns in shoulder holsters, under loosely cut coats, in the very best American "Roscoe Style."

**THE LOW HOLSTER**, Bar-20 style, is definitely back, however. In Kenya, African heartland of big game hunting, all men, women and older children are wearing real, loaded six-shooters in low slung, thigh holsters. This is at all hours, day and night. In bathrooms there is a pistol rack alongside the soap dish.

Communist infiltration, with the old China song of free land for the Kikuyu tribesmen, and the resulting head hunting terrorism are the causes.

A few years ago, hand guns in Kenya were toys unworthy of real shooting men. Colt slugs were considered just irritating enough to bring murder to the heart of a peacefully prowling lion. A man needed a double-barrel, .400, cordite-express rifle, or nothing.

**WHEN ROBERT RUARK**, big game musketeer extraordinary and columnist plentipotentiary, heard six-guns were coughing in Kenya, he hastened to the high African plateau to combine a bit of heavy shooting with light reporting.

In "Life" he spins a yarn that makes a busy day in Old Tombstone read like a story of gentle deeds in a home for old ladies. He tells again the narrative of

Dorothy Haynes-Simson and Kitty Hesselberger. Alone, at night, at their farm on a hill near Naro-Moru, with a lawn lantern burning to show distant neighbors all was well, they were suddenly attacked by trusted tribesmen, led by a strange, giant headhunter with a razor sharp, two-edge knife.

Kitty, aided by a snarling, biting, boxer bitch, grappled with and delayed the assailants. Dot, fortunately still wearing her pistol, the late hour notwithstanding, drew and killed the giant with her first shot. Her .38 then snapped on a defective cartridge. The next two shots killed another attacker and the faithful dog. A third warrior, she killed in the hallway. A fourth took refuge in the bathroom. A blast through the door put him in flight, wounded.

Kitty then remembered the signal lantern. "She raised her weapon," Mr. Ruark reports, "and sort of casually shot the lamp out over her shoulder."

**TRIGGEROMETRY** like Dot's would be rated better than good by such qualified connoisseurs as Billy-the-Kid, Sam Bass, Wes Hardin and Wyatt Earp. But with reference to Kitty's lantern shot, there would be much dubious head shaking. The toughies of the Old West often shot out lights that belonged to someone else; but never for casual target practice, was it their own lantern.

Moreover, men of the Old West would argue that if the target called for a shoulder high, bead shot, as did Kitty's; she could have probably saved time by snuffing out the light in the usual manner. A pistol appears to be the easiest of guns for quick accuracy. Actually it is the most difficult and the slowest for pinpoint shooting, be the target near or distant.

**"UNCLE BOB" LEWIS** was a peace officer in Socorro, New Mexico, thirty years ago. He had often ridden on outlaw hunts with Sheriff Pat Garrett, the famous pistolero who killed Billy-the-Kid. This last named gent, on a gun notches count, is still rated one of the three quickest and most dangerous gunmen in the powder burnt history of the Southwest.

I once asked "Uncle Bob" about Garrett's gunnery, generally admitted to have been better than Billy's. "Garrett never practiced anything but draw shots," he explained, "Pat's favorite target was a tin plate, pie size, twelve feet away and chest high. He did not always hit, but his draw made a striking rattlesnake seem slower than a Missouri mule's enthusiasm."

Dorothy proved herself to be a real pistolera, cast in the mould of Belle Starr. But Kitty must change her techniques if she is to tote a six-gun in the style known as Classical Old West.



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### dear guardsmen:

The National Guard commemorative stamp (front cover, THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN, Feb 53, and stories and pix in this issue) has attracted even more widespread attention than had been anticipated.

It's a wonderful tool for making millions of Americans aware of the oldest military organization in the US.

One of our comrades tells about persuading a friend who has a stamp drawer in his cash register, to stock only National Guard commemorative 3c stamps. Also, he has asked his family to use only these stamps for their correspondence, as long as they are to be had.

If 300,000 Guardsmen, individually, and their families, friends, and business associates, will use National Guard stamps only, the totals will run into the zillions and the impact will be sustained and tremendous. (Incidentally, we're giving our office postage meter a virtual vacation and reverting to stamp-licking as long as the Guard stamps are procurable).

Even after your local post office stocks are exhausted, you can buy more Guard stamps from the Philatelic Agency, Post Office Dept, Washington 25, DC.

On the same subject, so many individuals helped to obtain recognition for the National Guard in postage stamp form, that it's impossible to single out any one person as the "father" of the project. Some propounded the idea in letters, others drafted resolutions, some worked on philatelic societies and the post office department—their cumulative efforts produced the stamp, and all are well entitled to take a bow.

THE STAFF.

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### our cover

Uniforms varied widely among America's citizen-soldiers of past wars, but the span of years over which Guardsmen have served is shown graphically in our cover picture this month. District of Columbia National Guardsmen who participated in the televised ceremonies at Mt Vernon for the "first day" presentation of the National Guard commemorative stamp, wore typical uniforms of the periods of the French and Indian Wars, the Revolution, War of 1812-Mexican War, both sides of the Civ—(whups—War Between the States), Spanish-American War, and World Wars I and II, with the Air National Guard—a post-World War II separate component, added for good measure. (Army Photo.)

