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.17 - .223

Continued from page 45

concerning the far-reaching varmint calibers that kill the chuck or other type varmint critters, then go on to better things like killing the farmers best milk producer or rearranging the life span of a prize bull. Never thus with the .17; no ricochets — if it hits anything, twig, dirt or snowflake, it is practically finished. Kaput! And, under crowded farmland conditions, the simple fact that it falls off so fast is just great. It isn't about to perforate anyone's silo at any four hundred yards.

"My own experience has shown me that I prefer the extra 5 grains of bullet weight as against the added velocity with the lighter bullet. The best all-purpose load for both field and target work seems to be a 25-grain bullet pushed out by 19 grains of #4198. It's giving me velocities over the 3500 mark, delivering about top accuracy-potential in my specific rifle. There has been no problem with key-holing, or any other unpleasantness for that matter."

There probably are other sources, but RCBS has the proper dies for the handloader. Bullets are available from suppliers such as Frank Hemsted, Fred Barnes and Lee Baker. Hemsted also can supply dies, while Sisk or Holmes still are turning out .17 bullets.

Jacket cups for those who do their own swaging can be found at Speer and from SAS. New factory-primed cases can be ordered from Remington, but it takes some time for delivery, due, of course, to the relatively small demand as of this date. Just recently we heard of a source of G.I. war-surplus brass, in .223. John Winslow brought up the fact that Sportsmen's Den located in Bridgeport, Connecticut, has an ample supply on hand.

While speaking about components for the .17/223, there is no black magic involved in turning out your own loads. No trimming or fire-forming is necessary. It's a simple matter of crimping; the same is true when necking down the .222 Remington to .17 caliber.

"The very first day my chuck-shooting partner, Jerry Fucci, and I set forth over some lush farm country, the chucks popped up with delightful regularity. Jerry made the first shot at around 155 yards; I watched through binoculars as that howlin'-mad 25-grainer entered a fairly large chuck at an angle just under the shoulder. He