



Trying out the hand-trap under ideal out-door conditions

Trapshooting—The Sport Alluring

The Du Pont Hand Trap—A Word on the Proper Gun —Trapshooting Vernacular—From a State Champion

The publishers of the Baseball Magazine are convinced of the fascination of the wonderful sport, Trapshooting, and believe they are doing its readers a favor to bring "The Sport Alluring" to their attention. Many of our readers are now trapshooting "fans," as are many of the ball players. Those readers who have never "gone in" for trapshooting should attend the next meet in their home town. A section devoted to trapshooting will appear regularly in this magazine.

THE DU PONT HAND TRAP

IT has even been reported that crews of freight trains while the time away between stops on their trips by using a hand trap to throw clay targets at which they shoot from the top of the moving train. This, however, has never been verified and we cannot vouch for the report.

Hand traps are used by many trapshooting clubs in staging novelty events, and for coaching new shooters without interfering with the regular scheduled events. Occasionally a shooter will complain that trapshooting lacks variety, or is too mechanical and does not parallel hunting conditions. One experience at shooting targets thrown from a Du Pont hand trap will convince even the best shooters that there are some features of the game which cannot be considered "easy," monotonous or lacking in variety.

CARE IN THE USE OF THE TRAP

The trap is equipped with a very strong mainspring which propels the throwing arm with considerable force. As in the case of a loaded gun, care should be taken never to point a "set" or loaded trap in the direction of any person, nor pull the trigger, if there is a possibility that the throwing arm will strike a bystander, or even the operator himself, as very painful injuries can be inflicted with it.

HOW TO LOAD THE TRAP

There is a knack in learning to "set" the trap easily, quickly and safely which can be easily mastered.

Grasp the trap firmly. Be sure the left hand holds the throwing arm at the point shown, and does not grasp the carrier. Bring the trap into the posi-

tion shown in illustration. Then when the tension of the mainspring exerts considerable pressure, quickly "snap" the trap, when the trigger will catch and hold it.

Another method is to grasp the trap by the left hand grip with the left hand, at the same time placing the right hand grip of the trap against the right hip. With the right hand grasp the throwing arm, close to the carrier, and draw it half-way around to the right, then quickly "snap" it shut, as in the method first described.

Still another way is to hold the trap by the left hand grip, placing the butt against the body. The right hand grasps the throwing arm, close to the carrier, and it is drawn half-way around to the right, and "snapped" into place with a quick movement. Any of these methods can be mastered in a few trials, but no matter what method of setting the trap is used the principles involved are the same in all.

It is important to bear in mind always that the mainspring adjustment screw should be perpendicular with the rest of the trap, if the best results are to be obtained. The carrier, when holding a target ready for throwing, should lie close up to the mainspring adjustment screw. If not, the operator has little control over the flight of the targets. The fingers of the carrier should always be flush with each other so that the target will lie on them on a perfectly level base, and the target guides on the fingers should rest flush against the shoulder of the target, otherwise it won't rotate when it leaves the trap.

THROWING THE TARGETS

Targets can be thrown from 60 to 80 yards, according to the skill of the operator. In swinging the trap the trigger releasing the targets should be pulled when about half-way through the swing.

To throw targets either to the right or left, point the trap in the direction you want the targets to go. By twisting the trap slightly to the right, when throwing right angle targets, a curve or "English" will result, which makes them much harder to hit. The same effect can be produced on left angle targets

by twisting the trap to the left. To throw targets straight up, elevate the front of the trap. To throw them on edge, tip the trap away from the body until the top of the target in the carrier faces directly away from the body. To throw skimmers or "jack-rabbits" which will sail along close to the ground for 40 or 50 yards, lower the front of the trap. To throw inverted or "upside down" targets, turn the trap completely over before pulling the trigger, which can be done from this position easier with the thumb than with the index finger. It is possible to throw a variety of targets with the hand trap which will puzzle even the most expert shooters. When using the hand trap, if possible, select a grassy plot for the targets to fall upon, as by doing so many which do not break will be recovered, and they may be used again.

THE GUN

The first and most important step along the road to success in trapshooting is the choice of a gun—not so much its make, but its fitness for the work it will have to do. Clay targets are small objects to aim at, and unlike game birds and animals, have no wingbones or legs to break and put them out of commission. A clay target must be hit *solidly*, and with several pellets of shot, if it is to be counted on the score sheet. In the field a wounded bird or animal can often be retrieved and put in the game sack after having been only lightly hit; but a clay target, even when "dusted" heavily, cannot be retrieved and counted on the score sheet. Hence a close-shooting gun, one *full choke*, is a necessity if ultimate success at the traps is desired.

Experience has taught that a 12-gauge gun, weighing in the neighborhood of $7\frac{1}{2}$ or $7\frac{3}{4}$ lbs., is the right thing for trap work. Guns of lighter weight give too heavy a recoil even with the moderate load of three drams of a "bulk" powder (or 24 grains of a "dense" powder) and $1\frac{1}{8}$ oz. of chilled shot. Nothing puts a man to the bad when trapshooting so quickly and so completely as heavy recoil (or "kick").

Select, therefore, for trap work a 12-gauge gun, about $7\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. in weight, and either a single-shot, a repeater or a



Using the trap in novel surroundings—from the stern of a boat

double-barrel, for all these guns have their firm adherents, and no one style seems to be much more preferable than another, except, of course, that doubles cannot be shot with a single-shot gun.

TRAPSHOOTING VERNACULAR IS PICTURESQUE

TO the outsider, the fellow who perches on the top rail of a fence or lolls in an easy chair on the club house gallery watching the gun bug "bust 'em," trapshooting vocabulary is limited to "pull," "dead," or "pull," "lost."

But among the elect of clay pigeon shooters is spoken a gibberish that by comparison makes baseball's "died at first," etc., the simplest of sporting vernacular.

For instance, a shooter might describe the results of five shots something after this fashion: "Yes, sir, I toed the firing line, put the iron to my shoulder, drew a humdinger from the box and killed it

The second saucer was a lazy boy, flying straightaway, but I went to sleep and the pigeon nested in the grass. The next mud pie sailed to left-quarter, but the old pea-shooter simply knocked the fuzz off. The fourth dickey bird was smothered as soon as it was hatched. Then a cripple fluttered out and died. Next came a right-wheeling streaker and I pulverized it."

The fact that trapshooting is the humane substitute for live bird shooting probably accounts for some of the "cruel" terms that are included in the language of the inanimate-target game.

THE "WINDY CITY" LANDS 1915 G. A. T. H.

CHICAGO gets the 1915 Grand American Trapshooting Handicap.

This is the decree of the trapshooting "magnates"—if there be such things. Anyhow, so ruled the Interstate Association in meeting assembled at New York

early in December, and you want to note the Windy City's on the sporting map as the mecca of something like 700 shooters and several ten thousands of spectators.

The New Yorker who said that, "if Chicago could suck as hard as it can blow, all that would be needed would be a pipe line and the Atlantic Ocean would wash the banks of the drainage canal," please sit up, for the Western burg has landed the biggest thing on the calendar so far as number of participants is concerned.

"Yes, sir, this is goin' to be the largest shootfest of the year 'cept the big party in Europe, but this is barred because of professionalism.

"Yes, sir, again, Chicago is goin' to stage the biggest amateur battle of peace that the world has ever seen. And it has seen some large things, especially at Dayton, O., 1914, when more than a half-thousand simon pures and some 72 prof's stepped to the firing line and after five days of gun-firing left near abouts 8 tons of lead on the field. Yes, sir, this is just what happened in the town where you 'get a receipt.' "

TRAPSHOOTING AT NIGHT NOW A REALITY

WITH the demand of folks in general for shorter hours, comes the one of trapshooters for longer hours.

In a measure, the desire of the gun bugs has been met by the development of night shooting. So far as indoor work at the traps by artificial light is concerned, the problem was solved several years ago at Madison Square Garden, New York, and night shooting became the most popular feature of the successful sportsmen's shows held there.

Several attempts to conduct "midnight" shoots out of doors followed the New York events, but it remained for the Salem (New Jersey) Rod, Gun and Yacht Club to devise means of putting night shooting on a practical basis.

The initial shoot was held recently at the New Jersey Club and attracted more than 50 shooters and several hundred of their friends.

The lighting system consisted of strings of incandescent electric lights

above the firing line to enable the shooters to load and find their sights. Moving picture light projectors were placed on the club house balcony back of the shooters, while auto searchlights flanked the traps on either side, flooding the field with a glare of light.

The clay pigeons were painted white and proved quite as easy to hit as when thrown in day light.

The high honor fell to John H. Minnick, an amateur of Wilmington, Delaware, who turned in a card of 45 out of a possible 50. "Chief" Bender, the erstwhile Athletic twirler, annexed 40 of his 50 birds.

Several members of the famous Nemours (ladies) Trapshooting Club of Wilmington were among the shooters.

Miss Bessie V. Carson broke 18 x 25, while others of the fair contestants made creditable scores.

Neaf Apgar and Schuyler Colfax topped the professional list with 47 x 50 and 46 x 50, respectively.

The Salem shoot will, no doubt, be patterned after by trapshooting clubs in general and marked an epoch in a greater development of the Sport Alluring.

FROM A STATE CHAMPION

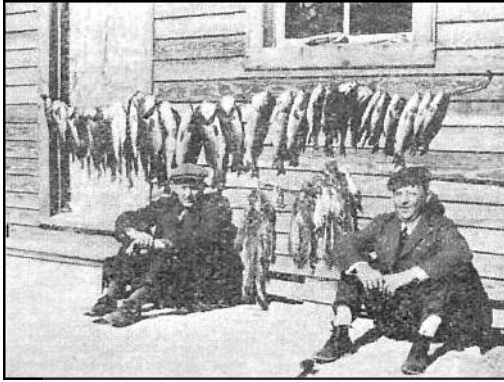
By JAMES M. BARRETT,

Georgia State Champion

I HAVE the honor of holding the Georgia championship for 1913-1914, and hope to again defend my title in 1915.

I began trapshooting in 1912, when the Augusta Gun Club was organized, and have found it to be one of the cleanest and most fascinating sports I have ever tried. I think America can easily claim the greatest trapshooters in the world, and I hope to see trapshooting become as great as baseball, and for this and many other reasons I have loved it, and think I will do so for a long time.

While I enjoy quail and game shooting, as well as fishing, I must say that our trapshooting game is the greatest of all. In this game there is less hard feeling toward the winner, as we all have our good and bad days in every game. When we are off form we do not feel hard toward the man that wins. We go out and shake his hand and try him some



James Barrett and Ty Cobb with some of their catch

other time. We are always glad to see a good score.

This year was our banner year in trapshooting, but we hope 1915 will bring it still greater. Just read of the Grand American Handicap of 1914. All records were broken in the shooting world with marvelous scores. The attendance at the registered tournaments all over America was greater. It is my belief that it is fast becoming one of the world's greatest games. Let us hope so, anyway.

Ty Cobb, as we all know, is one of the greatest ball players, and he loves shooting. He will get up and meet you at 5 A. M. to go hunting. I know this, as he has sounded his Claxon at my door many mornings at 5 A. M. "Ty" is a devoted lover of shooting and is fast becoming a hard man to beat in the field.

With a little boost from the good magazines like THE BASEBALL MAGAZINE America will set the pace for the world in trapshooting.

TRAPSHOOTING DEPARTMENT,
THE BASEBALL MAGAZINE,
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Gentlemen: I am enclosing some items of some of my shooting; also a photo of Ty Cobb and myself, on one of our fishing and hunting trips at Yemassee, S. C. Our catch was 32 large mouth bass, ranging from 3 to 7 pounds.
1914:

Grand American Handicap—93 x 100, from 21 yards.

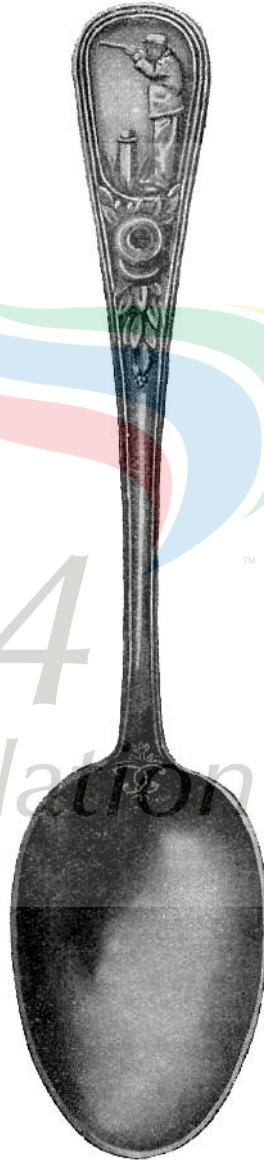
1913:

My longest run, 145.

(Signed) JAMES M. BARRETT,
Augusta, Ga.

DUPONT GUN CLUB TROPHY SPOON IDEA FOR 1915 POPULAR.

INNOVATION IN THE WAY OF A TRAPSHOOTING TROPHY MEETS WITH FAVOR.



An innovation in the way of a trapshooting trophy for gun clubs is provided in the Du Pont 1915 Gun Club trophy spoon. Several weeks ago the DuPont Co. announced that this year's gun club trophy would be an especially and appropriately designed sterling silver teaspoon, manufactured by Tiffany & Co. Instantly the idea seemed to meet with general favor on the part of trapshooters, and many clubs have made application for a Du Pont spoon for their clubs.

One feature of the DuPont 1915 trophy proposition which is particularly pleasing is that an opportunity is offered any club to secure any number of these spoons that it desires. Every active and deserving club will be awarded one spoon, and they

may purchase additional ones at \$1.50 each, postpaid. Under this arrangement a club may, at nominal cost, secure an attractive and useful supply of trophies, sufficient to last through the season, and

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DU PONT GUN TROPHY

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which will, beyond any question of doubt, make their club shoots more and more interesting to their members.



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