

Precision SHOOTING

Dealing exclusively with extreme rifle accuracy

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Editorial

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Ghost of Christmas Past?) By now, from all my gyrations, I was completely entangled in the shade cloth and wire, and was standing on one leg, while kicking like a madman with the other. (Editor: As a passer-by mumbled "Sure can dance.") Now we have four people into full panic mode, as the three Shona-speaking kitchen helpers all screamed NYOKA (snake) at the top of their lungs.

No matter how hard I thrashed, the damn thing held on even tighter. Finally after one of my more athletic pirouettes, the writhing object let go of my foot, and started to amble off. Right at that moment George, the head cook, and a very accomplished English speaker uttered the bone-chilling word, "Cobra." After extricating myself from some of my burden, I managed to croak back, "No, it isn't. It has a little, narrow head." Now it gets really good. This all took place in the month of May and the daytime temperatures were in the 80's but as soon as the sun went down the thermometer plummeted and it became quite cold. The slow moving reptile had, up until now, been moving away from us. Immediately to my front however was a three foot high garden-retaining wall. The snake, upon encountering this obstacle, tried to go over it, but couldn't quite manage the hurdle. With each attempt he seemed to become more and more alert and definitely more aggressive. On the third failed attempt it became quite obvious that this bad dude's disposition was now over-the-top and he was ready to breathe fire. It was as if someone had pushed the "on" button as the seven foot Cobra wheeled about, and in all his magnificent splendor showed us exactly what a hooded, really teed-off Egyptian Cobra looks like up close.

The awesome creature was trapped. (Editor: He wouldn't feel that way if all of you had gotten the

idea of getting the heck out of there about ten minutes ago. I personally would have left a sonic boom that was heard in Alexandria when I departed the scene and there would have been a hole in that garden-retaining wall that the First Armored Division could have gone through, two abreast and Rommel's Afrika Korps would just have to look out for itself.) We were blocking his retreat in the one direction and the wall was blocking him in the other. (Editor: See references to "Alexandria" and "wall" immediately above.) It was a Mexican standoff. There we stood (Editor: Your first mistake) he with about one third of his body length raised in a very menacing stance, and all of us two-legged types standing dumbstruck and wishing to be elsewhere. It seemed like we were frozen in this pose forever, but suddenly the huge Cobra made a dash for the gap between George and me, but about halfway there he did a complete wheel-about and literally flew over the garden wall. I

have been to Sentinel Ranch many times since this event, but I have never, ever walked through that area at night again."

Editor: There being, in recent days, a distinct shortage of anything very exciting in the shooting world that so far has reached us, hopefully you will forgive us a brief sojourn into whimsy. As this is being typed by yours truly the mid-day temperature is closing in on the century mark, pretty much the same as yesterday. It seemed a day to K.I.S.S. (Keep it simple, Stupid.) Trying to survive on such a day is taxing enough. Let's not make it more complex than it has to be.

Of course America had often been discovered before Columbus, but it had always been hushed up.

Oscar Wilde (1856-1900)



ABOUT THE COVER

The rifle pictured on the cover was built around the newest addition to the Stolle/Kelbly (PS advertiser) line of actions. The 416RS stainless Atlas action is a clone of the famous 700, but built to benchrest standards and designed to drop in a Remington stock with little modification. This rifle belongs to Neal Waltz, who decided to make use of an orphaned 40x synthetic benchrest stock that had been taking up space in his safe. The Atlas action is not threaded to take 700 barrels but, with a proper spacer, it will take Stolle-chambered barrels. Since Waltz also had a number of 6 PPC takeoff barrels lying around, he decided to make use of one for this project. He figured that any takeoff benchrest barrel should be easily capable of shooting sub half-inch groups all day long. He cut off the threads and rechambered it as though it were a new barrel. The pictured target were the first 5-shot groups produced and were fireforming loads. They measured in the high two's and were shot at 100 yards without benefit of wind flags. The scope is a 60 power March benchrest scope, which is also available from Kelblys.

The stock work was done by Gary Rex (gsrex47@gmail.com) and features a burl-like figure in the beautiful paint job. For more information about the Atlas action and other Kelbly offerings, contact them at www.Kelbly.com.

Photo by Kevin Olds Imaging

Description by Roland Paolucci

