

SPORT

RIFLES: First Official List of The Small-Bore Champions

Charles T. Coiner, N. W. Ayer advertising art director, gets credit for thinking up the Blue Eagle emblem for NRA (National Recovery Administration). But it's a curious coincidence that the blue eagle has been the emblem of another N.R.A. (National Rifle Association) since its organization in 1871.

The shooters' N.R.A., headquarters also in Washington, today rules some quarter of a million trigger squeezers. There are more rifle clubs in the United States than private golf courses.

Wealthy enthusiasts of the sport pay hundreds of dollars for guns custom-built with handmade barrels and purchase \$60 spotting scopes—instruments that enable them to see where their bullets have plugged the targets. Others borrow a friend's gun, purchase 100 cartridges for 75 cents, and enjoy a dirt-cheap afternoon's entertainment.

This week, for the first time, N.R.A. announced a ranking of the 30 men who top the most popular class of target shooters—those who use small bores, commonly known as .22 rifles. N.R.A. explained it did not consider comparative scores, because varying winds render such figures as meaningless as comparative golf scores on different courses. The rifle ranking is based on the relative performance of marksmen in tournaments throughout the past year.

William P. Schweitzer, wealthy manager of the country's oldest carbon- and

cigarette-paper company, in Elizabeth, N.J., is rated the nation's No. 1 small-bore expert. His wife is well known as a water-color painter. During his career as a marksman, Schweitzer has squeezed a trigger 100,000 times and has missed the center of the bull's-eye only once every ten shots. Runner-up honors go to David Carlson, a hard-working New Haven shooter whose skill earned him a job testing barrels in Winchester's gun plant.

Next July at Bisley, England, ten of the top-ranking American small bores will take on a similar number of Britishers—the first such international match held since 1931. N.R.A. will pay traveling expenses.

MOUSE SHOW: A Minister's Pet Rodent Wins Silver Cup

The American Mouse Fanciers Association is no product of a humorist's imagination but an actual group of some 50 mouse lovers who last week held the nation's first rodent show in Boston, Mass.

As yet the A.M.F.A. does not consider itself important enough to have a president. Its guiding spirit is the Rev. Reginald W. Ferrier, a high-colored rector of an Episcopal church in Stockport, N.Y. He spends hours every day studying his runty rodents through tortoise-shelled glasses.

Dr. Ferrier's wife shows little interest in mice, but he has an enthusiastic co-fancier in Amy Blanchard, elderly and unmarried. A parakeet and canary breeder of long experience, she

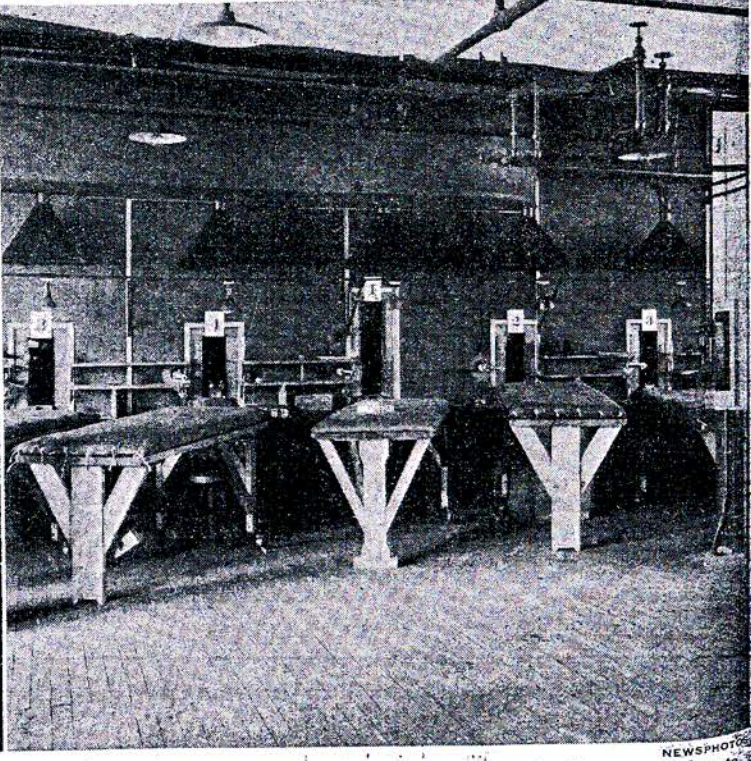
undertook the job of judging the 60 mice in the Boston show—single-handed. No one knows better than Miss Blanchard the difference between a good and a lousy mouse.

"The mouse must be long in body, with long, clean head, not too fine or pointed at the nose, the eyes . . . large, bold, and prominent . . . the ears large and tulip-shaped, free from creases, carried erect, with plenty of width between them. The body should be long and slim, a trifle arched over loin, and racy in appearance . . . The tail should be about equal to the length of the mouse's body. The coat should be short . . . perfectly smooth . . . He should be tractable and free from any vice . . . should not be subject to fits or other similar ailments."

With such points as these in mind, Miss Blanchard picked up each mouse by the tail and gave him a thorough looking over. Finally she awarded six \$1 prizes to the most marvelous mice, 24 ribbons to runner-ups and a silver cup, signifying best in the show, to a big, shiny, black mouse owned by Dr. Ferrier.

In England, where Dr. Ferrier attended college, mouse fancying rates as much more than a freak hobby. An active governing body, the National Mouse Club, sponsors two or three shows a week. Thousands of Englishmen know enough about mice to bathe them in soda water, not disinfectants. A crafty breeder expects more than \$100 for a blue-blood mouse.

In America \$2.50 is top price for a mouse. Chief markets: other mouse maniacs, pet shops, and college laboratories.



Small-bore champion, William Schweitzer (above), and small-bore runner-up, David Carlson (below), use spotting-scope instruments to see where they've hit targets. Carlson also has a blinder to keep the sun from reflecting on his glasses.

Winchester's 200-yard indoor range in New Haven is the most elaborate in the country. Shooters lie face down on the padded stretchers and aim their rifles through narrow vertical slots (under the numbers). The cone-shaped objects above each stretcher, look like lamp shades but are air-conditioning funnels which suck off gun smoke.

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