One One Thousand, Two One Thousand . . .

I

You never hear the one that gets you, thank God.

But why is that? Why do you never hear the one that gets you?

Because it gets you.

A bullet's velocity is supersonic. Consequently, the arrival of a given bullet always precedes the sound of its firing.

When a bullet misses, you hear that.

You hear a *crack,* like a ruler slapped against a wooden tabletop; like a paddle, struck against an unruly boy's backside. That *crack* is the sonic boom of the bullet passing by your ear.

Then, only afterward, do you hear the sound of the gun which fired it.

Unless it gets you.

II

The distance of the sniper who fired a given shot can be calculated by counting—*one one thousand, two one thousand*—and thus measuring the delay between the sonic boom passing by your ear—the *crack*—and the arrival of the *bang* which belatedly announces it.

For those unfamiliar with the calculus of ballistics, it may be useful to consider the similarities of sniping with midwestern meteorology. Consider first a midwestern thunderstorm, the kind that shakes the treetops. During such a storm one measures the distance of a given stroke of lightning by the amount of delay leading to its thunderclap.

One one thousand, two one thousand . . .

Lightning, of course, comes from the sky, as does the sniper's round.

III

To locate a sniper, perhaps that same sniper who first missed killing you, his bullet cracking by your ear, it is possible to do this:

- Find a bullet fired by that same sniper into a wall—or better yet a piece of wood, which is likely to have absorbed that bullet's impact gracefully;
- Insert a cleaning rod from your own rifle—or a yardstick, or a radio antenna from an overturned automobile on the abandoned street—into that bullet hole;
- Follow that line of sight to the place of the bullet's origin. Please note this distance may well approach one thousand yards.

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!WARNING! Do not employ this technique without the benefit of cover! !WARNING!

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IV

Regarding the lasered scope: one does not see the laser laterally. Rather, one sees its point of origin—red—and its final point of destination—also red—though typically the one being aimed at does not see even that.

SUMMATION & FINAL CAUTIONS

Real snipers do not use lasered scopes.
Remember to count the bullets.
Remember, too, the sniper's motto—
One shot, one kill.