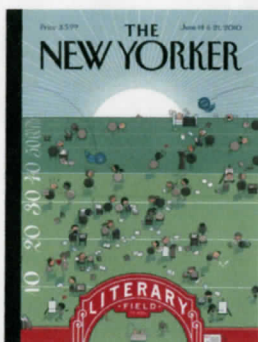


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GALLERIES—CHELSEA

GEORGE W. GARDNER

Gardner's 1982 book, "America Illustrated," is the source for an exhibition of black-and-white photographs that will remind viewers of Lee Friedlander, Garry Winogrand, and Dave Heath. Gardner is not as fine or as consistent as these photographers, but his best pictures of America in the nineteen-sixties and seventies are tough and trenchant. His cross-country travels were made, inevitably, in Robert Frank's shadow and reflect a similar sense of melancholy and disillusionment. A handgun rests on top of a Bible; a man in a bar lays his head on the table but doesn't relax the grip on his glass; another man stares at an enormous globe as if it held a valuable secret. Through June 30. (Bell, 511 W. 25th St. 212-691-3883.)