

Misfire

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seen . . . a Model 700 returned from the field that would do any of the things plaintiff's attorneys would allege except when consumers haven't properly maintained the firearm. (or when they've) modified or altered it in some way or when the gun was misused or mishandled," Wohl said.

" . . . The jury's view in this case doesn't represent our view of the product."

Pivotal to the Collins case, Chaffin said, was company research that showed alternative trigger assemblies which had been tested but were not installed, even after complaints began piling up.

Collins purchased the gun, which had been manufactured in 1971, a decade ago, Chaffin said.

Chaffin said he is co-counsel in seven other cases against the firm.

Hunter wins suit against gun maker

Alvin man gets \$17 million after losing foot to misfire

By ROY BRAGG
Houston Chronicle

An Alvin man who lost a foot when his high-powered hunting rifle misfired was awarded \$17 million in his lawsuit against Remington Arms Co., the gun's maker.

The judgment rendered Saturday in Eagle Pass was the largest against the Delaware arms maker.

Jurors will reconvene May 23 to consider damages against DuPont, Remington's parent company.

The lawsuit, brought over performance of Remington's Model 700, was filed by Glenn Collins, who had been an Amoco drilling supervisor before the Dec. 29, 1989, hunting accident in Maverick County, which is south of San Antonio and borders Mexico.

Collins' attorney, Robert Chaffin of Houston said the hunter pushed

to fire it, when the weapon suddenly discharged, striking him in the left foot.

The foot was amputated in emergency surgery.

Chaffin said Collins' gun had misfired on two previous occasions without resulting in injury. The gun's erratic behavior continued in court — even though the weapon wasn't loaded, it misfired during a demonstration before jurors.

The jury, which heard two months of testimony in the case, deliberated two days before returning its decision.

Collins was unavailable for comment Monday.

Remington spokesman Bill Wohl Sr. said the weapon has proved safe in hundreds of tests and that billions of rounds have been fired by hundreds of thousands of owners without incident.

"We have never seen . . . never



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