

February 5, 1992

TO: Sears, Roebuck and Co.
Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois
60684

FROM: Thomas Chatten
10511 Kirkvale
Houston, Texas
77089

Several years ago my father purchased a new Remington model 700 (serial number 113139) 30-06 caliber rifle from Sears, Roebuck and Co. He and I have used it occasionally since that time for hunting. It has been well cared for and has only had moderate usage in its lifetime.

On January 4, 1992, while hunting with relatives on some property I own near Centerville, Texas, the gun discharged without the trigger being touched while I was loading it. A split second after I closed the bolt the firing pin released and caused the gun to fire. I was inside a tent with the gun pointed toward a nearby corner in the tent. I was positioned so that my left ear was facing that corner and after the gun fired I was stunned by the concussion and sound and immediately experienced a strong ringing and loss of hearing in my left ear. The gun blast caused a sizable split in the tent wall which was about one foot from the end of the gun barrel.

I unloaded the gun magazine without using the bolt and tried to see what caused the gun to fire accidentally. I closed the bolt on an empty chamber several times and sometimes the firing pin would release a short time after the bolt was closed, sometimes it would release as the bolt was being closed, and sometimes it would hold in place until released by the trigger.

I do not intend to use that rifle again!

I hoped that my hearing would return to normal after a few days and the constant ringing in my left ear would cease, but after two weeks there was no improvement and I made an appointment to be checked. A copy of the audiometric evaluation on January 22, 1992, is enclosed for your review along with another from September 25, 1990. These will allow you to see the amount of hearing loss in my left ear due to the accidental gun shot.

I am a salesman for an oilfield electrical contractor and being able to hear is critical in my job performance. If I cannot hear or understand conversation it effects my ability as a salesman. My career has been sales related for the past eighteen years.

I am writing to ask what Sears, Roebuck and Co. proposes to do regarding this situation? I ask for a reply no later than February 29, 1992.

Sincerely,


Thomas Chatten