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J. A. STEKEL

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3808 W. Hundred Road
Chester, VA 23831

Remington Arms Co., Inc.
Arms Service Division
Illiion, New York 13357

Gentlemen:

Approximately four (4) years ago I purchased a Remington .243 Model 700 ADL rifle. As you know, this is a bolt action rifle. In order to load or unload this firearm, you must slide the safety button into the "fire" position--the bolt will not move from its locked position until the safety button is in the "fire" position.

During a hunting trip in Greenville County, Virginia, on Tuesday, November 17, 1981, I had the aforesaid rifle with me in my truck. It was loaded, and the safety button was in the "safe" position. The stock of the rifle was resting on the seat of the truck, the trigger was positioned away from me, and the barrel was resting on the floorboard of my truck. I drove the truck to the end of the farm road on which I was traveling and parked. Keeping in mind that you cannot have a loaded weapon on a main thoroughfare in Greenville County, Virginia, I got out of the truck and reached in to unload the rifle. When I slipped the safety button into the "fire" position in order to unload the rifle, the gun discharged in the truck. The bullet went through the floor and lodged in the torque converter of my truck's transmission. I sustained damage to the transmission in the amount of \$534.29. This rifle discharged of its own accord, and not due to my error. In speaking with others in the hunting party I was with, I found that two (2) others owning the same model Remington rifle have had the same thing happen to them. Two more men have had the gun "dry fire"; that is to say, their guns were not loaded at the time the guns discharged. The names and addresses of these individuals are shown on a separate sheet attached hereto.

Fortunately, I sustained only property damage in this incident; however, if the gun is discharging at random due to some mechanical defect or a defect in its design, another such incident could result in the loss of a life.

