

February 27, 1964

Mr. Lyman Wilson
Ft. Deposit,
Alabama

Dear Mr. Wilson:

Thank you for your recent letter and I must say I am sorry that you were disappointed in receiving the word from Mr. John Phipps concerning your design submissions. Actually, he wrote to you with my instructions after I had made a thorough investigation, along with my designers, of your contributions.

Frankly, we could find nothing in them that was new and I must repeat again they mainly pertained to external appearances. When getting into design details of the internal mechanisms of guns or other devices, where one must set up for mass production or even for model shop work, intricate details of the mechanisms are certainly necessary, and it must be remembered that a complete design of any item has to be involved with more detail, investigation, measurements and calculations and good design layouts, rather than picture designs.

You ask a question concerning the Model 600 Carbine. The word "Carbine" means as it indicates, a short barreled version of a bolt action rifle. We are introducing it to compete with the Model 94 and other short barrel items of the center fire class. If one wants a 26" barrel or anything longer than the one supplied on the Model 600, we recommend going to the Model 700 type of action. The Model 600 was not introduced to compete with its blood brother, the Model 700, but to provide the customer that needs a carbine length rifle of high power, and therefore that is the reason for the development of this model.

I want to reiterate that I am very sorry at your disappointment, but feel that we should face these problems realistically and not misadvise you as to our feelings. I do not intend for this letter to deter you from your enthusiasm and your interest in guns, as several thousands of us in this country have and maintain, and must continue to maintain, this interest.

Thank you again for your fine letters and your submissions of your designs. I wish you all the luck in the world.

Sincerely yours,

W. E. Leek, Manager - Firearms Design
Illion Research Division

WEL:T