

cc: R.P. Kelly

June 10, 1966

Mr. Robert M. Simmons
HITCHITI GUN SERVICE
2627 Alandale Drive
Macon, Georgia 31200

Dear Mr. Simmons:

I have your fine letter with suggestions concerning our Remington guns and will do my best to comment on them.

On the Model 700 action lengths, our intent was to keep the actions in 2 different lengths so that those who wanted the smaller calibers would not have to carry larger, more cumbersome guns, and those who desired longer length loadings and heavier calibers could select the larger models. We have enjoyed tremendous acceptance of this model and back in the Model 721 era by furnishing features which do not exist on competitive guns, one of which was the 2 length system.

The Model 600 Carbine was introduced as an item which would fill the requirements of those individuals who do not like to carry long barreled cumbersome bolt action rifles, but are more inclined to carry such items as Winchester Model 94. But a good portion of these individuals were also interested in something as potent as a 270 or 30-06. This was accomplished by providing a short barrel, short action, but extremely strong bolt action rifle with ballistics of the longer cartridges such as the '06 and 270 which could be obtained in a shorter but larger capacity case. Our intent was not to interfere with sale of the Model 700 by introducing the Model 600, but to fill the gap as previously stated, for those individuals who are not interested in the larger gun. Therefore, for the present at any rate, it is our policy to keep the new short cartridges such as the 350 and 6.5 in the carbine category and leave the longer cartridges in the longer action Model 700.

As far as sights are concerned, there is problem in providing rifles without sights except in the custom category. It is our experience that a standard model of any type must be useable when taken from the gun rack of any of the gun shops in the country; and therefore it is mandatory that they contain sights. I agree that seldom does anyone buy a 22/250 and use it with open sights. But in our business, with exception of the custom guns, it is about the same thing as providing a Ford truck without wheels.

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We investigated a series of calibers during development of the 350 and 6.5, and of course it was natural that the 25 caliber should be considered, which it was. For some unfortunate reason the 257, which was an excellent little cartridge, has died a natural death in the country and has taken with it the stigma of the 25. There are so many calibers available at the present time that it appears to me there is very little room left for anything really new in standard combinations. I am referring specifically to changes in loads as well as bullet shapes, etc..

As far as Centennial models in the M/742 and others, this was a Management decision. Design for extremely short barreled rifles has varied over the years, and only on occasion do we get requirements in the autoloaders and pumps for barrels shorter than 22". The M/600 seems to have been satisfactory in the short action bolt action series.

Pertaining to the length of fore end on the M/600, we had about 6 or 8 different lengths on our prototype models and it was conclusion of the Design Group that this particular one selected made the best impression for eye appeal and handling. There have been some suggestions that the fore end be made longer. In other words, similar to a Mannlicher type. Yours is the first suggestion I have received on making it shorter. There is considerable amount of difficulty in changing lengths of fore ends in the factory. Therefore, it is mandatory the one selected be completely right as possible. For example, when the fore end is changed in length, the tapers on all 3 sides and the top would also have to be changed, along with formers and tooling for manufacturing purposes. Then, too, an approximate \$25,000 change would be necessary in the dies for making the checkering pattern. Naturally changes of this nature can be accomplished with less difficulty in a gun shop where mostly handwork is involved. But in mass production, limitations would prevent alterations of this nature.

We have had comments pro and con concerning rib on the Model 600, to extent that those who like it think it a great new innovation in gun development and sighting for rifles; while others take the rifle to a gunsmith at their expense to have the item removed. But a rib on a rifle is like a lot of things for which Remington should be given credit in trying something new. After all, ribs have been acceptable on revolvers, pistols and shotguns ---- why not rifles? And I think, to be honest, the silhouette provided by this combination gives a more pleasing appearance with the rib than without it. It takes the curse off the high sights. However, these are all matters of opinion, and I guess this is what makes the world go round.

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I don't believe a cast aluminum anodized floor plate and trigger guard would add anything to the Model 600 except perhaps a few ounces of weight. To my knowledge we have had no difficulties with this item. It retains the black appearance permanently, is very rugged, light weight, and performs its job satisfactorily.

Your suggestion for a companion combination of caliber between the XP-100 and M/600 I think is an excellent one. We have made up a M/600 in .221 Caliber that performs very well, but not efficient as the 222 or 223 because the 221 was designed to be efficient ballistically in a short barrel. By the same token the 222 family of cartridges was designed to be efficient ballistically in a long barrel, and there are not efficient in a short barrel. And when fired in an XP-100, velocity is low and blast to the shooter's ears is damaging. The first XP-100 made experimentally was chambered for the 222 and although accurate was not acceptable because of the two previously mentioned factors. There have been several who have made the mistake of purchasing an XP-100 and having it rechambered for a 222. We have considered other calibers for the XP-100 and have experimented with a few, one of which was a 5mm on a 222 case. This combination was very accurate but the muzzle blast was objectionable, range was excellent, and recoil not too severe. Other calibers such as you mentioned (22/250, 223, 257) we would consider not only dangerous as far as muzzle blast and broken ear drums are concerned, but in some instances recoil might be too severe for proper safety of handling such a gun and cartridge combination.

Going back to the Models 600 and 600 Magnum, our objective was to keep the Magnum and its laminated stock in one category and the one piece walnut stock in smaller calibers in standard version. All kinds of combinations could be supplied, of course. For example, we experimented with a laminated walnut stock which contained the superior qualities of warp-free conditions such as the one we now manufacture, but the laminations were not obvious enough, we thought, to suggest to the customer that he was getting more for his money; therefore, it was abandoned. We have tried several other combinations of woods, but it is difficult to find one that can be laminated properly to give enough definition of color changes so that the customer recognizes it as a laminated stock.

I got a chuckle from your comment about "Remington makes the best - Winchester makes the rest", and was astounded to see the list of rifles and shotguns of Remington manufacture that you own. You must be very proud of this collection.

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I note you have quite a combination of scopes and mounts. I don't know all the fellows involved in the manufacture of these scopes, but Ed Hilliard is a friend and old Army buddy of mine, who is associated with Redfield. My home is in Wyoming and I personally take many of our new models out in that area to test them each summer. We not only shoot at targets and game, but also with my three boys manage to pack these items on our back up into the high mountain ranges, and have found several on which we recommended changes as far as carrying ease is concerned.

About two years ago I tested the 6.5 and 350 with Les Bowman in Cody, Wyoming. Both guns performed superbly and the 350 has had time to add to its credit all of the major game in this country including Kodiaks, grizzlies, moose and buffalo, as well as mountain lion and Polar bear. The 7mm has performed good on big game worldwide, is excellent for long range shots at antelope, sheep and elk.

The Model 1100 is really making a name for itself. I don't think there is any doubt it is the finest autoloading shotgun ever made. The XP-100 holds records for accuracy in pistol shooting, Les Bowman having a 5-shot group at 100 yds. of .430". One other sports writer has a similar group at .460". Out on the West Coast in the Seattle area after the rifle type bench matches are over out comes the XP-100 for a bench rest match. One writer, Ken Judge Glanzer, seems to be promoting this work. As you probably know the XP-100 made the cover on 5 sporting magazines following its announcement. Naturally we don't expect large volume sales from this item since its usefulness is limited, but we do think it has made its impression on the shooting world as it influences the thinking of gun designers and military people as well.

One demonstration we enjoyed at Aberdeen a couple years ago with the XP-100 was to outshoot all the rifles on hand at 1/4 miles at bobbing targets, making 5 hits at 5 targets with 5 shots at this distance. We also demonstrated 5 hits from 5 shots offhand at 5 man size targets at 100 yards. This was unheard of in pistol shooting previous to this demonstration.

You can be justly proud of your collection and I can assure you that we are not resting on our laurels even though we are first in the gun business. More and more effort is required to remain in that position, and I am sure things to come you will be proud to add to your already growing list of fine Remington sporting guns.

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I appreciate your letter and suggestions, and your letter is being routed to the gun designers in our group as well as our leading salesmen, and am sure it will be read with interest. It wouldn't be surprising if some of your suggestions might influence some of our existing models as well as those planned for the future.

Best regards and thanks again for writing,

W. E. Leek,
Manager - Firearms Research & Design
Ilion Research Division

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