

REMINGTON ARMS COMPANY, INC.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE



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Ilion, New York
April 5, 1977

TO: E. F. BARRETT
FROM: W.E. LEEK

Silhouette

According to several well known gun writers, International Metallic/Shooting is the fastest growing shooting sport in America. This game involves shooting at metal forms of animals at various distances and is considered the most difficult of all shooting events. Center and rim fire rifles, pistols and revolvers, muzzle loading rifles and air rifles are used.

Remington firearms are widely used and are the most popular. For example, the National Centerfire Silhouette Championships were won with a M/700 Varmint weight barrel in 308 Caliber. Another favorite is the M/788 in 308 Caliber and is being used because of its fast locktime (an important factor in offhand shooting required in this sport). The XP-100 converted to a 1½" 308 Caliber was used to win the National Silhouette Pistol Championships. Elgin Gates advises (see memo attached) that gunsmiths out west are combing the country buying up every XP-100 they can obtain for making conversions for this sport.

The M/40X and 540X both are being used to advantage in the rimfire silhouette game, which has yet to be standardized.

Other equipment such as scopes range from 4 power to 20 power, with Lyman being the most reliable. As far as components are concerned, the use of cartridge cases is about evenly divided between Federal, Winchester and Remington. CIL primers are favored and Sierra and Hornady bullets are the most popular in 308 and 7mm Calibers.

Remington was first in providing the customer with a standard factory rifle to fit the requirements of this sport, and was followed by Ruger.

A good indication of increased interest in this sport is to note the recent activity in gun magazines. For example, February 1977 issue of Shotgun Industry displays two M/700 silhouette rifles and one Ruger on the front cover, with several pages by W.L. Rickell discussing the game. World's champion, Dr. William Berkley, is shown cleaning his M/700 in preparation for a match. October 15, 1976 Gun Week shows a picture and article of NRA President Merrill Wright presenting the new World's Champion, Lones Wigger, with the M/700. Wigger, by the way, is several times gold medal Olympic Champion CF and RF rifleman. The NRA is purchasing a M/700 silhouette rifle for presentation to the 1977 Champion in September at Phoenix.

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Elgin Gates is encouraging us to promote and recaliber the XP-100 for this popular pistol event.

May issue of GUNS has a fine article, again by Walter Rickell. Guns & Ammo December 1976 article by John Adams indicates interest in the pistol event. This article was written before the XP-100 was used to win the '76 Championships. At that time revolvers were being used; now the XP-100 is starting to forge ahead.

In Sports Afield - March 1977, Pete Brown has a fine article on Siluetas Metalicas, The Booming New Shooting Sport. His article covers both rifle and pistol, and gives Remington credit for pushing the rimfire silhouette game.

Rifle Magazine - Jan.-Feb. - has an article entitled Rimfire Silhouette by Neal Knox concerning our development of the rimfire sport.

Attached to this report are copies of the articles mentioned, and letters from various sportsmen clubs inquiring about these various silhouette games.

There is no question that the sport is growing and it may eventually do for the rifle what skeet did for the shotgun. Although ranges for center fire are a limiting factor (600 yds. required with adequate safety backstop), rim fire can be used as a complement to the center fire.

I recommend that Remington advise the shooting public that we do make a center fire rifle for this sport. So far the word silhouette is not even mentioned in our advertising for 1976. I also suggest we pursue the development of a rim fire silhouette rifle to be used as a training rifle and competitive rim fire silhouette rifle. We also should provide one or two calibers; i.e. 30 and/or 7mm in the shortened 308 case for the XP-100 Pistol.

I expect the XP-100 Pistol will become the favorite in this new pistol game because of the fine trigger system, low moment arm reducing upward muzzle jump, and extremely strong action needed for handloading.

In the next few months I will be in the area where most of this activity is progressing and plan to keep Remington up to date on these shooting events.

WEL:T