

NEAL FENDIG
4310 6th Street, East Beach
St. Simons Island, Georgia 31522

March 15, 1995

Remington Arms Company
Service Division
14 Hoefler Avenue
Illion, N. Y. 13357

Gentlemen,

Over the last several years, while still hunting for deer here in Glynn County, Georgia, I had an unusual thing happen, I believe now that this is probably the second time it happened. The first time was several years ago while hunting for deer in the same vicinity as the mishap described here.

The most recent occurrence involved my Remington Model 7, .243 bolt action rifle going off accidentally while I was up in a tree stand. I was standing in the crotch of a large live oak tree around 4:30 in the afternoon when I thought I heard some deer approaching out in front of me. I was holding the rifle in my hands and I took my right thumb to push the safety forward to take the safety off. (It has been difficult to ease forward on more than one occasion as it was on this occasion). Failing to get the safety to move forward, I set the rifle between my feet in the crotch of the oak tree against the leaning trunk of the tree in front of me. I then took both hands, grasped the rifle around the stock just below the trigger housing, and took both thumbs to try to push the safety forward to take the safety off. On this occasion, I did not have any of my fingers inside of the trigger housing, so I know that the forward pressure of the safety is what caused the rifle to accidentally go off.

The gun discharged and the bullet entered the oak tree just above the muzzle and slightly above my head blasting hard oak bark in every direction. Some of the bark blew back down against my forehead with great force and into my left eye. I was stunned for a moment, then I realized my eye was injured and full of bark. With my left eye closed, I got my handkerchief out of my hip pocket and put it up to my left eye. After holding it there for a moment or two trying to regain my composure, I took the handkerchief off of my eye and saw with my right eye that I was bleeding quite profusely.

I was able to get down out of the tree with my left eye closed, walk to my car,

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and drive back to the hunting lodge. Several men were at the lodge and I got them to look at the eye. They felt I should see a doctor at the Emergency Medical Center as soon as possible (which I did). The doctor was able to clean the eye out for me and to conclude there was no serious damage to the eye. He dressed the eye after putting medicine in and gave me an antibiotic prescription. I was able to go back to the lodge and join my friends. There was no permanent damage to the eye. I have enclosed a photo taken by one of my friends at the lodge soon after the accident and before I went to the doctor.

On the incident described above, I did not have any of my fingers inside of the trigger housing.

On the first incident, however, I did had one finger in the trigger housing although I was still trying to push the safety off with my thumb. On this first incident, I thought perhaps that as the safety finally went forward my finger may have moved against the trigger accidentally making the rifle go off. Now, I believe the force of the safety moving forward caused the rifle to fire just as it did in the second incident.

In any event, I am returning the rifle to you to see what needs to be done, as I'm not comfortable in using the rifle any more at this point in time.

Sincerely,


Neal Fendig

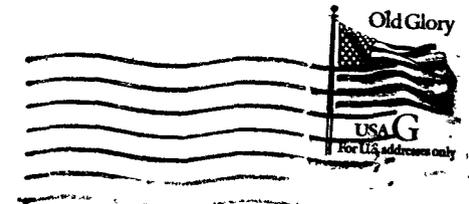
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OFFICE COPY

AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

Fendig Outdoor Adv. Co.

P.O. BOX 20858
ST. SIMONS ISLAND, GEORGIA 31522



Attention: Mr. Jack Kast
W.O. # R95-11378

Remington Arms Company
Service Division
14 Hoefler Avenue
Illion, N. Y. 13357

