

Ilion, New York
June 21, 1962

MODEL 700 - IMPROVED BOLT ACTION HIGH POWER RIFLE

The following is a resume of notes as regards to background leading up to development of these new rifles.

The original Model 721 basic system as designed by Merle Walker is still retained.

In 1954 Walker made a change in styling of the trigger guard together with the proposed improvement to styling of the stock. However, this was deferred or abandoned since it would not be compatible with the center fire rifle barrel program in that it was not interchangeable with other center fire models. It was at this time that Walker was given other assignments in the industrial line.

Further work on this high power bolt action model was discontinued until the Sales Department requested that work be started on a program which eventually resulted in the Model 725. This was handled by W.E. Leek of the Design Group with specific assignment to C.S. Campbell to carry out the requested specifications and styling as directed by Sales. The objective was to provide what was considered to be more or less a copy of the Model 70 Winchester.

The M/725 program was not very successful in meeting competition. Some have attributed this to selling price.

The high power center fire bolt action volume continued to fall, and with the completion of Walker's work on the Govt. AAMU program in 1960 there was opportunity for him to undertake a new bolt action program.

After exploratory work the proposed appearance model was completed and reviewed favorably with Sales. Part of the new objective was to try to reduce the many

items in the line. However, this was not accomplished until subsequent decision to drop both the ADL and BDL Grades.

Work was accomplished in eliminating the known objections or weaknesses to the earlier models. The design features a new trigger, new trigger guard, new and improved appearance for the bolt handle, new safety including much more desirable safety finger piece. The styling of the stock has been considerably upgraded, with more pleasing shape, and a fore end tip is included for the BDL Grade together with other accessories.

Realizing that checkering would have to be provided, especially to compete with foreign imports, Walker successfully urged that he be permitted to undertake development of a pantograph type of checkering machine designed with the idea of being operated by unskilled labor. To do otherwise the checkering would have been prohibitive in cost. However, this development was never completed since it was eclipsed by the new and attractive "custom checkering" system. At this point it is rather difficult to appraise the extent that the custom checkering contributes to the customer appeal for these new rifles. Gun writers have been high in praise of the new designs. They also report favorably, but in some cases a little restrained, as to the inverse type of checkering. Perhaps this is to be expected since unconventional.

At the same time gun writers have been almost equally in praise of the new 7mm Remington Magnum cartridge being features in the rifle. There seems to be differences of opinion as to the origin of this round; however, the fact still remains

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that as far as can be determined here, we must credit Walker with having seen a way of matching this load in a practical form for the M/700. I believe that he proposed it, made the first experimental round, developed the load, established the velocities, and then proceeded to sell it to Sales. This was to replace another magnum caliber which was called the Remington 3000 and would involve an extra large magnum case.

We believe that there was alertness and perseverance in connection with the round; also alertness and ingenuity in the rifle design, which was introduced early in 1962 and is currently being stepped up with customers' demand considerably beyond Sales forecast and expectations.

Incidentally, we failed to mention the new or improved extractor which was added at recommendation of Sales. There may be doubts as to influence of the extractor from standpoint of early high volume for the new rifle; on the other hand, if the extractor failure complaints are eliminated, it will no doubt have an effect on sustaining desired sales level.

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