

March 11, 1964

Mr. Karl F. Moldenhauer
Gedarburg,
Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Moldenhauer:

It was good to hear from you again and am glad that you are still active in the firearms "fraternity". Are you still working with the Wisconsin Gun Collectors' Association?

I am glad that you are doing that part of Jim Serven's book to be published by Stackpole, and realizing that most of these publishers and writers want their copy or information back "yesterday", am taking care of this immediately and even before having taken time to read the entire thirteen page copy. Just sampled a few of the paragraphs, then took the liberty of making copy so that I can do more leisurely reading in the future. There should be no reason for our having to edit the first portion since you are certainly considered by us to be an authority on the historical items that you have researched.

There is really nothing wrong with what you wrote about the XP-100 Pistol. However, looking at it from our own understandably prejudiced viewpoint, can only say that you have not done this little item "justice". Actually it has made more gun magazine covers than any other item we have turned out for many a moon. I believe someone told me that there were about seven different magazine covers at the last count. Some of us have called this development "an excursion". It certainly was not expected to be any large volume item, but from the standpoint of the gun writer it provided more words for copy than anything that had come along for quite awhile. I believe that the most enthusiastic gun writer in this case was a fellow named Les Bowman from out in the West.

Because you say that they are already cutting your copy in order to reduce space, I do not want to suggest that you expand the description on the XP-100 but simply use your own judgment on that after looking over a few of the sample pieces of enclosed materials I am sending along which if for nothing more can be kept for your future interest. You will note however that I have taken the liberty of editing the description of the material for the stock. This is because our people somewhat shudder around here with the

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mention of the word "plastic" since it does have a rather undesirable connotation. This is something that the plastics industry is gradually beginning to overcome. In fact, I note that the new Model 1200 Winchester shotgun which has just arrived is fitted with a molded plastic trigger guard. When a firearm is properly designed for the material it does make a good application, but not always is it true for simply using plastic to replace some other material. We could suggest that you use the word Du Pont "Zytel"*. Most of the readers do not recognize such a word, but they certainly will recognize the word molded "nylon".

The other data which you have given seems to check out all right with the catalog specs and you may or may not want to use any of the other particular items listed on the enclosed features sheets.

Funny things come out of Dallas, Texas! Now you describe having obtained a Model 611 Rifle from there. Actually these were all supposed to have been destroyed or scrapped, including the ammunition. Just before start of WW-2 the Remington's were attempting to develop a low cost rim fire rifle which would be in combination with a "hotter" cartridge than available in the ordinary 22 caliber RF. Apparently it was not a very well integrated development from the standpoint of the ammunition and the gun. I didn't learn much of the story until I came to Ilion later, in 1945. However, it seems that attempt was made to simply adapt this cartridge directly to the Model 510 Series of 22 Caliber rim fire rifles. The more knowledgeable designers were then busy on military items and apparently no one thought of checking the bolt forces, headspace growth, and things of that nature. At least several hundred rifles were made before adequate tests had been completed, only to find that the action was not satisfactory for this cartridge, and would be dangerous from standpoint of burst heads as well as growth in headspace with this action. At any rate the whole job was supposed to have been washed out. Apparently some of these rifles found their way out of the Plant and which accounts for your having one. I haven't seen any of the ammunition in years and would hardly know where to start hunting.

Glad to learn of your renewed interest on Remington items and hope that you will pick up on your book on the Remington Collectors Arms. I would suggest that you make an effort to have this finished and published in time for the Remington Sesquicentennial year of 1966.

Your description of the mix-up of the patent markings on the Remington-Elliot Rifle was quite amusing. However, this is still understandable since I see things happen around here that are just about as bad today.

*Registered Trademark

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I have nothing more on the Crawford Loomis material but am still mourning the loss, and trying further to learn of her whereabouts.. Perhaps you can help me out sometime.

Sincerely yours,

S. M. Alvis
Ilion Research Division
Research & Development Department

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Encl.