

for P. Goodstall  
history file

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY  
ABOUT THE NEW

REMINGTON

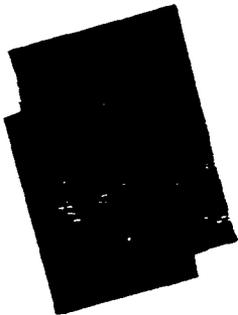
Models 721 & 722

BIG GAME RIFLES

*Remington*

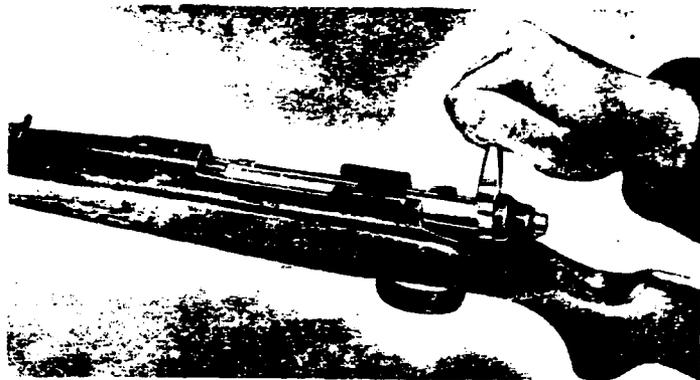
DU PONT

## SPORTING GOODS DEALER FEBRUARY, 1948



**T**HE long awaited "postwar high power rifle" has at last made its official appearance. We have been putting it through the mill for the past few months and from all indications Remington's Model 721 should be a good seller. It fills a definite void in the over-all sporting rifle picture.

This rifle possesses more than a few features of advanced design which are highly desirable—crisp trigger pull, a bolt action of Krag smoothness, Garand rifle type ejector, and bolt face and chamber mouth recessed so as to completely enclose the cartridge head.



Model 721 rifle, latest product introduced by the Remington Arms Co., Bridgeport, Conn. The company says that it has the strongest action ever developed for a bolt action high-power rifle.

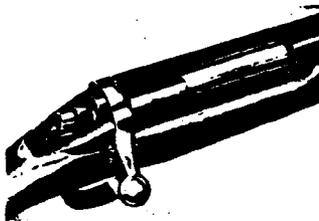
The Model 721, with its 24-inch barrel, weighs about seven pounds and is made in calibers 30-06, 270 Winchester and 300 H & H Magnum. It is priced at \$79.95.

The Model 722, similar to the Model 721, is to sell for \$74.95, and comes in calibers 257 Roberts and 300 Savage.

## HARDWARE AGE • FEBRUARY 26, 1948

### Bolt Action High Power Rifles

Remington Arms Co., Inc., Bridgeport 2, Conn., is offering two models, 721 and 722 bolt action high power rifles. Rifles feature: encased bolt head

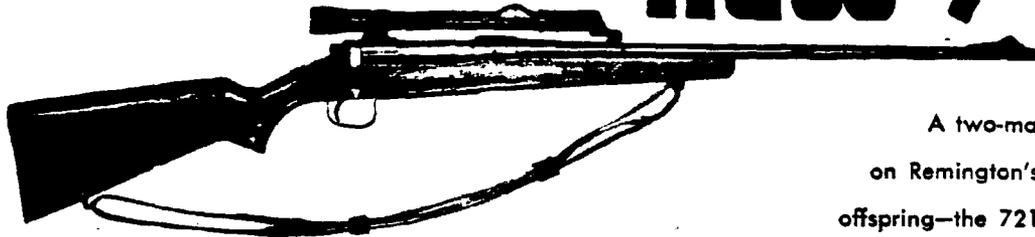


said to support and enclose cartridge

case for utmost safety and accuracy; double locking solid lugs; new style extractor; match rifle trigger mechanism with smooth, sharp, lightning fast let-off claimed to have no back lash, drag or creep; special bolt stop in front of trigger; streamlined sporting stock; light weight, perfectly balanced; and attractive appearance. Model 721A standard grade chambered for .30-06 Spfld. or 270 Win. cartridge with 24 in. barrel or for .300 Mag. cartridge with 26 in. barrel. Stock of American walnut; weight about 7½ lbs., is 44¼ in. long over-all except .300 Mag. caliber, 46¼ in. Model 722A is the same except with shorter action and chambered for .300 Sav. or .257 Roberts cartridge, 24 in. over-all length 43¼ in. and weight 7 lbs. Suggested to retail for \$79.95 and \$74.95, respectively.

AMERICAN  
RIFLEMAN  
MARCH, 1948

# SOMETHING NEW!



A two-man report  
on Remington's newest  
offspring—the 721 sporter

## THEORY: By JULIAN S. HATCHER

*Based on a lifetime acquaintance with ordnance problems and theory, General Hatcher brings you this report on design features of the new Remington 721.*

**T**HE LONG-AWAITED REMINGTON 721 rifle, just announced together with a short-action companion, the 722, looks at first glance like any other bolt-action hunting model. A closer examination reveals, first of all, something quite different looking about the bolt. The absence of any sign of an extractor or extractor collar gives it an almost "unfinished" appearance. But it is all there just the same, and it is a far stronger and far safer bolt action than any that has ever been produced before.

With the conventional Mauser-type action, which includes the Springfield M1903, the Enfield M1917, and the German 1898 Mauser, the weakest point is the space between the back wall of the chamber and the front of the bolt where no metal supports the cartridge case. The strength of the case itself is depended upon to bridge that gap and support the gas pressure. In cases of excess pressure or bad brass, this is where the first failure occurs. The brass gives way at this point and the gas gets out and causes trouble. If the receiver happens to be weak or brittle, as it was in some of the old low-numbered Springfields, it can even wreck the action. In the new Remington design, no such weak point exists. The face of the bolt is recessed deeply, so as to surround the head of the cartridge and house it completely, up to the point where it is supported by the walls of the chamber.

The two locking lugs of the bolt are made solid—that is, there is no slot in the left lug for the ejector such as is present in the Springfield, Enfield, and Mauser. This solid lug construction is made possible by the use of a spring-type ejector, housed in the face of the bolt.

The extractor, of a unique and highly effective design, consists of a crescent-shaped spring housed entirely in the recessed portion of the bolt face which surrounds the cartridge head. This spring has a hook or lip on the inside curve which, once it has taken a grip on the rim of the cartridge, will pull the case out of the chamber as long as the rim holds. It will not slip

## PRACTICE: By AL BARR

*To get the practical slant, Al Barr took the 721 to Texas for deer—and brought back a fat 11-pointer. Here are his reactions to the 721 in the field.*

**W**E LOOKED OVER A pilot model of the Remington 721 rifle more than a year ago but until recently were sworn to secrecy concerning its merits. Like everyone else though, we were anxious to see one of the first production models and, of course, to use it—which I did on a hunting trip in Texas last December.

The first noticeable good features which struck me upon opening the package of the early production model we received was the light weight and nice balance of the gun. The stock, although of very plain, relatively-soft walnut, together with the finish, looked exactly like what we could expect—suitable equipment for a hunting rifle as intended by the manufacturers. The clean, crisp trigger pulled from about three and one-half to four pounds. Our immediate reaction to the gun was favorable, but the cost of it was a question. Since then we learn that it is not excessive.

The first time we used the Model 721 was to sight in the rifle for an anticipated hunting trip to Texas and to see what accuracy could be obtained with various standard loads. The open rear sight and bead front were not the best for good grouping, but the first results were not discouraging. Best results, however, were not obtained with the hunting-type Remington and Peters loads but with our old favorite, 1940 National Match M1 ammo of Frankford Arsenal manufacture, which gave ten-shot groups at 100 yards of 2.51 and 2.68 inches. Then a J2.5 Weaver scope was installed with the hope of reducing these group sizes. This was where disappointment came. Ten-shot groups with the same ammunition measured 2.85, 2.61 and 2.02 inches. This grouping was not the fault of the scope either, as I had used the same one on other rifles. From these tests we had to come to the conclusion that about



Close-up of the Model 721's streamlined action. Above: The new rifle with "De Luxe" Boer Cub scope in 5th mount

## JULIAN S. HATCHER (Continued)

off the rim as some extractors are prone to do when the going gets tough. With the extractor thus housed in the bolt head, there is no necessity for a cut-away in the rear of the barrel to accommodate the extractor hook, such as is present in the Springfield, nor is there a groove cut around the front end of the bolt for the extractor to ride in. This construction adds enormously to the strength of the action.



Bolt release is located inside trigger guard, ahead of trigger

A critical examination of the 721 and 722 shows that in addition to this tremendous safety factor, they contain several other features of great interest to the ultimate user.

For example, the rifle has been so designed that the receiver can be made of high-quality, round-bar stock instead of requiring a costly, special drop-forging. The recoil shoulder, where the thrust of the action in firing is transmitted to the stock, instead of being produced by the costly machining of a lug on the bottom of the receiver, is made of a simple flat piece which fits between the barrel and receiver, and is held in place by the



Most important safety feature of the new Remington sporter is recessed bolt head

barrel when it is screwed into its seating.

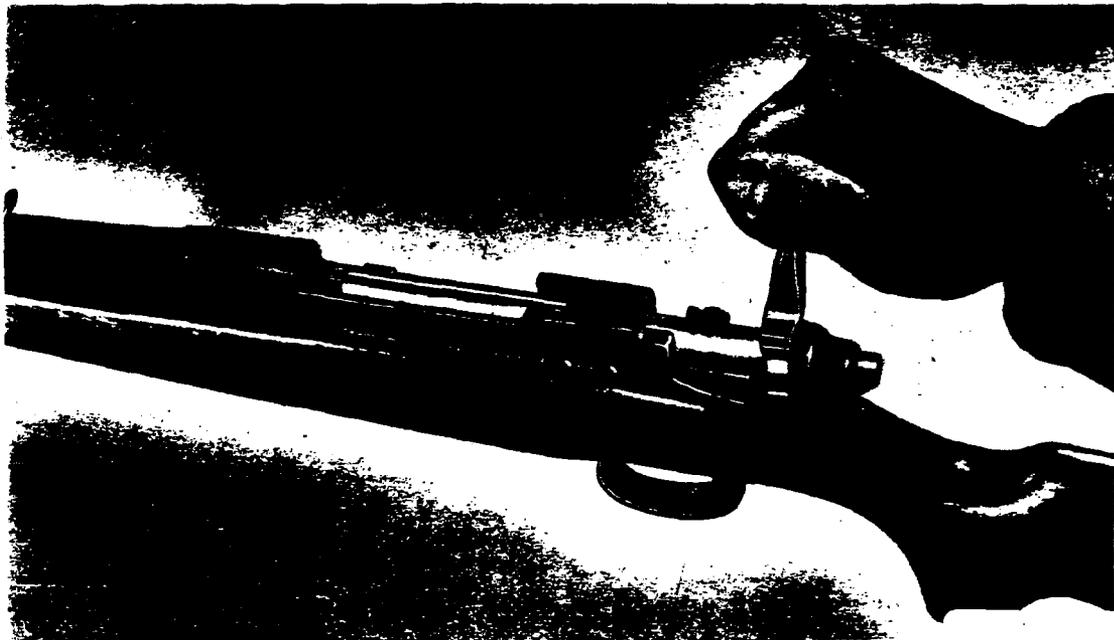
The bolt is another part that is made of high-quality bar stock instead of from a special forging. This is made possible by producing the bolt handle in a separate piece and then attaching it by induction brazing, a method which is also used to attach certain other parts.

Other features of these two fine rifles are: Speed lock with lightning-fast short-throw firing pin; fine, ~~crane~~ dead-break, match-type trigger, with the pull adjustable by simply turning a screw. Bolt handle shaped for lowest possible scope mounting. Side-mounted, thumb-operated safety so placed as to be entirely out of the way of the scope, yet fast, efficient and operated with ease and convenience. Receiver drilled and tapped for a receiver sight or telescope mount. The existing sights are about standard, but most owners will replace them.

The Model 721, priced at \$79.95, is at present being made in .30-'06 only, but will be coming out in .270 Winchester in July and in .300 Magnum in September. The rifle weighs 7 1/4 pounds, has a 24-inch barrel, and a 4-shot magazine for the .30-'06 and .270. The .300 Magnum will have 26-inch barrel and a 3-shot magazine which, with one shut in the chamber, will make a total of four shots available.

The Model 722 has a short action, will sell for \$74.95, and will be out in May for the .300 Savage, and in July for the .257 Remington ~~Winchester~~ ~~Winchester~~. This model will weigh 7 pounds and will be one inch shorter over-all than the 721.

Summing up, both of Remington's new babies seem exceptionally well designed and are available at very favorable prices. Personally, I know of no rifle I would rather have for almost any type of big game hunting.



## AL BARR (Continued)

the best groups for this rifle could be obtained with it as received, with either the rather crude open sights or a 2½X scope.

That is about all the shooting we did, except to get from three to four and one-half-inch groups (some even over five inches) with hunting loads at 100 yards. The rifle was sighted in two inches above aim using a new Stith Bear Cub scope in Stith mounts made for the Model 70 Winchester, which are in a sense interchangeable on the Model 721 Remington and



Al Barr inserted a scrap of cardboard to make fore-end bear on the barrel

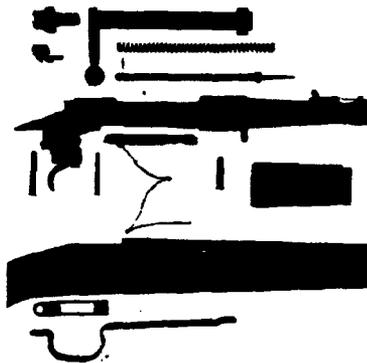
Model 70 Winchester. When I got to Texas, the Stiths did not like to see the scope reticule above center of the field, so a higher front base (.056 inch) was made and the reticule was centered.

While this was a hunting trip planned with a new rifle, some time was spent on the target range used by the Stith mount makers to sight in rifles after mount installation. There I had an opportunity to shoot soft-point and open-point hunting loads of 150, 180, and 220 grains weight in three of the first Model 721 Remington rifles sent out by the makers. These loads seldom equaled the accuracy obtained with old Service loads and everyone seemed to blame the postwar bullets. I believe they might have been placing the blame where it belonged.

Our own rifle was checked for bedding in the Stith shop and the noticeably high spots in the inletting removed. Accuracy with the same hunting loads was no better than before (we did not have the opportunity to try the old Frankford Arsenal loads). At this stage each rifle was tested by inserting a three-quarter-inch wide strip of a regular paper match cover between the stock fore-end tip and barrel without removing the stock. This old trick, used regularly on the range to check accuracy against forearm tension, worked on our M721.

Using a Stith 2½X Bear Cub scope, the Winchester Silvertips grouped in 2.50 inches. The 220-grain Peters grouped in 2.00 inches, but five were in 1.30 inches if one bad hold is ignored.

The Peters 180-grain grouped in 1.60 inches. All these were five-shot groups. In this test there was one very bad flier, three inches out of the group, which must have been caused by a bad bullet. The other two rifles did not respond to bedding treatment, but the inletting of the barrel and action had not been checked by removing the stock.

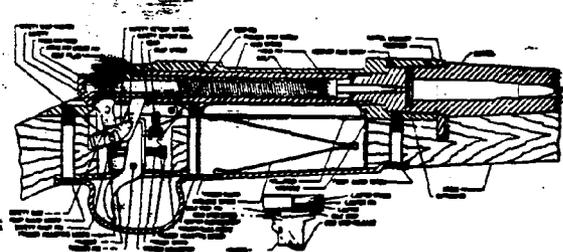


The new Remington is streamlined, as shown by this silhouette photo of a disassembled rifle

In my haste to leave on the trip, I forgot until one-half hour before plane time that a sling and even sling swivels were lacking. I think they are a necessary part of any hunting rifle. These were hastily installed. The absence of a good receiver sight is a handicap, but the receiver is already drilled for standard model sights. The receiver ring is drilled and tapped also for the standard scope base, though the barrel is not.

These items, plus the absence of checkering on the stock, did not seem to bother the average hunter whom I met. They were the kind who use a rifle more or less as a tool but who could appreciate the light weight and nice balance of the Model 721.

On the other side, riflemen who like fancy-figured stocks and engraved actions did not have too much praise to offer for the M721 Remington. They did approve of the smooth, clean lines of the receiver and the handy position of the safety, which is located on the right side of the receiver. A common comment was that the addition of some stock checkering and somewhat better stock wood would add greatly to the appearance of the rifle and that the cost of these items, if done at the factory, would not be too great. Most of these critics did not stop to consider the fact that the Remington Arms Company attempted, and did so successfully, to produce a fine, well-bal-



Here, in cross section, are the "insides" of Remington's new rifle

anced hunting rifle without the extra fineries which add considerably to the cost.

After improving the accuracy of the one Model 721 rifle by merely inserting a strip of cardboard between barrel and fore-arm tip, we decided, upon return from the Texas trip, that a more thorough check on bedding would be interesting. We soon learned that no part of the receiver, on the bottom at least, except the extreme rear tang, was touching the wood. The front part of the receiver where the front guard screw enters could not be made to contact the stock, the reason being that the "well" for the long, thin recoil plate anchored between barrel and receiver was not cut deep enough. All the load from the recoil was taken on this very small area.

Not wanting to do too many things at one time, so as to learn just what correction would improve on accuracy, the rifle was range tested at 100 yards. One load at least proved that really good accuracy can be obtained with this light sporter when everything is right. After the rebedding job, the Remington 150-grain bronze point made a 1.78-inch group for ten consecutive shots, with nine of them in 1.25 inches. The next five shots went into 1.65 inches, with four of them in 1.27 inches. I would say that is good accuracy for a sporter.

Having had considerable experience with at least one Model 721, I personally feel that for average hunting purposes there is a bright future for this rifle. It is about the handiest bolt-action rifle I have had an opportunity to carry in the woods, after adding the sling and swivels, of course. My own impressions are that for general hunting the Model 721 is going to become quite popular.

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

PUBLISHERS OF

THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN

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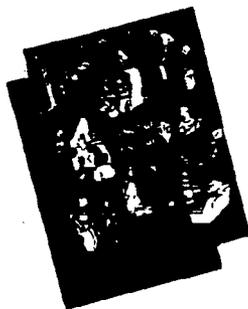
From: Ray Stann and Paul Cardinal

Washington, D. C.--With the article, "Something New", the March issue of THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN, the official publication of the National Rifle Association gives the U.S. rifle sportsman an unbiased, two-man report on a new long-awaited sporting rifle with a new type bolt-action.

Major General Julian S. Hatcher, the U.S. Army's long-time small arms expert and present technical head of the NRA, gives a report on the design features of the new gun while Al Barr, NRA experimenter reports on the performance of the rifle in the field during a Texas deer hunt.

Of the bolt action on the new weapon, put out by Remington, General Hatcher has this to say, "It is a far stronger and far safer bolt action than any that has ever been produced before." Barr pulls the gun apart in the field and likes and dislikes some of its points. On the general features of the weapon he has this to say, "The first noticeable good feature was the light weight and nice balance of the gun." About the trigger, "The clean, crisp trigger pulled from about three and one-half to four pounds." Both General Hatcher and Al Barr predict a bright future for the rifle, known as the 721 model, and believe that it will become quite popular with hunters. In their articles they explain fully why.

The March issue of THE RIFLEMAN is well rounded out with several other gun articles from "grouse hunting" to "coated lenses" plus a history of shooting in the United States taken from NRA Executive-Director C. B. Lister's Annual Report. Lister begins in 1600 and ends up with the present day Olympic try-outs.



HARDWARE  
WORLD  
MARCH, 1948

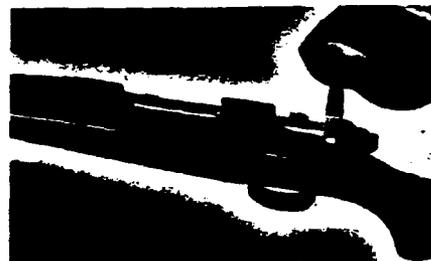


**NEW REMINGTON HIGH POWERED RIFLE Model 721** is manufactured to handle either the 30-06, 270 or 300 Magnum cartridges. With a slightly shortened action (called the M722) the gun may be had to fire either the 257 Remington or 300 Savage cartridges. Outstanding feature of the new rifle is the bolt head which completely encases the base of the cartridge. Breach pressures during this experiment exceeded 100,000 pounds per square inch; normal pressures are around 53,000 pounds per square inch. In all calibers except the 300 Magnum, it has a 24" tapered barrel equipped with a ramp-type front sight of white gold; the ramp is matted to eliminate sun glare. The 300 Magnum has a 26" barrel. Has a new style sporting stock of walnut, comfortable pistol grip with a shotgun type buttplate, made to absorb recoil, and checkered to prevent slippage. The forend is the semi-beavertail type and is hand filling. The rifle cocks on the upward throw of the bolt. A conveniently arranged bolt stop just ahead of the trigger facilitates removal of the bolt from the receiver. The magazine has a capacity of four cartridges, with an additional round in the chamber. The weapon has a total of five rounds. Model 721 retails for \$79.95 and Model 722 will retail for \$74.95. Deliveries will be started as follows: Model 721, 30-06 cal., March; Model 721, 270 Win., July; Model 721, 300 Mag., September; Model 722, 300 Sav., May; Model 722, 257 Roberts, July.



SPORTS AGE • MARCH, 1948

Remington Arms Co., Bridgeport 2, Conn., announces its new models 721 and 722 bolt action, high power rifles, available in five calibers. Model 722 is lighter in weight and has shorter action than the 721. Outstanding feature of the new rifle is its strong bolt action with encased bolt head that fits into the recess of the breech and completely supports and encloses the cartridge case for utmost safety and accuracy.





## HARDWARE TRADE • MARCH, 1948

### REMINGTON ANNOUNCES NEW BOLT ACTION RIFLES

Two new sporting rifles have been announced by Remington Arms Company, Inc., Bridgeport, Conn. They are known as Models 721 and 722.

The result of years of research and manufacturing experience, the



two rifles feature a new style extractor, on which the patent is pending, encased bolt head which fits into the recess of the breech and completely supports and encloses the cartridge case for added safety, and a new convenient bolt stop.

The trigger mechanism is of match-rifle quality with a smooth, crisp action. The rifles have streamlined sporting stocks, are light in weight, balanced for easy handling and sturdily built.

The difference in the models lies in the 722's being lighter in weight and with a shorter action. List prices are \$79.95 for the 721 and \$74.95 for the 722. Deliveries will start this spring.



## SOUTHERN HARDWARE • MARCH, 1948

### Remington Introduces Two New Big Game Rifles . . . .

Remington Arms Company, Inc., Bridgeport 2, Conn., manufacturers of sporting firearms and ammunition, have introduced two new big game rifles, No. 721A standard grade and No. 722A standard grade.

Number 721A, chambered for 30-06 Springfield or 270 Winchester cartridge, with 24-inch barrel, or for 300 Mag. cartridge with 26-inch barrel, has been carefully bored and rifled for accuracy, it is claimed. New style sporting stock of American walnut and a properly shaped pistol grip are new features. The long, full, wall-rounded fore-end is of semi-beavertail type, while a shotgun style metal butt plate is checkered to prevent slipping. Rifle cocks on opening movement of bolt. A side-placed thumb-operated safety, special bolt stop, and polished bolt action are also included.



The magazine holds four cartridges and one in the chamber, giving a capacity of five shots, except the 300 Mag. caliber, which holds three in the magazine plus one in the chamber. White metal bead front sight is mounted on matted ramp. The receiver is drilled and tapped for adaptable scope mounts and standard micrometer receiver sights. Weight is about 7 1/4 pounds. Length overall is 44 1/4 inches, except the 300 Mag. caliber is 46 1/4.

Number 722A model carries the same specifications as No. 721A, except that it is chambered for 300 Sav. or 257 Roberts cartridge, and has shorter action. Its barrel is 24 inches, and weight about seven pounds. Length overall is 43 1/4 inches.

Features of both rifles include: encased bolt head for greater safety; solid, double locking lugs with greater locking area; new style extractor (patent pending) for greater gripping power and positive extraction; new special bolt stop, located in front of trigger; streamlined stock and flowing lines of the receiver.

# Arms *and* \* \* \* \* \* Ammunition

... JACK O'CONNOR, Editor

Remington's new Model 721, a big-game rifle, is moderate in price, lightweight, accurate, with a novel bolt action

For more than 2 years now, rumors have been going around that the Remington technicians at Ilion, N. Y., have been working on a new bolt-action big-game rifle. Right after the first World War, Remington brought out the Model 30 based on the old British-designed Model 1917, which Remington had made first for the British and later for the Americans by the tens of thousands. Probably because it was on the heavy and bulky side, the Model 30 was never particularly popular. From time to time it was given new barrels, redesigned bolts, new stocks, new trigger mechanisms, and generally slicked up. But even in the latest version—the Model 720, of which only a few thousands were ever made—it was still basically the old Model 1917, even though it had been given a slenderizing treatment and wore flowers in its hair.

When I first heard that the Model 720 had been dropped and that a new rifle would take its place, I made the logical guess (but a very bum one, as it turned out) that Remington was going to utilize the tools it had been using to make the 1903 Springfield rifles for the second World War, and that the new sporting rifle would be a Remingtonized Springfield sporter.

At any rate, the advent of this new rifle has given rise to almost as many rumors among gun nuts as the birth of the Model A Ford did among the general public way back in 1927 or 1928. (Remember?) A chap from Utah wrote me that he had actually seen one of them. A Canadian guide claimed he had steered around a sheep hunter armed with one. Months before I ever saw one myself a smart gun nut who evidently had operatives in the Remington factory wrote me giving a very



Close-up showing bolt and receiver. The Model 721 is chambered for .30/06, .270, and .300 H. & H. Magnum; the similar Model 722, with a shorter action, is chambered for .257 Roberts and .300 Savage. Deliveries in .30/06 have already begun

accurate forecast as to what the new rifle was going to be like.

For my part I never saw one until last June, when, after swearing me to secrecy, a Remington official gave me an off-record peek. Then, some time ago, a sample of the new rifle in .30/06 caliber came along. I have been shooting it, trying to blow it up, taking it apart, and what not for some weeks.

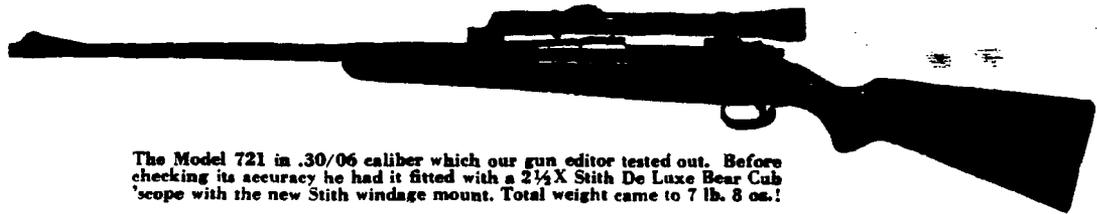
#### Five Calibers to Choose From

But let's get to the big news first. As to price, both versions of the new-comer are going to cut way under any other commercially manufactured big-game bolt-action rifle using a high-intensity cartridge. The Model 721, which has the long action and is chambered for .30/06, .270, and .300 H. & H. Magnum, sells for \$79.95. The short-action Model 722, chambered for the .257 Roberts and .300 Savage cartridges, is to retail at \$74.95.

Deliveries on the Model 721 in .30/06 have already begun. The Model 722 in .300 Savage will be out in May. July will see the Model 721 in .270 and the Model 722 in .257. The Model 721 in .300 H. & H. will be along in September.

Bolt-action big-game rifles of good grade are in terrific demand. If the Models 721 and 722 can be made in sufficient quantity, they are going to play hob with the jackleg "custom" makers who have been turning out rifles worth about \$25 prewar and selling them for 200 bucks or more. Good custom makers need not worry.

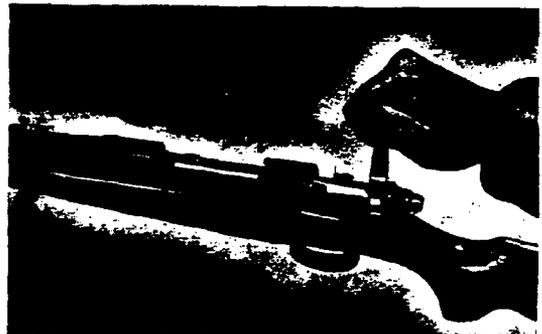
News Item No. 2: The Model 721 is light, as light as the famous fancy custom sporters with \$100 worth of expensive gunsmithing on them just to lighten them up! In .30/06 its weight hovers around 7½ lb., depending on the density of the wood in the stock. I had my sample fitted with a Stith 2¼X De Luxe Bear Cub 'scope with the new Stith Install-It-Yourself windage mount,



The Model 721 in .30/06 caliber which our gun editor tested out. Before checking its accuracy he had it fitted with a 2 1/4 X Siith De Luxe Bear Cub scope with the new Siith windage mount. Total weight came to 7 lb. 8 oz.!



The 721, a radical departure from the basic Mauser action, eliminates several of the weaknesses in that type of design



Note, in this left-side view, how the bolt handle lifts. No alteration needed, if you want a low 'scope mount installed!

and the combination of rifle, 'scope, and mount weighs only 7 lb. 8 oz.!

Because of the shorter receiver, the Model 722 weighs only 7 lb., and the weight could be reduced even more by chopping a couple of inches off the 24-in. barrel, which will be standard for all except the 300 Magnum, whose barrel will go 26 in.

Characters expecting a more or less conventional Mauser action in the 721 and 722 are going to drop their teeth. As produced, the new action looks as if its mother were a Remington 500-series .22 which had been frightened by a Mauser that passed on the other side of the street. Springfield, Remington 30, Model 1917, Winchester 54 and 70 are all modifications of the basic Mauser design but the Model 721 just isn't.

The action is undoubtedly much cheaper to manufacture than one of the Mauser pattern with its drop-forged receiver, trigger guard, floor plate, and so on. The receiver itself is made of heavy seamless steel tubing. Trigger guard and floor plate are made from a single stamping. The magazine box is a stamping. The magazine follower is of familiar Mauser design but also a stamping. The wide recoil shoulder is

just forward of the receiver ring. It is not an integral part of the receiver, but although I haven't taken it apart it looks as if it were passed over the barrel after the barrel was threaded to the action. Either that, or it's held to the receiver by a shoulder on the barrel.

The barrel has a handsome contour and is similar to the Winchester Model 70 barrel, even to the lump midway to hold the cut for the rear sight. A ramp front-sight base is integral.

#### Built to Handle Pressures

The bolt is heavy, strong, with two big locking lugs. The bolt handle, turned into a cut in the receiver, acts as a safety lug. The head of the case is completely inclosed. There is no extractor cut in the barrel whatsoever—and these cuts are one of the weaknesses of Mauser-type design. In other words, the case is completely supported by the steel of the barrel and bolt right up to the extraction groove.

#### Radically Different Extractor

The extractor is of new design so radical that you're going to have to see it to believe it. Extraction is posi-

tive and ejection equally so, with cases tossed so far they are hard to find. The extractor is integral with the bolt face, but it holds like iron because the whole head of the case is firmly wedged into the bolt face. In an inquisitive mood myself, I loaded five Remington cases with 57 gr. of du Pont No. 4320, seated 180-gr. bullets on top, and then fired the musket with a string. Pressures must have been 75,000 or 80,000 lb., but I had no extraction difficulty.

The adjustable trigger gives a sharp, clean let-off without drag or creep. Bolt stop release is inside the trigger guard just forward of the trigger itself. The rifle has a side thumb safety on the order of those found on the Remington 500-series .22's. Bolt handle is designed for low mounting of 'scope without alteration. Receiver ring has two holes drilled and tapped for rear 'scope block or for the forward portion of a bridge-type 'scope mount. If such a 'scope is mounted, two more holes must be drilled and tapped in the receiver bridge. The stock is well designed with a nice pistol grip and a neat full fore-end. Length of pull is 13 1/4 in.—a bit short for tall citizens, about right for the average person. Finish, of course, is varnish, and the

whole stock is as innocent of checkering as a Louisville Slugger baseball bat. Butt plate is 5½ by 1½ in.—a bit smallish, particularly since the checkering is rather coarse—and is set on with a down pitch of around 3 in. Really, though, stock is straight, points well, and handles nicely. Checkering would raise production costs, and if the owner wants to put out from 10 to 20 potatoes for a checkering job, there isn't any law against it.

Because of the light weight, the Model 721 is a bit of a kicker in .30/06, but there is nothing wrong with it that a recoil pad cannot cure. If that rifle were mine, I'd lengthen the pull to 13½ in. by the addition of a pad. That would take the sting out of it. Actually the recoil isn't anything that would bother a man shooting at game, but it might get annoying after a long string on the target. The factory should by all means put a recoil pad on the .300 H. & H. Magnum, as touching off one of those big cartridges in the rifle as she stands for the .30/06 would be grim.

In the .270 the recoil should apparently be a good bit less—first because the .270 has a different sort of recoil from the .30/06, and second because the .270 will weigh a bit more because of the smaller hole in the barrel.

In .300 Savage and .287 Roberts the 721 should be exactly right in weight—a light, fast-handling musket of moderate power and recoil on the first short bolt action to be in regular production in this country since the Model 1920 Savage was discontinued.

#### Accuracy is Plenty Good

The sample Model 721 I have been playing with gave good and satisfactory hunting accuracy, but not what I would call gilt-edged target accuracy—or varmint accuracy. My groups at 100 yd. ran around 2¼ to 3¼ in., both when using Remington loads in various

bullet weights and also with my own handloads with weighed powder charges. No one need moan about that accuracy. It is plenty good enough for big-game hunting—and the Model 721 is a big-game rifle. Under hunting conditions few can do better than about a 6 to 8-in. group at 200 yd. anyway—or for that matter 12 or 15-in. groups!

In shooting a mixed group of bullets—weighing all the way from 150 to 220 gr.—the Model 721, like most .30/06 rifles (light ones particularly) scatters the point of impact a good deal. At 100 yd. it takes about a 6-in. circle to hold them all. But after all, you can hit 3 in. off, one way or the other, and still kill your deer; and besides, not one hunter in 500 can shoot a 6-in. group at 100 yd. offhand. My hunch is that a good plastic-wood bedding job, particularly a band about 1 in. wide just back of the fore-end, would improve the accuracy and tighten up the mixed group by dampening barrel vibration. The light barrel is a free floater, with no contact with the wood all the way from stem to stern.

Any objections to the Model 721 will come from the gun nut, not from the so-called practical hunter. The gun nut will not like the fact that floor plate and trigger guard are a single stamping. He will mutter in his beard because the trigger is not scored or checkered. He will take issue because the floor plate is not hinged and detachable.

I can just see the gun nut who grabs himself off his first Model 721. First he will fit a rubber recoil pad, then he will get himself a pistol grip cap and screw and glue it on. Then he will see if he cannot substitute a milled Springfield floor plate and trigger guard. Then he'll rebed the barrel in plastic wood, fit a black Bakelite fore-and tip. Last he'll probably refinish the stock with linseed oil and checker it.

All that done, the rifle won't kill a big 10-point buck one darned bit better,

The Model 721 is a rifle designed to sell at a moderate price and put a weapon shooting cartridges of advanced design in the hands of a man to whom a dollar is a dollar and on whom the high cost of living has been waging war. With these considerations in mind Remington has done a skillful job of design and production.

#### If Gun Nuts Were Salesmen—

This all reminds me of a gun nut who, back when the Model 70 Winchester came out, got himself a job as a salesman in a big sporting-goods house—and therein lies a tale. Whenever a customer came in and asked to see a Model 70, his face would light up with genuine enthusiasm.

"Here it is, my friend," he'd say—"the world's finest and soundest sporting rifle. It does, however, have a lousy safety. All you'll have to do is to substitute a Pachmayr, Griffin & Howe, or Tilden job. I'd also advise you to have the floor-plate release put in the trigger guard, where it will look better; the job will cost no more than 15 or 20 bucks. Then you can have the stock thinned down, refinished with oil, and recheckered. For hunting I'd advise you to cut the barrel off to 23 in. . . ."

At this, the terrified customer backed off and said he guessed he'd look at badminton sets instead. One day the lad's boss caught him doing his act and canned him. He never could figure out why.

No one is going to mistake the Model 721 for a Griffin & Howe Springfield or one of the masterpieces of the late Alvin Linden. But it is a sound, very strong, very reliable, and accurate rifle at a moderate cost. All the essentials are right there and they're good. I hope Remington makes and sells a lot of them!—Jack O'Connor.

## Remington Lifts the Lid

# Shooting



WARREN PAGE  
Editor



**Its bolt-head design brand new, the Model 721 makes its bow in the big-game rifle line-up**

**T**HAT creaking you've been hearing came from the hinges of the box of secrets our major arms manufacturers have been sitting on for the past few years. Forced to seal up new sporting designs while grinding out munitions to quiet the "Heil and Banzai" boys, and retarded through the post-war period by mountainous production and procurement problems even on standard models, they are now in a position to give us a peek under the lid. And this is no Pandora's box—the guns and gadgets I've seen in its dim recesses are all good.

The first new factory bolt-action since 1936 designed to handle big game cartridges of greater intensity than the .30-30, the first American bolt to enclose the cartridge head fully, to my knowledge—these are a couple of the firsts that come with the new rifle out of the Remington corner of the box—the Model 721. There are other firsts, and we'll get to them, but worthy of immediate mention is the fact that the 721, designed for cartridges like the .30-06, 270, and 300 Magnum, has a companion rifle, the 722, its action one inch shorter to handle efficiently the shorter cases of the 300 Savage and .257 Roberts.

Before going into this fine rifle with mike and screw driver, as it were, there is one confession to be made. During the past five months, since early November, I have regularly used an early production model of the 721 in .30-06, pushing well over six hundred rounds through it on big game hunts; in bench-rest firing to check its own accuracy, construction, and function; and in testing mounts and scopes on this newest game rifle. That's the only way—and the arms manufacturers recognize this—that any editor or commentator can prepare himself to present a product, particularly a gun, fully and fairly to his readers. The test, as always, is in the shooting.

On those hunts, by the way, the 721 proved itself. Mine was christened on a 10-point bull elk, and on its second outing dropped a mule deer buck at 190 yards in poor light with a called neck shot, using 180-grain Remington bronze-point. The standard rifle with 24-inch barrel only weighed 7 pounds, three ounces, before I installed a receiver sight (the receiver is tapped and drilled to take the Lyman 48WTS, for example, although you'll have



The new bolt-head for Remington Models 721 & 722. 1. The extractor claw, beamed under the cartridge rim by stiff spring pressure, exerts great force on a stuck cartridge. 2. Oversize locking lugs, double, to resist high pressures. 3. A spring-loaded plunger ejects empties sharply. Extraction and ejection systems are completely within the gas-sealing rim

to cut a little wood) and a Leupold scope in an Echo mount as well. At present it weighs, unloaded, two ounces over eight pounds, amply light for carrying in rugged country like that at 11,000 ft. in the Sangre de Christos, and about as light as one can practically go with a rifle of such caliber.

It balances well in the hand, and at the shoulder, and while the stock is basically designed for use with iron sights (my test rifle measures: length of pull 13 1/4 inches, drop at comb 1 1/4 inches, at heel 2 3/4 inches), it checks fast and naturally with a low-mounted scope. No checkering on the standard grade in present production (the 721A and 722A) but that will be added in later grades. For similarly strenuous hunts, I'll have a quick-detachable sling rigged, but the present rifle, with the present scope and mount, is "streamlined" enough to make a first rate saddle gun (see February issue). The rifle was kept slender (1 3/4 inches wide and 2 1/4 inches deep at the receiver) by using a magazine capacity of only four cartridges (five shots with the chamber loaded) in

.30-06 and 270, three in the big 300, but if a hunter doesn't down his game in five shots it usually either runs out of the country or chases him out.

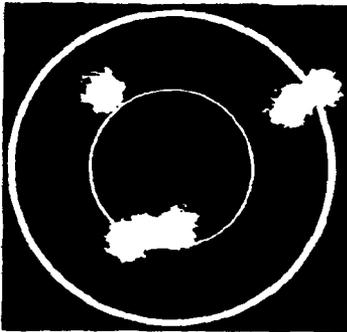
The thumb-operated safety, on the right side of the receiver, directly above the trigger, has two features, other than its handy location and fast operation, of particular interest to the hunter. First, it does not click to spook the game when it is slipped off. Making it stiffer, and hence conceivably safer, would mean losing that virtue, so important to the still hunter. Second, it's out of the way, off the bolt, so that there is no interference with any conceivable scope mounting scheme. On, it both blocks the sear mechanism and holds the bolt closed.

The accuracy of the 721 is first-rate for a hunting rifle. I can speak only for the .30-06 version, since there has been no opportunity to shoot either the 270 or 300 Magnum chamberings. The gentlemen who sit on the right wing on gun problems may feel that the rifle is too light in weight and in metal, considering recoil and barrel vibration, for the magnum cartridge, even in 26-inch barrel length, but after noting both target and Alaskan hunting results with cut-down and lightened magnum guns we in this corner are going to wait to taste the pudding before commenting on its flavor. Recoil with the government cartridge, because of balance and stock design, seemed remarkably light with the 721.

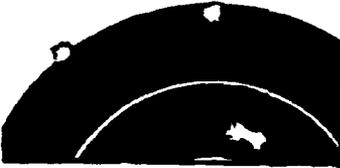
Target groups are not quite of the minute-of-angle variety, although I have fired five-shot strings at 100 yards that approach it. Perhaps accuracy to two minutes is a more conservative estimate. I have, however, made several groups at 200 yards with 150-grain Peters protected point expanding ammo, with both 2 1/2X and 6X scopes from the bench rest, for maximum spreads running between 2 3/4 and 3 1/4 inches. Groups of ten shots under the same conditions usually opened out to five inches or better. There was probably an inch or so of holding error, since it has been mighty shivery in these parts this winter. Lt. Colonel George, the young chap who recently described a rifleman's adventures in the Pacific, in "Shots Fired In Anger," a fine rifle shot but a total stranger to the Model 721 until he sat down at the rest with it, out ten rounds

from a sizzling hot barrel into the 200-yard black with a maximum spread of 5/4 inches. Take away the last shot, called as a bad hold before we spotted, and the spread is four inches. Translate any of these groups into terms of mean radius of dispersion and you have a highly accurate game rifle.

With light-barrelled rifles in the heavier cartridges, bedding is extremely important. While the 721 factory job is clean and even, I tightened groups a bit and very sharply reduced the straight-tapered barrel's sensitivity to variant ammunition loadings (at present it groups the 180 grain PPX about nine inches below the 150 grain at 200 yards, same hold) by easing the pressure slightly at the fore-end tip. Many factory rifles can be made to perform better by a skilled check of their bedding—after they have been thoroughly shot in. The new round receiver, with only two screws binding the action to the stock, the position of the recoil shoulder, and the barrel swell at the open sight, will probably lead to some interesting experiments with the bedding of the 721.



Full size—one representative group from the 721 in .30-06, using Petersen 150-grain at 100 yds., spread 1 1/2 in.



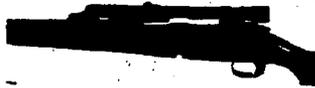
Half size—5 shots show accuracy at 200 yds., with Weaver K6, Group 2 1/4 in.

Its practical accuracy, by the way, is greatly enhanced by an adjustable trigger mechanism directly descended from that of the Model 37 match rifle—no military take-up, thank Heaven, adjustable with a screw driver for pull weight and minimum backlash to your taste, crisp and without creep in my rifle. It is a fast action—the firing pin moves only 3/16 of an inch on release. The sear is not subjected to battering by use as a bolt stop; instead, Remington has used a simple, spring-loaded lever rising into the left side of the receiver, actuated by a button release just forward of the trigger.

Sighting equipment on the basic 721 is standard, a flat-topped open rear sight with stair-step elevator, and a ramp front, brazed to the barrel, with a white-metal bead dovetailed into the ramp. The receiver is tapped and drilled for standard peep sights, and its contour is so close to that of the Winchester Model 70 that the W.J. model in the Lyman 48 series fits perfect-

ly, although the stock must be cut for that model, about half an inch. The forward receiver ring is also tapped and drilled to the standard dimensions of many 'scope mounts. Why the corresponding holes were not drilled into the receiver bridge is baffling. When we name the Williams, Redfield Jr., Buehler, Mashburn, newest Stith, we are only making a start on the list of 'scope mounts which are designed to use such holes as are bored atop the post-war Model 70. These mounts can be installed by any intelligent owner of a screw driver on that rifle, but will demand drilling and tapping of the 721 before they can be put on it. It may be that later grades or versions, perhaps more specifically stocked for the use of a 'scope, will be so drilled. If I may speak for the average hunting rifle owner—we hope so.

The lack of those two holes, plus the lack of a hinged or detachable magazine plate—the present one is a stamping integral with the trigger guard—are the only significant lacks that appear to me in the design of the 721. Unable to get into his magazine from the bottom, the



The Stith QED mount fits Model 721—no gunsmithing. Weaver JLS 'scope

hunter must not only empty it by working the action, a small matter; but if he is unlucky enough to jam the magazine follower and spring with bits of twig or other detritus that at times does work into a rifle in hunting use, he must remove the action and barrel from the stock to clear it. Mechanically that's a small matter, but the almost inevitable change of zero from such removal and replacement may be a big one under field circumstances.

Like the boy eating cake, I've left the frosting, in this case the bolt design, until last. You will probably see the Model 721 acclaimed in advertising copy as the safest bolt action ever built—I would not be at all surprised but what it is. No rifleman can fail to see its possibilities as a light-weight conversion. In fact, it is so well designed for strength and gas leakage control that I share its makers' apprehension that some ambitious idiot may try to touch off in the action six sticks of dynamite behind a peanut-sized bullet.

This added safety and control of gas released by split cases or improper obturation comes from a brand new bolt-head design. To begin with, the two locking lugs have oversized bearing surfaces for extra resistance to rearward thrust, and the bolt handle of course acts as a safety lug. But lug strength becomes relatively unimportant as we approach the limit of strength of the brass case, probably 75,000 pounds per square inch. Then control of violent gas escape becomes vital. The 721 bolt face is recessed about .150 of an inch, so that the head of the cartridge is enclosed within a heavy rim, running all the way around, which in turn projects into and fits into, a vestibule or outer chamber at the breech end of the chamber proper, to seal the cartridge into the closed action. To understand this a bit of history is in order.

Virtually all bolt actions of today are derivations from the original Mauser actions, but they vary in method and degree of cartridge enclosure or support. In at



The 721 action is very clean. Safety shows just ahead of bolt-handle, which is shaped for any 'scope-sight mounting least two foreign military actions of Mauser type, for example, the cartridge head is probably better protected than in our own Springfield in which it projects from the chamber about .147 inches. The 1898 Mauser action, which is so common these days, has a ring inside the receiver, against which the barrel butts, and into which the bolt head and cartridge head move when the action closes. The Mauser-derived Arisaka gives even better support, in that even more of the bolt head and cartridge head move into an enclosing outer chamber cut into the barrel proper. In most American-designed chamber entrances gas can funnel out into the receiver, to play hob with its relatively thin walls under terrific velocities and pressures. This is not saying the Springfield, for example, is unsafe—not at all—we're talking about relative gas control under extreme conditions. In all designs close to the original Mauser, however, we must have the extractor cuts as a loophole.

The enclosed 721 bolt head, if a burst cartridge case does occur, forces the gas to go around two tightly-sealed 90-degree corners to get as far back as the lugs and their locking grooves in the receiver, and there it can escape through a gas port on the right side of the receiver ring, away from the shooter. There are no extractor cuts. Similarly, if a primer lets go, gas driving through the firing pin hole is permitted to leave the bolt body via a port into the lug groove and hence out through the receiver ring port, and is deflected from shooting back past the head of the firing pin by the collar already mentioned.

Essentially this added safety factor is made possible by putting extraction and ejection systems inside the bolt head. The extractor claw is part of a strip of extremely hard spring steel snapped into position inside the rim enclosing our cartridge. As we close the action, the claw is forced over the cartridge rim. Pressure against the claw forces the opposite ends of the spring strip against the cartridge to bind the claw tighter into the extraction groove of the shell, to give, according to Remington claims which I have so far no reason to doubt, twice the extraction power of the conventional hook extractor. I have deliberately ripped off a chunk of rim with it. If the claw should break, and I doubt that it will, replacement is a cinch. The ejector is one of those simple ideas so obvious they are lost sight of—merely a spring loaded plunger opposite the extractor claw which flings the empty case five or six feet to the right when the bolt is thrown smartly. I am curious to know what the effect of this plunger's forward thrust will be on rifles with incipient headspace excess, but that will have to await activity by the ream-or-rebarrel boys, or worn-out 721's, which won't be cropping up soon, I'm sure.

It's a fine slick-handling rifle for eighty bucks, and is going to make it financially easier for a lot of shooters to move into cartridges of the proven wallop and long-range efficiency of the .30-06, .270, and .300 Magnum. Rifle design is usually influenced by the characteristics of cartridges available at the time, but the design of the 721 action is sufficiently different that I will not be at all surprised when new cartridges are eventually worked out for it.

WARREN PAGE

## ARMS AND AMMUNITION

# New Remington Rifles

Models 721 and 722, the first examples of postwar arms, combine mass-produced quantity with custom-built quality

By Col. Townsend Whelen

THE inauguration of the National Matches in 1903 may be said to have been the start of the development of systematic military, target, and sporting-rifle marksmanship in the United States. In this development the superiority of our Springfield 1903 bolt-action rifle soon became apparent, not only as a military weapon, but for sporting purposes as well. Only this rifle had the combined accuracy and flat trajectory to hit at long ranges in the mountains and on the plains. Until about 1926 Springfield rifles remodeled into sporting types were unsurpassed for hunting in such country.

About 1926 both the Remington and the Winchester companies started the commercial production of bolt-action mountain and plains rifles equal to the Springfield in every respect, and lower in cost. Both rifles were produced until the start of World War II, after which war production was immediately resumed by Winchester alone.

Since the end of the war the only such rifles available have been the Winchester, in such limited quantities that it was difficult to obtain, and custom-built, remodeled rifles utilizing the Springfield 1903, Enfield 1917, and "liberated" Mauser 1896 breech actions. But, these custom-built rifles have been so expensive as to place them out of consideration by most sportsmen. I would estimate that the cost of a thoroughly reliable rifle built on these three actions by a competent custom rifle maker to be now in excess of \$175.

Now the Remington Arms Company enters this field again with an entirely new mountain and plains rifle. It follows in general the type of its predecessors: It

is built on a modification of the Mauser Model 1896 bolt action; but in one respect—the strength of that action—it surpasses all rifles of any nation heretofore constructed.

The new rifle is named the Model 721, and is being produced first for the 30-06 Government cartridge. Later in the year it will also be furnished in the 270 Winchester and 300 H & H Magnum calibers. There will also be a Model 722, exactly like the 721, but with a considerably shorter receiver, magazine, and action for shorter cartridges; it will be produced first for the 300 Savage cartridge and later for the 257 Remington Roberts. In 1949 it is likely that some new and revolutionary cartridges will be brought out for both rifles.

When you first see one of these rifles you will be impressed by its similarity to our other first class bolt-action rifles except that it is unbelievably light in weight—a scant seven pounds. When you make the first natural inquiry you will be particularly impressed by its low cost. This price has been made possible, not by any lowering of standards or use of inferior materials, but by new processes of manufacture learned by Remington through their war experience. Further, the price of the standard rifle has been reduced by not checkering the stock and omitting sling swivels. These, of course, can be added by any shooter who desires them, and all real riflemen will surely desire a sling. Further reduction in cost has been made by utilizing a strong steel stamping instead of a machined forging for the combined trigger guard and floor plate, which detracts not one iota from the efficiency of the rifle

The new Remington Model 721 Standard Rifle with receiver sight and gunning



and helps to reduce weight.

The barrel is of medium weight, 24 inches long, with matted ramp front sight base. The pistol grip stock of American walnut with oil finish, and the best shaped forearm I have seen on a sporting rifle, has the same standard stock dimensions that we have found to be best for 95 per cent of our marksmen. It has a checkered steel butt plate. The bolt handle turns way down to permit a low-mounted scope sight. The easily and noiselessly operated thumb safety is on the right top side of the receiver just in rear of the bolt handle, and locks both bolt and sear. The trigger is a "miracle," with no slack, creep, or backlash, reminding one of the wonderful trigger on the Remington Model 37 match rifle, and weighing about 3½ to four pounds. The bolt release is on the trigger plate just in front of the trigger. Pressing it up permits the bolt to be pulled out of the receiver. The bolt has two solid locking lugs of about the usual size at its front end, and the bolt handle turning down into a cut in the receiver forms the safety lug. On top of the receiver ring two holes are drilled and tapped for scope blocks, and two similar holes on the left side of the receiver for a receiver sight. The sights on the standard rifle are a bright bead front sight, and an open sporting rear sight. Of course, any real hunter-rifleman will at once remove this rear sight and fit one of his own choice. The Redfield Series 70 and Lyman No. 48 receiver sights are available.

Now for the part of this rifle that differs from all others and makes it outstanding. You will see this as soon as you open the action and look at the head of the bolt. The weakest link in any rifle and its ammunition lies in the brass cartridge case. If the case of a high-power cartridge gives way, the escaping gas may, and often does, wreck the breech action to a greater or less degree. The effect of this escape of gas from a ruptured case may extend all the way from a mere puff of gas through the gas port with no damage to the gun or shooter, or a flash-back that may injure the shooter's eye, to a more or less complete destruction of the entire breech action and serious injury to the firer.

SUCH accidents seldom occur with standard factory ammunition, perhaps not more than once in 5 million rounds, and do not as a rule cause serious damage. The more complete destruction of the action is usually due to a very excessively hand-loaded cartridge, or to too low tensile strength and elastic limit in an out-of-date action.

With the Mauser Model 1896 breech action, and all other more recent actions of the same general design using rimless cartridges, the brass case is not supported at all from its base or head to about three-sixteenths to five-thirty-seconds of an inch forward of the base, that is around the extraction groove and a little distance in front of the groove. While the brass case is thickest at this point, and usually withstands normal pressures successfully, yet, this is the part where the case ruptures in an accident involving gas escape because this is the one point where the brass is not tightly supported by steel.

Now the Remington Models 721 and 722

actions have a most ingeniously designed bolt. The bolt head has a recess which tightly and completely encloses the head of the case all the way around its circumference, extending from its base to slightly in front of the extraction groove. When the bolt is closed, the forward head of the bolt abuts firmly against the rear end of the barrel, and the outer circumference of the front end of the bolt fits closely in a completely supporting recess in the receiver ring. All of these steel parts are of modern heat-treated alloy steel of exceedingly high tensile strength and elastic limit. The result is that the brass case is completely and tightly encased in strong steel. Thus, the case cannot give way anywhere, and the result is a strength of action heretofore inconceivable to ordnance engineers.

The supreme strength of this action has been made possible by an extractor of entirely new design. A circular spring type of extractor contained entirely within the bolt head permits manufacture of the bolt with completely shrouded head, eliminating extractor cuts and thereby creating a breech section which utilizes the hoop strength of the shrouded bolt and the recessed barrel and receiver to give greater strength in this action without a corresponding increase in overall outside dimensions of the receiver.

No one need have the slightest fear of being injured by escaping gas or blowing brass when any of these rifles are fired with the standard factory loaded ammunition. The key to the enormous strength is the new circular spring extractor, permitting a completely shrouded bolt head, eliminating extractor cuts. Such a test applied to bolt action rifles with other types of bolt resulted in either the complete shattering and demolition of the entire action, or else in the gas escaping downward into the magazine, demolishing it, and splintering the stock. This does not mean that anyone need have the slightest hesitancy in using these older actions, which have an ample margin of safety (as has been thoroughly proven by many years of most successful use). However, the Model 721 is far stronger.

Next we come to the all-important matter of the accuracy of this rifle. In order to test this factor it was necessary to fit a telescope sight to eliminate errors of aim. In fact it was desirable to use two telescopes. The proper type of telescope with which to fit a rifle of this type, when it is to be used for big game hunting, is one of the modern hunting scopes of about 2½ power, with a wide field of view and long eye relief; but even this gives a slight error of aim, possibly amounting to a quarter or a half inch at 100 yards.

To give a more errorless aim a scope of higher magnification with cross-hair reticule was desirable. I wanted to use both scopes to indicate both practical and ultimate accuracy.

For some time I had been sitting in on the development of a new Stith mount, and it happened that the final development of this was reached just in time to utilize it on this rifle. This new mount, to be called the Stith Master mount, will

be available by the time this article appears in print. It permits two or more telescope sights of any type to be instantly interchanged on the rifle, both remaining in perfect adjustment. It consists of two V's; one just in front of the receiver, and the other on the receiver bridge. This form of mount has no error, for the scope must go to precisely the same position each time. But instead of these two V's being formed by a right-angle cut in a block of steel, they are each formed by two precision-ground cones which are adjustable. By unscrewing a clamping cover on the right side of their bases the cones can be adjusted by the minute of angle graduated screw on the left side of the bases. Turning these graduated screws traverses both cones of the rear base for windage, and turning the front screw brings the two cones closer together or moves them farther apart for elevation. Thus, the mount itself is accurately adjustable and easily recordable in minutes, which can be easily subdivided into quarter minutes. The V's formed by the cones are of such size that any of the scopes now manufactured can be placed in them, either the short hunting scopes or the longest target scopes. The scope is held in the V's by a strong spring secured to the scope by a collar, it only being necessary to place one of these collars on a scope to adapt it to this mount. The mount itself can be screwed on Remington Model 721 and Winchester Model 70 rifles without the use of tools, and the older Enfield, Remington Model 30, and Mauser rifles require only the drilling of the necessary screw holes in the receiver.

The first scope, perhaps one that does not have both internal elevation and windage adjustments, is placed in the mount, and this scope is adjusted to the range desired by means of the mount adjustments. Then the second scope is placed in the mount, and this scope is similarly adjusted by means of the reticule adjustments. Thus, the two scopes are absolutely interchangeable. We made a test by firing one shot with one scope, taking it off, and firing the next shot with the other scope, and so rotating them until 10 shots had been fired. The group was as small as though only one scope had been used.

To place the scope in the mount, merely drop the scope into the two V's, with the end of the spring just under the rear end of the rib extending back from the front V; then push the scope forward vigorously so that the front end of the spring comes into contact with the rear end of the front receiver ring, and turn the big screw in the rib clockwise, until its lower end enters the hole in the spring. To remove the scope, turn this screw counterclockwise until it is out of the spring hole; then grasp the rear end of the scope tube with the right hand (back of the hand up), place the thumb against the left side of the rear V base, and push with the thumb, at the same time pulling the scope tube to the rear. Both putting on and taking off takes about four seconds.



With the Stith Master Mount used here, it takes but four seconds to switch the Weaver K-6 scope, fixed in position, with the Stith Bear Cub II, shown above.

And there is still another important and useful adjunct to this mount. When the scope is removed there is a Lyman type rear sight, also adjustable for elevation and windage, which is incorporated in the rear V base, that can be instantly turned up into position. Thus you have a fine metallic rear sight instantly available when the scope is removed.

For the 2½-power scope I used the Bear Cub II which has lately been improved so that I think it is now the best of all of the low-power hunting scopes. Its reticule has elevation adjustment only, it being necessary to have windage adjustment in the mount. By thus confining the reticule adjustment to elevation the adjusting mechanism has been simplified; this mechanism has been so perfected by the mount's manufacturer that it is just as reliable and free from backlash as any of the receiver sights or the conventional target micrometer mount, and the minute graduations on its dial are a perfect joy in the ease with which they can be read and recorded. This scope has a field of view of 40 feet at 100 yards, an eye relief of 3½ to five inches, a length of 11½ inches, and weight of only 6¼ ounces. The most excellent optics with coated lenses give the maximum light and resolving power possible with a 2½-power magnification.

The other scope used for ultimate accuracy testing was the K-6 Weaver scope of six power with cross hairs combined with range-finder reticule, which I have already described in these columns. Both scopes worked perfectly from start to finish, and so did the mount.

The accuracy test conducted at 100 yards from bench rest, with the practically errorless two-sandbag method of resting (which I have also previously described)



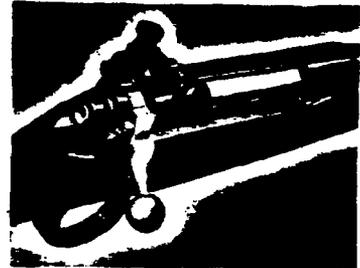
Stith Master Mount showing Lyman type aperture rear sight turned up in rear.

was both a success and a disappointment. A success from the standpoint of the rifle, a disappointment from the standpoint of the ammunition. All of the present makes of standard factory .30-06 ammunition, in all bullet weights, were fired. All of it performed practically the same, although different makes and bullet weights differed very slightly in accuracy. All ammunition would group 80 per cent of the shots in two to three inches at 100 yards, but almost invariably the other 20 per cent of the shots enlarged the group, the bullets striking from one to three inches but of the two or three inch group. One group with Peters 180-grain protected-point bullet had all but one shot in 1.1 inches, and another with the same bullet had all shots in 2.35 inches. One group with 180-grain Silvertip bullet had all shots in 2.4 inches, and another with the same bullet had all but one shot in 2.1

nches vertically by .9 inch horizontally, with one shot 1.1 inch out of this group. The slightly wild shots were not due to the rifle. This individual rifle will group steadily in two inches or less at 100 yards with superior ammunition. I do not believe there is any doubt about that. The wild shots are due to slight defects in the bullets that struck wild. These defects in turn are due to the fact that it has not yet been possible to train the new workmen in all the ammunition factories up to the skill and care that the experienced prewar workmen had. We see these off shots occurring with practically all post-war high-power ammunition. Probably they will be almost eliminated in the course of a year or two as the new workmen gain experience. Thus, I think I can say that this new Remington Model 721 rifle, at least the one I have for test, is just as accurate as any other rifle of

similar caliber and weight.

So that is the Remington Model 721 as I see it, an exceptionally fine and remarkably strong mountain and plains rifle.



Here is a view of the breech action of Model 721, with a Lyman No. 48 sight.

OUTDOORS • APRIL, 1948



Remington's new Model 721 bolt action repeating rifle

## REMINGTON'S NEW MODEL 721

By COLONEL H. P. SHELDON, SHOOTING EDITOR

*A new hunting rifle fundamentally different from any previous arm ever produced anywhere*

ON A summer evening in the year 1947 while I sat reading over again one of the Rev. Cotton Mather's sermons and pondering sadly upon the manifold routes that lead the unwary straight to hell, a breeze drifted in at the open door. It pulled up a chair, sat down and lighted one of my cigars. This breeze, or zephyr, wore a good tweed suit, a porkpie hat and brown shoes and smelled engagingly of rum. In this and in other ways it greatly resembled a man I know—many men whom I know.

My visitor swore me solemnly to strict secrecy and then divulged a piece of information, which I had already received from several sources, to the effect that the Remington Arms Company had for a long time been clandestinely engaged in the development of a new gun. My informant went even further and confesses that the arm was a rifle. It, or he, then rose and de-

parted on silent feet with a full pack of my cigars. When one day after many a sleepless night, I received a sample copy of the Remington Model 721 bolt action hunting rifle.

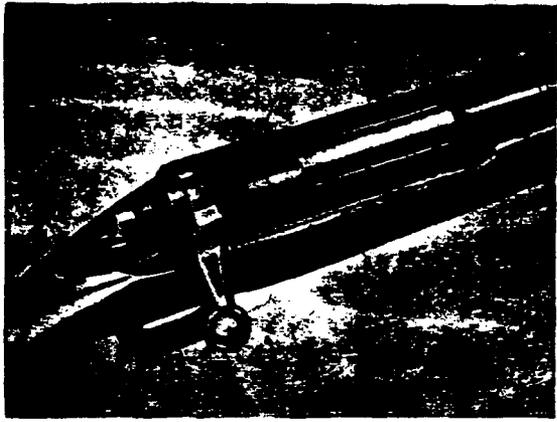
From this point on, I shall eschew idle nonsense and stick to the truth. I wish to state, however, that what I shall say in commendation of this rifle, and it will be considerable, may be regarded as an understatement of fact.

The 721 is a hunting rifle, no more and no less, and as such it should be considered. The men who designed it evidently started out to produce a high power hunting rifle. It is also evident that they never for a moment lost sight of that original objective as you will realize the moment you have one of these rifles in your hands. The Model 721 is no adaptation of something else, and no concessions have been made to meet any requirements other than those

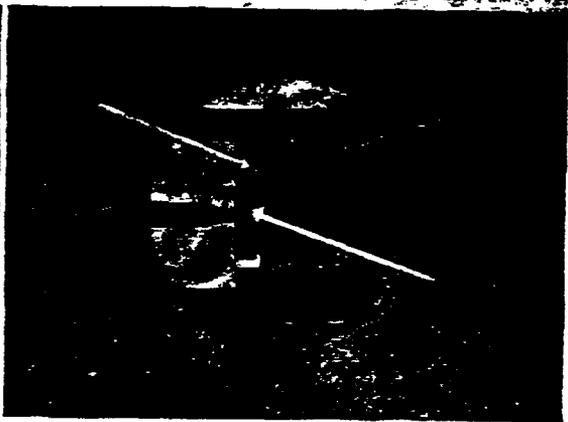
of a game rifle. There is no smallest part, no ounce of excess weight, no least deviation from the standards of balance and proportion which are not essential in a hunting rifle. Nor is there an absence of any essential feature.

The rifle that I have is as clean as a racing car; no swivels, no gunslings, no checkering of stock and forearm and no expensive sighting equipment which a purchaser must pay for even though he doesn't want it. There is no embellishment of any sort, and it needs none. Its "blood lines" as Nash Buckingham would say, alone are enough to satisfy the eye and the sense of proportion.

For a price that is extremely low in these days of the forty-cent dollar, the Remington people are ready to hand you a game rifle that is at least equal to any that I have ever known. Just as it is, it is ready to go; to Alaska, Africa,



*This photo shows the bolt and action of the new Model 721. Notice the bolt stop and thumb-operated safety*



*Cross-section of bolt head, showing the exclusive enclosure and support of the cartridge in the 721*

to Maine, Michigan, the Rockies or anywhere else a game rifle is needed. And if the purchaser wants extra equipment in the way of a gunslung, checkering and special sights, either scope or iron, he has a clear field to work in. Actually there are two models, the 721 and the 722.

The 721 weighs 7½ pounds—my own weighs an ounce under that. It has a 28-inch barrel and is chambered for the .30-'06, the .270 Winchester and the .300 Magnum cartridges. The magazine holds 4 cartridges which with one in the chamber gives it a 5-shot capacity. The magazine for the .300 Magnum cartridge holds 3 cartridges giving a total capacity of four. Its overall length is 44½ inches.

The 722 is chambered for the .300 Savage and the .257 Roberts cartridges. It weighs 7 pounds with an overall length of 43½ inches. These differences in length and weight are due to the fact that the action of the 722 is shorter than that of the 721. The 721 will cost you \$79.95; the 722 will set you back \$74.95.

I should add that the front sight is a good white metal bead. The rear sight is a plain open bar with a V notch and a short flight of steps for elevation adjustment. It is so designed and spaced that, for my vision at least, the definition is as sharp and clear as that of any open sight I've ever seen and for hunting purposes I would in fact prefer it to any sight except a fine hunting scope. The receivers of both models are ready tapped to take either an aperture sight or a scope to suit the preference of the owner.

The foregoing paragraphs contain only the bare specifications of these rifles and really do not describe them. These are only the characteristics that would be recognized at a distance of ten feet by any experienced rifleman, but not until he has one of these weapons in his hands and has spent some time in testing it and in studying it will he realize how different the 721 and 722 models are from those of any rifle he has ever known. Even then he may overlook some very important points which represent major advances in the development of the American rifle.

One of these, and quite possibly the most important of all, is very likely to be overlooked even by men of considerable experience. You would think it would stick out like a white bean on a stick but it doesn't. Nor can I enlighten you at the moment without violating what practically amounts to a deathbed confidence. But leaving that one out for the present there still remains a great deal that can be said.

Without the highly specialized gifts possessed by J. Bushnell Smith, who by the grace of Providence, is a neighbor of mine down the road a little piece, I would now know far less than I do about the Model 721 Remington.

Bushnell has a shop on the bank of the Otter Creek wherein he loads and reloads the finest rifle and pistol ammunition to be found anywhere on earth. It was to him that I went with my .30-'06 Model 721 in my hand.

Bushnell liked the lines and outward visible and "heftable" features of Model 721 as well as I did. He tried the action and trigger pull some 40 or 50 times as I had done. Then he ran a few cartridges through the action, also as I had done, and with deepening interest.

"Well, I'll be damned," said he, "there's something very odd about this bolt and especially the extractor. There aren't any extractor cuts in the barrel for one thing. There aren't any extractor hooks, either, and the extraction stuff is all in the bolt head."

The extractor is of the circular spring type which has double the gripping power of the conventional hook type. When loaded the cartridge head is completely enclosed in the head of the bolt. In all other bolt action rifles the base of the cartridge rests against the face of the bolt. This explains in part the extraordinary strength of the Model 721 action. Bolt and action are polished to a glass-like finish for smooth, fast operation.

Bushnell asked how much the rifle stood me and I answered that I hadn't a dime in it. It belonged to Remington.

"Then it doesn't matter if we ruin it?"

"Not a damned bit," I answered cheerily. "Let's do it if we can."

We started with a 2-grain overload of Hi Vel 2 powder and the 220-grain bullet. Bushnell was principally interested in the condition of the fired cases; I was interested in the behavior of the action under excess pressures.

In 2-grain jumps we went up to a 10-grain overload, a 22 percent excess over the standard charge. Nothing happened. The action opened easily, the cases didn't stick and showed no evidences of yielding under the extremely high pressures. We did not go beyond the 10-grain load because it hurt us to shoot it. It kicked and no wonder.

I learned later that a 22 percent overcharge didn't mean a thing to that action for the Remington experts had already given it brutal treatment.

The reason for our interest in the trigger pull was due to the fact that at first we couldn't believe the evidence of our sense of touch for the pull and let off are as smooth and clean as the hand-honed delicately adjusted trigger action of the fine single shot target rifle. I never expected or hoped to find one so perfect in function in the action of a standard sporting rifle, but there it is, and it can be easily adjusted to any desired weight or pull. It is delicate and precise in operation and rugged in construction. It responds uniformly to a long gentle squeeze or to the quick pressure necessary when shooting at moving targets.

With a low-power 'scope mounted,

this rifle kept its shots in the 10 ring at 100 yards, fired from a bench rest but without a sling. With the factory-equipped open sight the size of the group would probably be doubled at the same range. A good heavy-barrel target rifle wouldn't do very much better than that although it would undoubtedly hold its zero better in a series of shots than the light barrels of the 721 and 722 rifles. That is of little or no consequence to the hunter, however, for the first shot at game is almost always fired from a cold barrel.

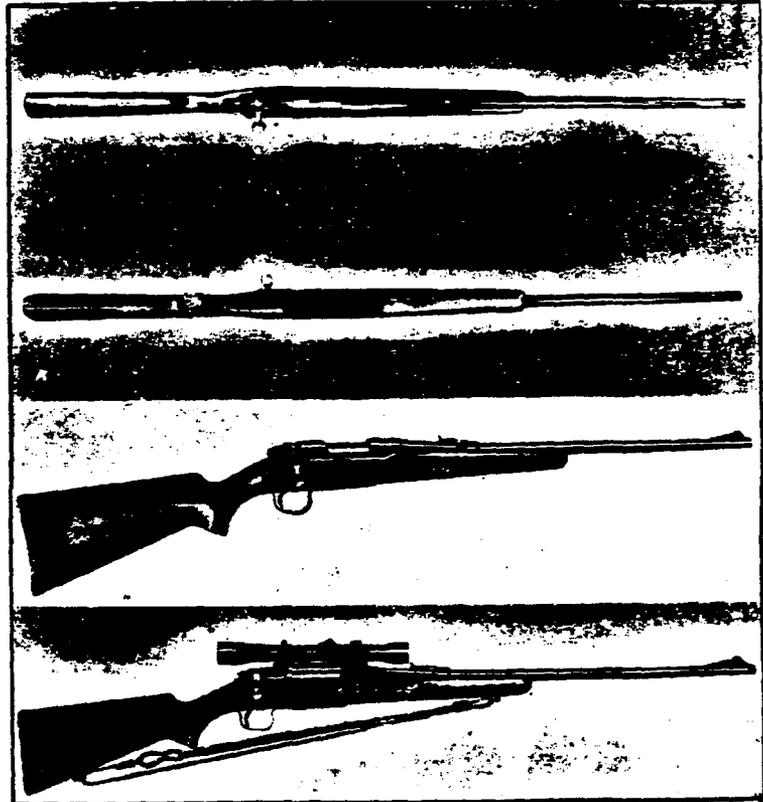
The safety is the forward and backward thumb safety of the Enfield type used on the Remington Model 720. It is easy to operate and positive in function.

And that, I think, is the story. It is not a complete description, however, for there are certain characteristics possessed by the rifle that can't be reduced to words. These must be seen and touched to be appreciated.

I should like to add emphasis to the fact already stated that the Models 721 and 722 are *hunting* rifles, and that they are "new models" by serial numbers only. Actually, they are new rifles in that they are fundamentally different from any previous arm ever produced anywhere. In these models the big bore bolt action repeating rifle has undoubtedly been brought very close to the peak of perfection, if indeed it hasn't actually achieved it.

## Arms & Ammunition

HUNTING &  
FISHING  
MAY, 1948



REMINGTON M721: (Top) Seen from top down and bottom up. (Center) Remington M722, shorter action than M721. (Bottom) M721 with a scope sight—the Weaver K4.

## THE POST WAR RIFLE

### Remington's Model 721

Talk of "post war" guns has been circulating since long before the foreseeable end of World War II. Though few writers, at the time, ventured any specific details, the idea was put across that great things were in store for the sportsman-shooter and hunter.

Just what the average sportsman wanted in the way of a post war sporting arm, different from the gun he was used to, was never put into tabulated form either. General consensus seems to indicate that the serious rifle shooters expected guns chambered for cartridges of ultra high velocity—in the neighborhood of 7000 feet per second.

Shotgunners yearned a bit for an 80 yard, 85 percent patterning scatter gun in the weight class of an upland 20 gauge, having the recoil of a .410. Handgun enthusiasts seemed divided, some preferring a custom made target arm at a production price, others a revolver with quickly interchangeable barrels and cylinders in .22 long rifle and .38 special caliber.

Then, too, there were those who wanted a carbine, and of course their arch rivals, those who rate the carbine just below the fly-watter ballistically and wouldn't mail in a box top to get one of these .30 caliber jobs free.

**Pre-War Shooting.** But in the main the great post war desire, and demand, was for guns. Just plain, pre-war models for pre-war style hunting and target shooting. To this overwhelming majority, the gun companies nodded (there was no time for formal bowing) and in a little over two years have poured out a flood of guns probably second only to the war production itself.

That everyone did not get the exact make, model and style of sporting arm he wanted, when he wanted it, is not surprising. But records\* indicate a creditable job was done in satisfying the combined demands of unprecedented numbers of new hunters and a six year backlog of orders.

There are still some famous pre-war models which have not as yet made their reappearance and for a variety of reasons. Latest word on Parker shotguns is that they will probably not be on the market this year. Colt's Single Action Army revolver, on which the company has lost money in recent years, looks like a permanent base yard occupant unless someone suddenly guarantees purchase of a sufficient number to warrant profitable production resumption. Many of the inexpensive pocket revolvers of Iver Johnson and Harrington & Richardson appear to be out of the running for some time, as do the very short barreled high power rifles of various manufacturers which had only limited sale prior to 1941.

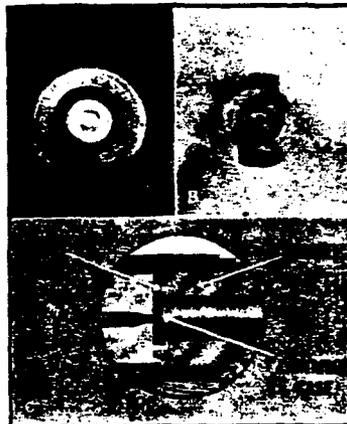
\* In the year ending June 30, 1947, \$9,031,273 was collected as the 11 percent Federal tax on firearms and ammunition. This would indicate that more than \$82,000,000 worth of sporting arms and ammunition was sold during that period.

**Variety to Continue.** The variety of odd, and mostly old, calibers for which some time-honored weapons are chambered has been reduced in number and this reduction will probably continue in the next few years, the idea being to offer a selection of modern calibers for various uses but yet not ballistically overlapping. This practice is in keeping with an industry-wide effort to weed out and discontinue production of cartridges for which the demand is small and the actual need smaller still.

Getting back to the realm of new developments—it would appear that honors in the handgun field must be shared between Colt and High Standard. The latter for its G.380 automatic pistol—a target style pistol chambered for the little known .380 automatic pistol cartridge, and the Colt for its new .22 Match Target Woodsman pistol, which, though announced some time ago is, along with the G.380, now reaching dealers' shelves.

Nothing that could be regarded as new and different has made an appearance in shotguns since 1945, hence no special honors in that department.

**Stevens .30-30.** Last fall Stevens brought out their M325 bolt action repeater in .30-30 caliber. It was the first post war bolt action, center fire rifle and proved popular. To sell it at the price they did, Stevens introduced a few design features; for example, the barrel locking ring, which made more rapid



COMPOSITE VIEW: (A) breech face of Remington M721 barrel with cartridge in place. (B) Bolt head with ejector and solid lugs. (C) When bolt is closed and locked on cartridge, the cartridge head is completely enclosed. Sealing and safety are achieved.

production possible. However, its caliber, .30-30, puts it in the "deer class" of rifles, and its general features mark it as primarily a utility arm. The only serious complaint heard against Stevens and their 325 was that there weren't enough of them ready to meet the hunting season demand.

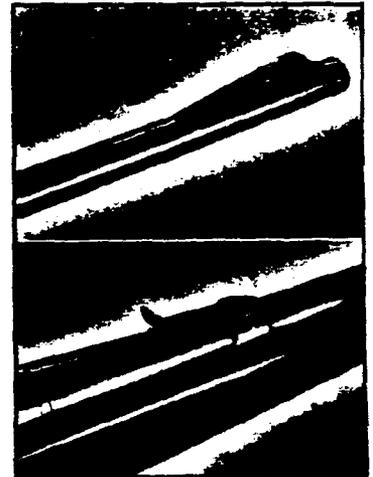
**".30-06 SPRG"** All this time, i.e., 1945 to date, the talk still persisted that there was definitely a post war high power rifle—something really different—in the works. No one in authority at the gun factories denied

the various rumors; it not being their habit to deny or confirm any talk that keeps shooters interested. Nevertheless, the truth will out and late last fall HUNTING AND FISHING's gun editor received the long awaited rifle. On the barrel the lettering ".30-06 SPRG", on the receiver "Remington Model 721".

At the range no extensive testing was done to ascertain the optimum grouping possibilities of this rifle because of extremely windy conditions. Such testing will be done in early summer, with both the standard and special sights, and the results reported in HUNTING AND FISHING at a later date.

However, it is worth reporting that accuracy beyond that normally expected from a comparatively light sporter with open sights was noted during the course of test firing the Model 721 for general performance. In short, the basic accuracy of this rifle leaves the hunter little to desire in that respect.

**Sporting Rifle.** Physically the Model 721, at 7¼ lbs., has the appearance requirements of a sporting rifle—tapered barrel, nicely formed stock with pistol grip, harmonious receiver lines, and a soft blue-black finish on all metal surfaces except the bolt, which is smoothly polished—but not to an objectionably high mirror tone.



FRONT SIGHT: White metal bead, dove-tailed into matted ramp (Above). (Below) The standard sporting rear type sight with which the M721 is equipped.

The stock is of American walnut finished in semi-lustre. The checkered metal, shotgun style butt plate measures 5-3/16" x 1.9/16". From mid-point of trigger to toe of stock is about 13¼". The well formed, semi-beaver-tail forearm extends to within about 13¼" of the muzzle. Overall length of rifle 44¼".

It is because of certain mechanical features, however, that the Model 721 can justly be regarded as a rifle of advanced post war design. Different in some respects from what shooters have been used to seeing in high power bolt action rifles, the Remington 721 action is by no means a radical departure from fundamentally good bolt action design.

**Like Mauser.** Basically the M721 bolt is similar to that of a M98 Mauser or M1903 Springfield, but the lugs on the Remington bolt are both solid. The conventional ejector slot found in the left lug of the Springfield, Mauser and others is eliminated in the M721 since its ejector is in the bolt face. This is the same type of ejector design which has proved to be so efficient in the Garand (M1) rifle and U.S. Carbine.

The extractor on the M721 is contained entirely within the bolt head, thus eliminating the need for an extractor collar around the bolt body. In eliminating this collar and utilizing the bolt handle as a safety lug, the bolt body is thus a true, smooth surface from rear of lugs to fore part of handle. By machining the bolt travel surfaces and ways in the receiver to close tolerance, Remington has skillfully utilized the bolt body's uniform diameter to produce an action of almost unbelievable smoothness.

Shooters who have held a brief against the conventional military-style bolt action rifle because of its "hang up" action on rapid fire are now deprived of that alibi. The Remington M721 bolt just doesn't "hang up" on rapid fire no matter how great the shooter's tendency, when operating the bolt, to force it against the left side of the receiver.

**Safety First.** What is probably the outstanding feature of this rifle's design, since it is concerned with SAFETY—the number one consideration whenever guns are involved—is the manner in which the bolt head and barrel join to "seal" a cartridge in the chamber. The accompanying photographs explain this feature in detail far better than can be done with ten thousand words.



**No slack.** The trigger pull of this rifle is on a par with that of first class target rifles. There is no "military take-up" and no backlash. An adjustment screw is provided for changing both the weight of pull and backlash to suit the individual taste.

Disassembly of the Model 721, either field stripping or complete, can be readily accomplished by the gun owner after reading over the instruction manual which accompanies each rifle.

Removal of three screws permits disassembly of trigger guard, follower, magazine and magazine spring from the stock, and

also makes possible removal of barrel and receiver with complete mechanism from the stock. Pushing up on bolt stop release permits removal of bolt from action. (Of course it is not necessary to disassemble rifle to remove the bolt.) This about constitutes field stripping. So disassembled it is possible to get at all parts for complete cleaning and lubrication. Other features of the Model 721 are illustrated and described in the accompanying photographs.

Delivery schedule on the Model 721, according to Remington, is: caliber .30-06, March 1948; caliber .270 Winchester, July 1948; caliber .300 Magnum, September 1948. The .300 Magnum has a 26 inch barrel instead of the 24 inch barrel on the .30-06 and .270. Also, the .300 Magnum has a magazine capacity of three cartridges, against the others' four cartridges plus one in the chamber. List price is \$79.95.

**Shorter Action.** The Model 722 is the same as the M721 except for a shorter action, said shorter action being much more suited to the shorter .257 Roberts and .300 Savage cartridges, in which calibers the M722 is available. Proposed delivery date on the .257 is July 1948, for the .300 Savage, May 1948. Weight in either caliber is about seven pounds, overall length 43 1/4 inches. List price \$74.95.

In bringing out the M721 and M722 it would appear that Remington has acted to please especially the average gun buyer without neglecting the shooter who does like refinements.

Niceties, such as checkering on the pistol grip and forearm, swivels and sling, micrometer rear sight, have not been included, probably because they would unnecessarily raise the basic selling price of the guns. Certainly those who want checkering and sling swivels can have the work done by their local gunsmith.

Improved sighting equipment, either in the form of a receiver sight or telescope sight, will probably be sought by a majority of those who buy either of these rifles. Here again installation of such equipment will be easy, especially since the receiver is tapped and drilled on its left side and ring.

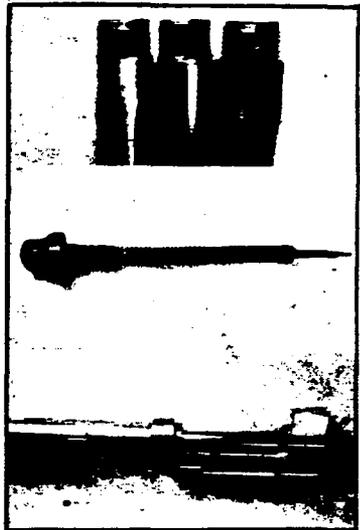
Further, the position of the safety, the already "bent" bolt handle, makes possible the use of most any standard scope and mount.

HUNTING AND FISHING's gun editor welcomes the appearance of these new high power rifles to the sporting arms scene. Their presence will not only assure the average shooter of the opportunity to buy a reliable, efficient sporting arm at a fair price, but will also aid in straightening out the greatly over-inflated rifle conversion business, which has grown so rapidly as a result of the gun shortage that downright unsafe conversions are openly offered for sale.

With the advent of Remington Models 721 and 722 a new era has begun in this complex gun and shooting game—and it looks mighty good from here.



**LOADING MAGAZINE:** (Top) easily accomplished; cartridges are placed on follower and pushed down. (Center) "A" is bolt stop release—makes bolt removal simple and prevents wear and trigger from being battered. "B" is Safety shown in "off" position. (Bottom) Complete bolt assembly—no extractor collar or safety lug on bolt body to interfere with desirable smooth bolt action.



**BREECH ENDS OF BARRELS:** (Top) from left to right, M1903 Springfield, M721 and M1917 Enfield. (Center) Complete firing pin assembly and (Bottom) shows how much of cartridge case is enclosed in bolt head when cartridge is seated, ready to fire.



FUR-FISH  
GAME  
APRIL, 1948



The GUN RACK

Conducted by Maurice H. Decker

# New High Power Hunting Rifles

By Maurice H. Decker

FOR several years big game hunters have been wondering what Remington would do about their bolt action model 720 rifle. That gun as you recall was never put into production like the rest of this firm's line when war time restrictions ended. Well, we can stop our speculations for Remington has announced two brand new high power bolt repeaters to replace the 720. The newcomers are alike save for the matter of breech length and carry some rather remarkable features.

One is cost. A lot of folks will like the good news. The last price I had on the old 720 gun was \$97.40 with plain open sights. The new rifles in same grade and with the same equipment sell at \$74.95 for the model 722 and at \$79.95 for the 721. These prices represent very nice reductions and they are the first cuts I've had any notice about this year. May the good work continue, I know you are backing me up here.

Shooters who are familiar with the old model 720 which resembled the Enfield in design of bolt and receiver, will be much pleased with the sleek lines of the new models. They are very clean in outline with tapered barrels, streamlined breeches and neat bolt handles setting low enough that a scope can't interfere with their manipulation. The stock has attractive shape and proportions, it both looks good and handles fast in snap shooting. The semi-beaver tail forearm adds to the over-all appearance and affords a firm confident grasp.

hunter wishing a lighter load to obtain a proportionately lighter gun. I also can't think of any other five calibers that cover the large vermin and big game shooting field any better. They represent the top in cartridge development and efficiency and are especially suited for long range service.

Deliveries of these new rifles will start as follows:

- Model 721 — 30-06 caliber in March.
- Model 721 — 270 Winchester in July.
- Model 721 — 300 Magnum in September.
- Model 722 — 300 Savage in May.
- Model 722 — 257 Roberts in July.

The factory states these rifles are the strongest ever made in their type. I would add that so far as I can determine they are also the most safe. The double locking lugs have a large bearing area which is good insurance for the user, but the novel construction of the bolt head is just as important. As shown by the photo, the bolt head which supports the rim end of the cartridge sets into a recess machined out of the receiver end of the barrel. This construction was designed to stop any rearward flow of gas to wreck the action and possibly injure the shooter should a cartridge case prove defective.



The Remington model 721 will be available in 30-06 Springfield, 270 Winchester and 300 Magnum calibers. The model 722 which carries a shorter receiver and bolt is chambered for the popular 257 Roberts and the 300 Savage. This latter pair of cartridges are shorter than the others and permit a reduction in rifle size and weight. I figure this is a pretty canny move by the designers because it will enable the



Another specification that appeals to me is weight. The model 721 rifle weighs about 7 1/2 pounds, the model 722 about 7. This means you can put a scope on either of them and not have to worry about being over burdened when you hunt in some tough, mountainous region where a lot of "wind" is necessary. Some scopes with their mounts will easily increase

rifle weight a pound and more which makes a rather weighty outfit should the plain gun tip the scales at 8 and over. On the other hand should any of these rifles seem too light, you can easily make it heavier by having a recoil pad put on the buttstock. I am rather in favor of these pads for calibers with a recoil equal to the 30-06.

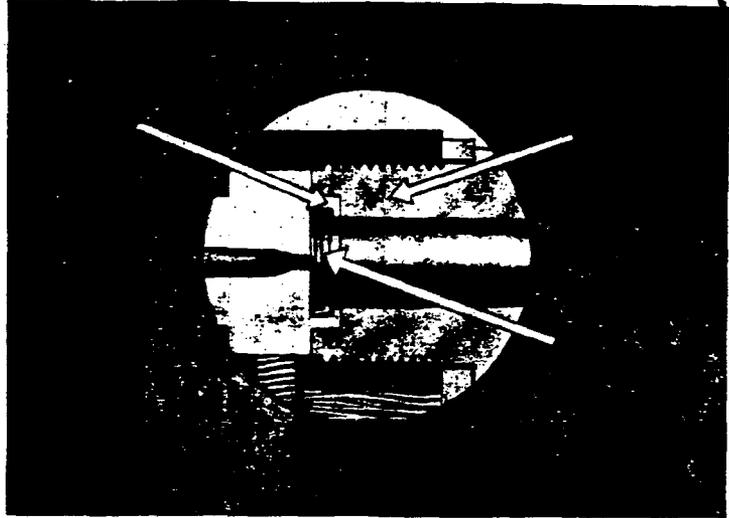
Have you ever handled a bolt rifle with a hard draggy pull that made you yank like the dickens in order to trip the hammer? Many of us have and the experience is never pleasant. Hard pulls generally spoil fine accuracy but this trouble can't occur with the new Remingtons because their pull can be easily adjusted to suit. You can obtain a real lightning let-off if you wish.

All calibers of these rifles carry 24-inch barrels except the 300 Magnum caliber. Its length is 26 inches in order to lessen muzzle blast and more completely develop the superb power of the big load. Magazine capacity in 300 Magnum bore is 3 cartridges, for all the others, 4. There is a special bolt stop located conveniently in the trigger guard that you push when you want to remove the bolt so the barrel can be inspected and cleaned. The receivers are drilled and tapped for some micrometer receiver sights and for some scope mounts so machine work is not required when you wish to mount these special sights.

There doesn't seem to be anything missing from these new rifles. They have what you need to make fast clean shots at big game and the bigger sizes of vermin and I predict they will prove very popular and enjoy a very wide use.

#### SHOTGUN RECOIL

If you think a 12 gauge shotgun kicks hard, consider some of the weapons that sportsmen used fifty years ago. One was the 4 gauge double, loaded with 14 drams of black powder and a bullet of 1882 grains or slightly more than 4 ounces. This weapon which was mostly used to hunt elephants weighed 24 pounds, probably a record for sporting firearms but every pound of that was necessary. For despite its weight, the free recoil of a 4 gauge double is quoted in an old W. W.



The cartridge is completely supported and enclosed. An exclusive feature. First, the head of the cartridge is enclosed by the bolt head; second, the cartridge is protected when the gun is locked up and ready for firing because the barrel encases the bolt head. This exclusive dual protection of the cartridge means strength, safety and accuracy.

Greener catalog as being 158.4 ft. lbs. It took real men to carry and use such a veritable hand cannon.

Several different things can make a shotgun kick uncomfortably. The one we most frequently encounter is balance of gun with the shell used. When unsuited with a light gun and a heavy charge, the shooter is liable to be painfully jolted. If you want to fire powerful loads of powder and shot and spare your shoulder, you should select shotguns of medium to heavy weight. It is surprising how much difference in recoil just one more pound of gun will make. For example, a 7-lb. 12 gauge will kick quite sharply with heavy duck loads whereas the same shell in an 8-lb. model will prove very comfortable.

Gun weight is strictly comparative and depends on gauge or bore. The 7-lb. 12 mentioned above is considered as be-

ing on the light side but a 7-lb. 20 would be quite heavy. When specifying the weight of a new shotgun, the buyer must decide between handling ease and soft recoil. It is difficult to obtain them both to any full degree. Light guns that carry effortlessly over rough ground and that swing fast on flying targets will naturally kick more; heavier guns that show less recoil are going to be more tiring on a long hike and more slow to aim when fast shooting is required. The thing to do therefore is to make some compromise so a moderate amount of each advantage is enjoyed.

If you decide that freedom from painful recoil is the most important, choose gun weight in line with the following schedule. It gives a sliding range of weights for the popular gauges and any gun whose weight falls inside the figures should handle comfortably even with the heavy duck shells.

## THE SPORTING GOODS DEALER • APRIL, 1948



### Remington Making Two New Rifles

The first postwar bolt action high power rifles to be placed on the market have been announced by the Remington Arms Co., Inc., Bridgeport 2, Conn., and Henry P. Davis said that every indication pointed to an enthusiastic reception. The new rifles are the Model 721, which retails for \$79.95, and the Model 722, which retails for \$74.95.

Davis said that the revolutionary new design was the product of

much research and many years of firearms manufacturing skill.

Some of the features of the new arms are, the company stated, "the strongest bolt action sporting rifle ever built. Encased bolt heads which fit recess of breech and completely supports and encloses the cartridge case for utmost safety and accuracy. No extractor cuts in the barrel. Solid, double locking lugs which have greater locking area for maximum strength and safety. No metal removed for extractor or ejector.

"A new style extractor, on which the patent is pending, for greater



Remington's Model 721 heat-treated receiver and bolt.

gripping power and positive extraction with maximum strength of bolt.

"Unexcelled match rifle trigger mechanism, with smooth, sharp,

crisp, lightning fast let-off. No back lash. No drag or creep. Easily adjusted to weight of pull and back lash desired.

"New special bolt stop. Conveniently located in front of trigger. Easily released for bolt removal.

"New streamlined sporting stock, beautifully proportioned for smart, racy appearance, easy carrying and steady holding.

"Light weight. Perfectly balanced. The barrel, receiver and stock are properly proportioned for even distribution of weight and fast ac-

curate shooting

"Attractive appearance. The gracefully tapered barrel, streamlined stock and swift flowing lines of the receiver make this a rifle of striking beauty."

The 721A Standard grade is chambered for the 30-06 Springfield or 270 Winchester cartridge with a 24-inch barrel or for 300 magnum with 28-inch barrel. The 722A standard is the same, except with shorter action and chambered for 300 Savage or 257 Roberts cartridge.

NEW YORK TIMES, MAR. 6, 1948

## WOOD, FIELD AND STREAM

By RAYMOND E. CAMP

Random notes.  
Tomorrow morning at 8 o'clock the Adirondack fish car, with some 12,000 rainbow and brown trout, will pull in at the Brewster railroad station and begin unloading these trout for the stocking of several watershed lakes and streams. The Putnam County Fish and Game Association is planning to handle this stocking, but they can use all the outside manpower that is offered.

During the course of the year we receive hundreds of letters from anglers in Greater New York who express doubt concerning the number of trout "allegedly" planted in the watershed lakes and streams. This is a golden opportunity for the doubters, for they not only can count the fish but can assist in planting them. You will not need to turn up at 8 A. M., for there will still be plenty of work to be done at 10 or 11. You can carry along a pocketful of white pebbles and put one on the bank to mark the spot where a big trout goes in the stream. The chances are you won't be able to find the pebble next spring on opening day, and the trout would not be there anyway, but think of the fun you'd have and the anticipation between now and then.

The trout will go in Glenside and Gilead lakes and in the East and West Branch. Holes will have to be chopped in the lakes to plant the fish, but the streams are open, although rather low.

### New Sports Rifle Approved

Those who have been interested in getting an unbiased report on

the brand-new sporter, the Model 721, that Remington is now turning out, will find complete information in the March issue of the American Rifleman, official publication of the National Rifle Association. Maj. Gen. J. S. Hatcher, technical head of the N. R. A., and Al Barr, N. R. A. experimenter, offer a two-man report on the new model.

The 721 is a bolt action sporter, in the high velocity class, and according to General Hatcher it has the "strongest, safest bolt action yet produced." Barr, who takes the gun all apart, outlines his likes and dislikes. Both are interested in the weight and balance. The new rifle is now in production and will be ready well ahead of the fall shooting season.

### Sponsor Kills Shooting Bill

State Senator C. Corey Mills, sponsor of Senate Bill Int. 1150, which stirred up considerable agitation among the sportsmen because of the additional red tape it would entail for all shooters in the state, has announced that he has killed the bill. He explained that he sponsored the bill originally at the request of a "legal association of high caliber," and assumed that it was in the public interest.

Because of the "multitude of friendly criticism" he received from sportsmen he requested that his bill be amended, removing the enacting clause, which means the bill is dead. The bill, as proposed, would have made it necessary for every person engaging in hunting or shooting in this state to possess a pistol permit.

DES MOINES TRIBUNE

APRIL 2, 1948

In The

## OPEN

By Ries Tuttle

GUN EDITORS of the various outdoor mags are raving over Remington's new Model 721 big game rifle.



They are hailing it as the first revolutionary change in bolt actions since the Springfield and Mauser types which have dominated the field for nearly 30 years.

While I haven't personally used this new rifle, the gun experts claim it's the strongest action on the market and incorporates several advantages not found on other rifles.

It will take a telescope sight with low mounts without interfering with the operation of the bolt handle and is quickly converted to use with iron sights.

The safety is conveniently operated with the right thumb and the trigger pull is silky smooth—so they say.

Produced in .30 06 caliber at present, it also will be available in 270 and 300 H. & H. Magnum. A short action model will be chambered for the 257 Roberts and 300 Savage cartridges.

Without a doubt it's a development that's been long needed and the best part of it is that the rifle will be moderately priced.

★ ★ ★



The new Model 721 Remington rifle—successor to the Model 30 and Model 720—has made its appearance in Amarillo. Amarillo Hardware had a couple last week.

It is strictly a hunter's rifle and the boys at Remington cut a lot of corners to get the price down to \$98. Not that they hurt the safety or serviceability of the rifle doing it but it lacks a lot of being a gun crank's rifle. The magazine floor plate and trigger guard, for example, are stamped in one piece. The trigger, also is stamped. The stock is varnished and slick — no hand-rubbed oil finish and no checkering.

Just why the floor plate should be forged is hard to explain—forgings are stronger but stampings are plenty strong for the job. And maybe it is nice to be able to open the floor plate to empty the magazine from the bottom, but it sure isn't necessary.

So far as the stock is concerned, you can oil-finish it yourself. Checkering and oil finish would put another \$28 on the original price. The gun would look better but it wouldn't shoot any better.

Remington started from scratch to bring out the Model 721. They borrowed little if anything, from Mauser, Springfield or Enfield design. The Model 721 is the first really new big game rifle in more than 45 years.

Incidentally, I apologize to Remington for accusing them of abandoning the familiar side-mounted, thumb-operated safety. Just to keep the record straight, Models 720 and 722 have the good old hunter's safety. The bolt stop releases, and not the safety, is located inside the trigger guard, just ahead of the trigger.

## The INSIDE ON THE OUTDOORS

By ENOS BRADNER

The second annual Seattle Times Outdoor and Vacation Show will open tomorrow night at the Civic Auditorium.

Today the Auditorium was a beehive of activity. Workmen and exhibitors were everywhere, installing decorations and displays that will transform the vast, bleak empty spaces of the building into a scene of spectacular beauty.

Old-time exhibitors state that this will be one of the most beautifully staged sports shows ever given in the West. Since early in one week, Remier Brothers have been devoting all their talents to bringing the splendor of the outdoors into the Auditorium.

When you enter the foyer you step into a bower of rhododendron and fragrant Oregon Juniper. Then as you follow the ramps to the lower floor you enter a vast arbor of salal pillars, ornamental cedar, tulips and other flowers. Here in the natural outdoor setting of our Northwest will be displayed the automobiles that enable the sportsmen to visit the lakes and mountains of our Puget Sound country.

The natural setting is carried out on the main floor with wreaths of salal and several tall, golden cedar trees flanking the stage which bears Mount Rainier in the background. Four rows of shiny aluminum display booths extend to the center water tank and platform

where the stage shows are given twice daily.

Anglers and nimrods will be able to feast their eyes on one of the greatest displays of tackle ever assembled here. Most of the leading sporting goods stores will have booths crammed with the latest gear and gadgets designed to make the lot of an angler or hunter a happy one.

In addition, the list of national manufacturers exhibiting this year is a long one. For the angler there will be Ashway Lines, Rainbeau Lines, Penn Tackle, Shakespeare, Montague, Hodgman Rubber, Philipson Rods, Warren Rods. Reels will be shown by Humphreys, Worden and Ocean City. Plugs and spoons will be displayed by Martin, Hanson, Lucky Louis, Davis Tackle, Active Grog and Trolling-Meter.

Although Harrington and Richardson will have the only exclusive gun display, a rifle particularly suited to this northwest will have a premier showing at the Sports Show. This is the Remington big-game rifle, models 721 and 722. This is a lightweight, streamlined rifle designed to carry easily in the field and yet be an efficient killer for any game found here or in Alaska.

The 721 will come in .30-06, .375 and .300 magnum, while the 722 will come in .300 Savage and the .357 caliber.

HERKIMER, N.Y. TELEGRAM • FEB. 18, 1948

## REM ARMS INC. NEW TYPE BIG GAME RIFLES

Illon—The army touch is seen in the structure of two big game rifles recently placed on the market by the Remington-Arms Co. It was announced today by the company's Illon plant.

In appearance the two models are reminiscent of soldiers. They are described as "a powerful pair of new bolt action big game rifles"

with "the strongest bolt action ever built; light streamlined, fast-pointing; exclusive enclosed bolt head; fine, crisp, match rifle trigger; rugged yet smooth and accurate throughout."

They are designated as Remington models 721 and 722,—the latter of lighter weight, shorter action.

Model 721, with deliveries next month, comes in .30-06 Springfield caliber. July delivery of 721 comes in the .270 Winchester caliber. September delivery of 721 is a .300 magnum.

The 722, .300 Savage, will be ready in May; and the 722, .357 Roberts, will be ready in July for delivery.

Model 721 A weighs about seven and 1-4 pounds. Model 722 A weighs seven pounds. Many new points of efficiency and safety, with quick action and balance, are found in the two new models.

PITTSBURGH, PA.  
SUN-TELEGRAPH

MAR. 14, 1948

On the Target

A sporting rifle with a new type bolt action and best use of the Remington-Arms Co. has been placed on the market. It is the new rifle, known as the 721 model, has a stronger and stiffer bolt action than any other rifle.