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Lion, New York
 September 8, 1960

J. D. MITCHELL
 BRIDGEPORT

BOLT ACTION CENTER FIRE RIFLE LINE

A meeting was held with Sales and R&D in Bridgeport on August 17th to plan a future program for the Bolt Action Center Fire.

The general feeling was that our present line is too complicated (number of models etc.) for present day sales volume. A volume twice present sales could easily support fifteen (15) different warehouse combinations, six (6) of these by a deluxe line including two (2) different rifles and six (6) calibers for portion of the parts not interchangeable with the standard line.

It is also apparent that our rifles do not compete favorably with foreign in appearance. Research personnel feel that a single model, two rifles with the standard calibers and with some custom type would be more competitive.

In order to accomplish this the following changes were recommended:

1. Improve appearance of stock by adding a Monte Carlo cheek piece, comb cuts, checkering, fore-end tip and grip cap. Make the shape of the stock more like the custom type with close grip, slim fore-end, and light weight.
2. Move the safety from along side of receiver to the bolt plug. This will eliminate a large portion of the present dimensional tolerances causing either too hard or too easy safety operation. This will also improve the appearance by eliminating the ugly unfinished stock cuts for the present safety.
3. Improve the receiver shape at the rear by shaping the tang more like the Springfield, giving better and slimmer stock shape and also room to operate the bolt plug safety in the same plane as the present M/725.

J. D. Mitchell

- 2 -

September 8, 1960

Improve bolt handle appearance by slim profile and sweeping the handle more toward the rear. This will require changing the trigger to move the finger piece rearward to prevent interference between bolt handle and the shooter's right hand in recoil.

Inlet magazine from top of stock in a manner such as to obviate the necessity for a floor plate. This is a custom stock feature used by many custom gun makers. It improves the appearance and cost at the same time. It may, however, require a reduction in magazine capacity in some calibers.

Offer features found on custom rifles such as a compensated barrel in heavy calibers, sling swivel screws as standard equipment, scope sights, dull finished receiver top, etc.

Provide a really light rifle in the regular calibers and a standard weight rifle in the heavy calibers with recoil pad. We can then have the lightest and strongest rifle in the world. The short receiver model can be advertised at a lower price. Actually our present M/721 and M/722 weigh less than the M/70 by 2 or 3 oz. on the average.

Original plans were to have this new rifle ready by January 1, 1961. Research personnel believe that it might be accomplished, but only if given a top priority both in Research and in Production.

MHW
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