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G.M. CALHOUN

May 31, 1961

GAIL EVANS

Since we have been discussing the possibility of a 280 Magnum, here are some interesting comments from our retired, W.D. (Capt) Harrison:

" I have given a great deal of thought to possible developments or improvements in our 280 caliber cartridge. To start with, it is assumed that the 280 was developed primarily for use in the Models 740 and 760. With it we have been able to approximate, and in the heavier bullet weights surpass, the 270 and do so with considerably less breech pressure. Those are laudable purposes, yet I feel we have not reached the ultimate in this 280 cartridge which, if reached, would make it outsell the 270. If, however, we did load the 280 up to its potential the resulting pressures and velocities would cause the M/740 to throw the empties across the lot -- the M/760 might develop extraction and ejection troubles as it does once in a while in 270 caliber.

" Therefore we must think of our M/721 and 725 as being the only rifles we produce that could benefit from the 'souped up' 280. You may recall that the 725 was my baby that I talked to you about in Denver in 1958. Since obviously we cannot load two series of cartridges in the same caliber, what I am going to suggest will appeal to the handloader primarily. Throat out our barrels in this caliber, long enough to allow the long 150 grain spitzer bullets (Speer, Nosler, Sierra, etc.) to be seated as far out as the case will permit. As now throated, these long bullets project into the powder space; otherwise the bolt will not close on the cartridge. Longer throating would eliminate this and probably would have no adverse effect on lighter, shorter weights. We have plenty of length in our receivers in M/721 and 725 so that poses no problem as to overall cartridge dimensions. So I suggest longer throats in these models only -- not in the 740 and 760. What do you think of this idea?

" The 125 grain bullet in the 280 seems somewhat inferior to the 130 grain in the 270. This is more theoretical than factual; nevertheless, ballistic tables are studied by the not too well informed (which includes most of the dealers). Could we produce a bullet in the 280 of equal sectional density to the 130 grain in the 270 that would approximate 270 velocities without getting pressures too high for our M/740 and 760? It would take about 139 or 140 grain to accomplish this, and it would be a dilly in the 721 and 725, also."

Capt. has had a lifetime of rifle shooting experience and intimately knows the bolt action fans we are trying to please.

JDMitchell:nc

John Lewis Jr. Duncan
XP-100

2 yrs back of filing Date

Apr. + May 1961

Had look fighting
 - Economical way -

In file - needing in
 delay to get ruling about

National for Am Act

Govt showing Intends

Fix arm or not

offer to sell