

Ilion, New York
January 7, 1963

To: D. LEE BRAUN
Berkeley, California

From: W. E. LEEK

FIELD TEST - XP-100

Thank you for your fine letter and accurate appraisal of the XP-100. I feel that some of the items you mention need explanation; therefore, will take them one at a time.

Your comment on muzzle blast. Our first model was made up with the standard 222 Caliber cartridge with a longer barrel. This cartridge, utilizing a slower burning powder, gave us tremendous muzzle blast quite similar to that noticed with Remington Jet when fired in a Smith & Wesson revolver. We have changed the powder for the 221 Fireball so that it burns at a faster rate and therefore reduces muzzle blast, giving us higher velocity. I admit it is somewhat noisy but as far as competitive problems are concerned with blast, we have nothing to fear as compared to the Remington Jet in the Smith & Wesson revolver.

The high support of the grip well up under the barrel and receiver assembly reduces the moment of recoil and for that reason muzzle jump has been reduced and recoil is practically unnoticed.

As far as accuracy is concerned, this pistol, in machine rest groups is shooting as well as our rifles at 100 yards. I have actually had 5-shot groups under 1/2" at this distance. In shooting off-hand, of course, the groups will open up. I have been averaging around 89 at 50 yds. off-hand, and have been lucky to obtain two targets which were 98, four x's and one 9. I believe with more practice and a little more luck this may be improved.

I have found that off-hand shooting with scopes is very difficult, but for those who cannot shoot well, supporting the pistol on a rest with a scope makes an ideal combination. Your suggestion to enlist the advice and help from various scope and mount manufacturers is certainly very timely, and we will follow up on this.

D. Lee Braun

-2-

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Your comment concerning single shot versus box feed certainly needs some discussion. For example, most vermint hunters don't care for magazine fed rifles, and I feel that this will hold true for this pistol. This also holds true for target shooting when firing slow fire. And with a box magazine rapid fire would not be possible anyway. Another thing, hand loaders are not very happy with box fed magazine, and I feel sure that most shooters will revert to hand loading with this pistol.

The nice balance that is obtainable with the XP-100 is the reason for the grip to be forward under the receiver. With the grip in this position it is impossible to place a magazine box up through the grip. If a box magazine was inserted either on the right or left hand side of the receiver, one locking lug would have to be removed. Of course, we know that one lug would be adequate strength-wise; but when we must decide which is the best compromise in all designs, and felt it was better to leave this model a single shot.

As far as running shots are concerned, I have found that the bolt action would be too slow even though box fed and that the only ideal action with such a pistol would be semi-automatic. Confidentially, you might someday see something like this.

We have been experimenting with various methods of carrying this pistol. Not being adept at making holsters out of leather, we have reverted to sling straps. We have found that a sling strap similar to the Nylon-66, with quick detachable links fastened to the bottom of the grip and forward section of the fore end, make an ideal carrying device. In this manner the pistol can be carried with the strap over the shoulder and under the arm, or over the shoulder and across one's back. I suspect there will be numerous innovations and devices in development for this gun, and it will certainly excite the fancy of the manufacturers of holsters, slings, etc.

The accuracy with this pistol is so great that as far as can be determined we can claim it to be the most accurate, highest velocity and longest range pistol ever designed. And I firmly believe there will be a lot of slow fire records broken with the XP-100.

Thank you again for your fine report and test results.


WEL:T