

May 26, 1963

Mr. K.D. Oslund  
431 So. 41st St.  
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Kay:

Just thought I would jot down for your information, what our results have been on field testing the XP 100. We have shot it extensively with several different scopes mounted on it and using a variety of handloads including different makes and weights of bullets and several different powders. I thought perhaps a few of the things we have found out about the pistol would help you answer a lot of dealers questions who have not had the opportunity to "wring" one out.

First of all, some of the comments about the pistol by a few of the professional writers bears comment. One prominent writer in particular wrote a very poor article on it as he didn't even mount a scope on it but shot it as a pistol with the factory sights. The XP-100 used in our tests is the one purchased by Roy Kerth and Roy and I both feel that as it was designed as a varmint pistol, it should be used as one. That is, with a good scope sight and utilizing a rest. This is the only way a varmint rifle is used so why not a pistol. We have found minute of angle groups at 100 yards almost ridiculously easy if the gun is properly used.

We have used three different scopes on the gun, the first being the Bushnell Phantom in the Bushnell mount. Although this is a fine little scope for this gun for target work, the high mounting above the bore and the almost complete lack of magnification caused us to discard this scope for varmint use. The next scope tried was a Nickel 2 power scope with fine horizontal crosshair and a slender tapered painted post. We altered a Redfield base for the 722 by milling of the back end and drilling and counterboring the rear mounting screw in the proper position for the action. The Nickel scope in Redfield split rings gave us the low mount position we desired. This was the set-up we used on a day's varmint shooting in the vicinity of Amherst, Nebraska. First blood for the gun was drawn by myself when I shot a medium sized badger at about 70 yards. The 50 grain factory load performed beautifully on this size animal, the hit being a chest shot and the exit hole was 2 1/2 to 3 inches in diameter.

The next varmint shot were a large amount of prairie dogs. We attempted to keep a count but as we progressed with the shooting we became so interested in what the pistol would do that we failed to keep count. However, we expended 247 rounds of assorted ammo and there weren't too many misses. Most of the prairie dogs were small pups, just large enough to leave the mound as the boms we shot are hunted a lot and the old dogs are spooky. With the 2 power Nickel scope, we found hits on the pups were "gravy" shots out to about 125 yards. Even there on out to a little better than 200 yards hits were still quite consistent although the low magnification of the scope was a handicap as was the post. This

Field trip convinced us that our suspicions formed with the Bushnell and Nickel scopes on target shooting were well founded, that is, the existing pistol scopes on the market do not have enough power for the potential of this pistol. As the recoil is mild, we have now mounted a 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 8 power Optex variable rifle scope on the gun. This scope was chosen as it seemed to have a little more eye relief than other more popular makes and the eye relief was not as critical. Your firm should try to convince some good scope makers like Redfield or Leupold to design a higher powered scope for the XP-100, preferably about a 3 to 7 power variable.

I should put in a word about the method we have arrived at as being the best for resting the gun when varmint shooting. We have tried all methods such as sitting down, using a two handed hold and resting the elbows on raised knees. Have also used a rifle type bench rest with sand bag supporting the forearm and also supporting the forearm of the pistol. The method we have found best for all types of shooting involves the rounded end of the butt. I don't know if whoever at the Remington plant designed the stock intended the round portion of the bottom of the grip to be used for shooting or if it was designed that way to complement the lines of the gun but he sure hit the nail on the head. If a sandbag is placed on a solid surface such as the top of a fence post or even the hood of the car, we place the butt of the gun on the sandbag and press down slightly forming the sand around the bottom of the butt. In this way, to change your sighting, the rounded end swivels on the sandbag just like a ball and socket joint and the whole rig can be held and sighted as steady as a rifle. This is a good tip you should pass on as it makes all the difference in the world between small groups and just so-so groups.

We did manage to get a few full grown prairie dogs in one town and found only one shortcoming which was in the factory ammo. The jackets are either a little too stiff or too thick for this type thin skinned varmint. As mentioned above, they performed good on the heavier muscled badger but expansion was not too good on prairie dogs and jack-rabbits and we got quite a few ricochets even after the bullets had passed through the animal. You might pass this along to the home plant for what it is worth. Bullets tried in handloads ranged through all makes from the 37 gr. Sisk bullet designed for the Kay-Chuck through the 60 grain Hornady. The Sisk bullets were too lightly constructed for Fireball ballistics and the best results obtained both for accuracy and performance on varmints were the 45 gr. Hornady, 45 gr. Sierra Target bullet, 50 gr. Hornady SX, 50 gr. Sierra Semi-Pointe, 52 Gr. Speer HP, 53 Gr. Sierra HPBR and the 55 gr. Hornady SX. All of these bullets have good expansion with a minimum of ricochets. We arrived at handloads by using the Powley Computer and tried 4227 and 4198. 4227 seems to give the best results and the range of the charge with this powder was from 14.7 gr. to 15.8 gr. depending on the bullet used. We started at 14.0 gr. and went as high as 17.5 gr. with a 50 gr. bullet, at which point we blew the primer. I noticed some people have tried 2400 but as this is a scaled down version of the .222 and this powder is poison in the triple deuce, we gave it a wide berth.

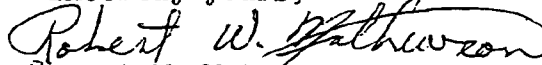
No bit of horror about our varmint bustin' trip was the reaction of the natives around Amherst. We are known as the damned few who

drive all the way from Lincoln to shoot prairie dogs at those "gawd-awful" distances with those "gawd-awful" rifles. At noon Roy and I went into town for lunch at the local suds emporium along with "Swede" Riesland, a service buddy of mine who lives there and you should have heard their reaction when "Swede" told them about the long shots we had been making with a pistol. Now they really think we are crazy but sure like the idea of thinning out their prairie dogs.

In short summation Ray, I am completely "sold" on the XP-100 and it again bears out my conviction that the best in shooting irons comes from Ilion. As soon as the family budget will stand a little bending, one of them will join the rest of my Remingtons in my own gun cabinet. The only thing I think they should do to the gun is name it "The Sniper" XP-100 is fine for a model number but a fine gun like this deserves a name.

If any of your dealers have any questions about the gun or it's capabilities, refer them to me for a good recommendation.

Sincerely yours,



Robert W. Mathewson  
530 So. 48th St.  
Lincoln, Nebraska