

March 3, 1965

Tom Brown
Billings, Montana

Dear Tom:

Certainly enjoyed talking to you over the telephone the other day and since that time I received four notes from you with various comments, suggestions and questions. So, I'll answer them as they appear in your notes.

I think your idea of arranging a test at John Collins' ranch in Gifflette, Wyoming is excellent. There is no better test game especially for the small sniffer than prairie dogs. Unfortunately around the Bonanza area they have been killed off to a great extent years ago by the use of poison grain which the Conservation Department deemed necessary to control those little animals. Unfortunately, however, poison grain also killed off millions of sage hens and they have yet to make a very definite come back.

As to the supplying of guns to you for your testing etc., this puts me in a position Tom, where I have considerable difficulty in supplying your needs. For example, it is impossible for me to obtain a consignment account number for you. This must be supplied I am told by Pete Morgan and the only way that I can possibly charge any of these assembled guns to you, is for you to write to Pete indicating your request, he supplies the consignment number and I then furnish the gun. For example, these standard rifles can only be obtained by us here, through an accounting means of checking them out of the warehouse, and we have to account for each one by serial number. I am in an impossible position to acquire such items without the proper paper work. For an example, I couldn't even get one for myself. I have no consignment number and only check out rifles for test purposes for certain periods of time.

The status of the 22-250 at the present time is in such short supply, and great demand, that they haven't all been shipped even to the sports writers. I doubt very much that it would be possible for you to obtain the 22-250 for quite some time, unless by convincing Pete Morgan through your letter to him, that your needs should take preference over some of the sports writers. When you do make your request, however, please have Pete advise me and I'll make a special selection for you. I agree that we should really take care of this fellow, because good test areas with plenty of varmint game are hard to come by, although hunting areas during the regular hunting season, for big game seems to be quite plentiful.

To answer your questions on the dimensions of the 22-250 cartridge, I will attach a print of the cartridge itself so that you can keep it for future use. This will give you the information you need.

Tom Prye

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Thanks for the tip on Les. I heard something of his pending interest in selling the ranch while out there hunting last fall. But didn't realize that this would be accomplished quite so soon. I think it is time for Les to retire from that work since he is not a very young man and also the situation there needs new management. I think it is getting beyond the control of Les and Martie. It is a big job, difficult one and really requires good business and organizational skills and common sense. It will be a successful operation.

As to the 600, on the 6.5 and 30, there is no receiver design ready for putting it in the 700 and therefore we will not do it. Our policy is to keep the 6.5 in the 600 and out of the competitive line with the Rem-We are attempting to keep as many cartridges as possible without making change in the two models. However, the .308 and the .222 are the same. To put one special would cost additional money. The problem that I advised you was here in the shop where we would like to make up at least one model in the 6.5 for the 600 which we do not have here. The only one in existence is being tested by you and Les. That is the dilemma we're in at the present time. Later on perhaps we can put one together, but wouldn't a combination of the 600 receiver with a 21" barrel be better than a 700 receiver with a 21" barrel? I'd like your comments on this.

Also on your request for barrels and action etc., anything that has a serial number on it is as difficult to obtain paperwork, as a complete action. As you know we are now selling actions to the public and Remington here in Elgin has always had close control of the serial numbered receivers. I suggest that you include what you want in your letter to Pete as far as action and barrels is concerned. This will clear the way and there will be no problems.

As far as the various new calibers in the 600 is concerned it looks like the 6.5 and the 30 are the ones that we will want to push and I certainly feel good about your supporting me in these two new calibers. We certainly do not want to interfere with the 7 mm mag. by introducing a short one in for the 600, so we'll plan to keep that one for a later date. Don't expect that I'll have any of these for test until later on this summer. I'll probably have to bring them out with me during the month of August. I can't emphasize to you too strongly the dilemma we're in right now in getting things moving in the model shop.

Now as to the dimensions on the 222 24" barrel. It has a 1 in 12 twist and we find on the 6.5 an 8 1/2 to 9 1/2 twist. I had a letter the other day from Les stating that Martie was in the hospital as you have indicated. I hope by this time she's getting much better. Les sent me a picture post card of himself with the .350 Mag Carbine and a 2700 lb. buffalo. That's a mighty big animal and apparently Les had no difficulties in downing it with one shot. Les has suggested that we send a 350 mag up to his friend Ralph Young in Petersburg, Alaska and we are preparing one for him now with some 250 grain ammunition in the hopes that he will try it out on the big browns up in that area. It will be interesting to find out what the results will be and if I ever do hear from him, on the test, I will so advise you of the results.

Leupold scopes for the 600 mag with short eye relief appear to be much superior to the Redfield scope that I had last fall. The Leupold folks seem to be a little dilatory in getting a mount out to support it. They sent one to us which was not adequate. On the other hand, Redfield has been forging ahead with their new mount but I believe it too leaves something to be desired. I haven't seen their latest

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new one. As you know, the one we used was designed here at Huntington with a overhang to the scope which didn't appeal too much to us. However, one must consider the fact that the mount shouldn't be too long as it might interfere with the normal movement of the barrel during the contraction and expansion which is compatible with the heating and cooling of the barrel. This might interfere with accuracy, so mounting too far forward on the studs might be undesirable.

I believe this is all for now Tom. I hope this letter finds you and Sue and her mother in good physical condition. I think one must adhere to the doctor's orders when there is some difficulty and that which is by those orders we can get along in good shape. I hope that any plans you are making will facilitate future testing and will be looking forward to hearing from you again soon and getting some directions as to how to proceed to supply the necessary parts that you need through Pete Morgan.

Best wishes,

WEL:G

Wayne E. Lock, Manager
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Illion Research Division