

S.M.A.

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June 2, 1966

Mr. S.M. Alvis
Remington Arms Corporation
Ilion, New York

Dear Mr. Alvis:

I am writing to inform you of the results of the field test of the Model 600 Remington .350 magnum rifle, which I conducted during the past hunting season in Arizona.

First, I wish to thank you for the opportunity to field test the Model 600 which you furnished, complete with 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ X Red-field scope, with long eye-relief.

I used the rifle primarily in the desert country around Tucson, although I did bag a Mule Deer doe which field dressed at about 150 pounds, while hunting in the North Kaibab area of northern Arizona. The area in which I was hunting was the fairly heavily forested part of the Kaibab with moderate to heavy underbrush. Most of my desert hunting was in areas of fairly heavy cover of creosote bush, which is generally about 4 feet tall, quite dense but with light, "twig" type branches. This hunting was prior to and after deer season and entailed varmint calling for coyote, on which there is no hunting season.

The first shooting I did was on the range to zero in the scope to my liking and to familiarize myself with the "600." In all of my shooting I used the Remington factory loads with 200 grain bullet. I found the zeroing easy to do, and was pleased with the consistant groups I was able to get after only a little practice. I found the rifle "held" well for me and my accuracy in off hand shooting was not hard to maintain. It took a few rounds to become accustomed to the heavy recoil. Although the recoil pad is excellent, I would not want to do a great deal of range practice with the standard ammo, as the recoil became unpleasant with sustained firing. It would be interesting to see the factory come out with a target load for the "600" magnum for those of us who are not hand loaders and who use the same guns for range work as for hunting.

Admittedly the .350 magnum is "too much gun" to use for varmint hunting. However, such hunting, in addition to being difficult and lots of fun is excellent for keeping your eye in during the off season. All of my varmint hunting was done seated on the ground in a small, portable blind or in camouflage clothing, so I was shooting from down in the brush. The Model 600 had no trouble in cutting

through the light brush with no noticeable effect to the accuracy. I also found this true in the heavier brush in the Kaibab. The compact size of the "600" made for very easy handling in the brush and especially in a small blind. I did find that the sighting rib had a tendency to collect twigs when walking through the creosote bush, but not to the extent of being a great problem.

The hitting power of the .350 magnum appears to be terrific. My deer was killed at about 75 yards through light brush with one shot which entered just behind the right foreleg and went out through the neck with such force that it was not necessary for me to cut her throat to bleed her out. Practically all of the varmints hit were clean kills with one shot, regardless of where they were hit. I am sure there would be no problem in handling much larger game with ease.

Two things did give me some problems. I found the bolt quite awkward to remove and would personally like to see some sort of external release which would make this a more simple operation. I am one of the school which likes to remove the bolt both for cleaning and for transporting the rifle in my car. Also, when I was preparing the rifle for shipment back to the factory I found that the recoil had "set" the scope in the mount and I could not remove it without fear of damage. I was quite careful in attaching the scope originally to see that it was as far forward in the mount as it would go and that the allen screw was as tight as possible. Perhaps this was an isolated case, but if the rifle had been mine, I would have been forced to have a gunsmith remove the scope, which I feel should not have been the case.

All things considered, I was quite favorably impressed with the Model 600, .350 magnum. It is an easy handling, accurate, hard hitting weapon which I thoroughly enjoyed using and which I would be very pleased to own and use again for even larger game.

Thanks again for allowing me to field test this fine rifle. If I can help you in the future, I shall be most pleased to do so.

Sincerely,

Kennard P. Howell
Kennard P. Howell

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