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INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

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Ilion, New York
September 27, 1971

TO: J.S. MARTIN

FROM: W.E. LEEK

SUBJECT: NEW BOLT ACTION CENTER FIRE RIFLE

Approximately two years ago we discussed the possibility of adding a bolt action center fire rifle to the new family line of guns. We listed several features which were attractive and similar to those in the new automatic rifle such as quick change barrels with interchangeable calibers, retention of point of impact, multiple lug rotary bolt using the same bolt head mechanism of the autoloader and the same box feed system. Since that time, features have come to mind, and I am taking this opportunity to list them for possible future activity.

1. Magnesium skeleton frame for the stock covered with suitable high-grade wood. This feature would provide rigid adequate bedding and prevent point of impact shifting normally found with long stocks. The frame, as we know it, was contemplated for use in the M/742X and M/1100X and would be an integral part of the magnesium skeleton. The integral barrel and barrel extension would attach to the frame mechanism by some quick adequate trunnion means.

2. Interchangeable calibers and barrel assemblies with repeatable point of impact without adjustment. Using the same locking means as in the M/742X would be desirable. The back section of the barrel extension would be different than the M/742X to allow for the manual bolt action. The break action might present problems with the fore-ends (perhaps a vertical assembly is best).

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3. Detachable box magazine in all rifles is the most desirable and sought after feeding device. In this design, add using of the M/742 X box would be the plan.

4. Recoil reduction can be achieved by adding the use of the adiprene butt plate of the M/742X.

5. The total gun weight unloaded should not exceed 7 lbs. for 30' 06 or lesser calibers (7 1/2 lbs. for magnum calibers).

6. The new gun must have a similar appearance to a high grade bolt action rifle. It is possible that press formed shapes including checkering can be made in two halves then joined by adhesive surrounding the magnesium skeleton center.

7. Match type adjustable fire control, rust proofed and sealed is necessary for adequate performance.

8. Rust proofing of the entire gun is mandatory. The utilization of rust proof materials, plating and coating is permissible, but appearance must be of the highest order.

9. A well designed gun should have facilities to accommodate open peep and scope sights. Providing any type of sights on the individual gun is questionable, but excellent sights of all categories should be available.

W.E. Leek:sp
Ilion Research Division