

Kelly (P)
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bcc: F.E. Morgan
M.H.Walker

December 1, 1971

Mr. Ron Hurlburt
White Mountain,
Alaska 99784

Dear Mr. Hurlburt:

Thank you sincerely for your letter about the Model 700 BDL Grade Rifle. It is only in this way that we are able to work towards continual improvements to the satisfaction of the majority of the shooters.

It also seems to be rather obvious that you would be a lot happier with one of the Model 700 Custom Grade Rifles, which would offer a great deal more in the way of options, including either plain or rosewood fore end tips, cut checkering, special finishes and the like.

We offer no apologies for the inverse type of checkering as used on the standard grades, recognizing that there are still some who prefer the open cut type checkering. I personally have favored inverse or pressed checkering when properly executed, having found it to be equally as functional and offering considerably more decoration at a more reasonable unit cost. It also provides a case hardened type of surface as properly cured by the heat and pressure, so it is a lot more resistant to rugged handling. Perhaps I also have a greater appreciation of the process, having been involved in the long time development of technique which requires molds that are precise and expensive, and involves preparation of stock blanks to precise dimensions in order to obtain uniform checkering.

Thanks again for your good letter, which will be passed along to our designers and to the factory which is responsible for maintaining the quality of this very successful rifle.

Sincerely yours,

S. M. Alvis, Manager
Illon Research Division

SMA:T Encl.