

Hank Burchard
'80*Remington.*

REMINGTON ARMS COMPANY, INC.

SPORTING ARMS-AMMUNITION-TARGETS-TRAPS
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January 24, 1980

Mr. Hank Burchard
THE WASHINGTON POST
1150 15th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20005

Dear Mr. Burchard:

Your letters of December 14, 1979, and January 2, 1980, described some problems you have had with one of our Model 788 rifles and asked for our comments. Our responses are listed in the order of your remarks in the December 14 letter.

- 1.) The difficulty you had with ejected cartridges hitting the windage knob does occur with some scopes. We know of no remedy for this other than to rotate the scope in the manner you described or to use a scope with which the problem does not happen. One recommendation is the Tasco 4X scope which we sell with these rifles as an option. It is described on Page 24 of the attached catalog.
- 2.) We know that the bolt does not lock in the closed position. Whether this is an advantage or a disadvantage can be argued, however. In our surveys of shooters we have found opinions divided. The main advantage is that the rifle may be unloaded without taking it off safe. The disadvantage, of course, is the problem you described.
- 3.) Your comments about the safety are essentially correct. However, we have had very few complaints about this and no reports of accidents. The low incidence of complaints may be due to the fact that the carry you described is a common one with shot-guns but not that common with center fire rifles. However, as a result of your comments, our engineers are investigating ways of improving the design and location of the Model 788 safety. As a matter of information, we found that the same thing could happen on some bolt action rifles manufactured by other companies.

Mr. Hank Burchard

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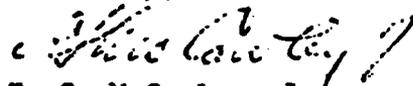
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The problems you described in your letter reemphasize the need to remind hunters and shooters of the basic rules of safe gun handling. Of prime importance is to treat every gun as if it were loaded and ready to fire. Shooters should remember that the safety on any gun is a mechanical device that serves as part of a complete system of safe gun handling. It is not intended to serve, nor can it possibly serve, as a substitute for common sense or safe gun handling.

I am enclosing a copy of a new booklet on firearms safety which has just been published by the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute which stresses this point along with nine other fundamental safety rules. We are now packing these booklets with all new guns we manufacture.

The booklet is the first step in a broad-based campaign being conducted by SAAMI on safe gun handling. It includes news releases, public service radio and TV spots and advertisements in major hunting, shooting and outdoor magazines.

Sincerely,



E. S. McCawley, Jr.
Manager, Public Relations

ESM/s
Encl.