

The field test models were returned to Ilion starting the first week of July. Marketing field test reports (Exhibit 33) indicated the rifle was too heavy and the stock was too fat. They requested that Research look at ways to reduce the overall weight by at least 3/4 of a pound. Research responded with several suggestions to meet this new criteria. (Exhibits 34 - 35) Subsequent testing indicated the required weight could be obtained by reducing the barrel diameter (Exhibit 36) and using walnut for the stock.

Phase IV New barreled actions were made with the smaller diameter barrels. A thinner stock was made up and a model was shown to Marketing. (Exhibit 37) They approved of the barreled action but requested further work be done on the stock. (Exhibits 38 - 39)

A sample was made with the grip and fore end slimmed down as requested by Marketing. Samples with a Schnabel fore end were also made to show them. (Exhibits 40, 41, 42)

The sample with the Schnabel fore end was accepted by Marketing. (Exhibit 40)

Five hand made samples are being built for accuracy and function testing of the 308, 7mm-08, 6mm, 243 and 222 calibers, and twenty stocks are being made by Fajan from a handmade pattern for field testing.

The test schedule becomes extremely important at this point because of the lighter barrel and stock. The first concern is what effect the heaviest caliber will have on the strength of the lighter stock. The second concern is what effect the smaller diameter barrel will have on accuracy and overall rifle function. These questions will be answered in June 1981.