

Jim Ronkainen

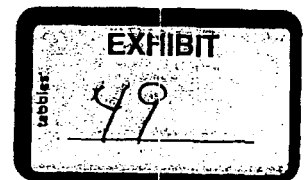
From: Diaz, Danny
Sent: 01/24/2001 01:20:15 PM
To: Ronkainen, Jim
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BCC:
Subject: FW: Bozeman Daily Chronicle

-----Original Message-----

From: Diaz, Danny
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2001 4:52 PM
To: Diaz, Danny
Subject: Bozeman Daily Chronicle

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Family takes aim: Trajectory of fatal shooting attracts national media

01/19/01

By KATHLEEN O'TOOLE Chronicle Staff Writer

AMSTERDAM -- Barb Barber sat in a soft pink armchair perched in the corner of her home Thursday morning, quietly watching as an impossible scene unfold before her.

Standing in the living room was Jim Stuart, correspondent for CBS Evening News' "Eye on America" segment, interviewing a Missouri attorney on the dangers of the Remington Model 700 action rifle -- how it is known to discharge unexpectedly, an inherent design flaw and how the Remington Arms Company has about the defect but has done nothing about it.

It's a scene that the attorney, Richard C. Miller, told Rich Barber would never happen.

The family, Miller said, would never be able to get national attention on the problems of the Model 700 rifle -- the same gun that accidentally discharged and killed their 9-year-old son, Gus.

The family, Miller said, would be lucky to get the news out of Montana.

"I'm afraid I'll have to eat my words on this one," Miller joked.

On Oct. 23, Barb Barber was unloading her Remington 700 gun discharged and sent a single bullet through a horse's head and into her son's abdomen. Gus died a few hours later. "Of the confusion, Barb is sure of one thing -- her finger was on the trigger."

Miller has heard the same story, with different variations, for 15 years. In that time he has represented more than 40 families who have sued Remington regarding accidental discharges with the Model 700. In all of those cases, either his client won in court or settled out of court with Remington.

But until now, Miller hadn't seen the kind of steadfast resolve of the Barber family, particularly Rich Barber, has to make people aware of the history of the Remington Model 700 rifle.

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photo by Thomas Lee/Attorney Rich Miller, left, speaks with CBS News correspondent Jim Stewart
Thursday in the Barb and Rich Barber home in Amsterdam.

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