



# GUN MUSEUM

275 WINCHESTER AVENUE, NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06504

**WINCHESTER®**

April 10, 1970

Mr. Lewis Yearout  
308 Riverview Drive East  
Great Falls, Montana 59401

Dear Mr. Yearout:

Model 1876 records list number 3546 as a rifle, octagon barrel and plain trigger. Shipped May 11, 1878, no other information listed.

Model 1876, serial number 32582, carbine, shipped July 30, 1883, no other information.

Model 1876, serial number 43687, carbine. Shipped April 6, 1885, no other information.

Model 1885, serial number 38427, rifle, caliber 40-70 St., 30" 1/2 octagon barrel #3, set trigger, checked stock pistol grip, Swiss cheekpiece. Midrange Vernier and wind gauge sights, Lyman front and rear sights. No rear slot. In Morocco case. Shipped March 10, 1890, no other information.

Model 1885, serial number 100890, rifle, 30" round barrel, caliber 30 rim 1906, nickel steel, shotgun butt. Old style fly to leave hammer at full cock. Safety locking device on hammer. Forearm same as sample submitted by Capt. Laudensack except cork finger rest which is to be made 1/2 inch longer on rear end and 1 1/2 inch longer on front end. Barrel cover same as sample, sights same as sample except notch on rear sight to be very small "u". Distance between sights to be same as sample. Thumb screw head to be cut off front sight and stem to be slotted for screw driver. Shipped August 13, 1913. No other information.

Model 1886, serial number 52581 listed as a rifle, caliber 40-82, 21" octagon barrel and plain trigger. Shipped March 4, 1891, no other information listed.

Sincerely yours,

*T. E. Hall*  
T. E. Hall, Curator

TEH/s

CODY FIREARMS MUSEUM  
Serial Number Research Request

8021

Request Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 8/20/98 By: Jan

Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_ Levin Year out

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Category \_\_\_\_\_

Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ How: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Information Requested: yes/no / just mail

Winchester 85  
38427

Marlin \_\_\_\_\_ L.C. Smith \_\_\_\_\_

Response Time Requested: \_\_\_\_\_

Response Data:

Date: 3-8-90

Butt: Swiss Butt

Type: R

Shipped: 3-19-90

Caliber: 40-70 ST.

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Barrel: 1/2 CT 30" #3

Trigger: SET

Stock: Checkered pistol grip

Sights: Mid-Range Levisier + Wind in MOROCCO CASE

Magazine: 4 round front & rear (NO REAR SLOT)

WO# 9970

CHUCK PC.

Type of Request: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Walk-in: \_\_\_\_\_ Written: X

Other (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Answered by: Jan Date: 8/20/98 Res. Svc. Time: \_\_\_\_\_

This will confirm the information provided to you in your telephone call to the Historical Center. The foregoing information has been provided at your request as a courtesy furnished to our Cody Firearms or other special patrons interested in firearms. It is an abstract from the original Winchester/Marlin/L.C. Smith records housed in our Center. We make no representations concerning the accuracy of the records, the authenticity of the firearm, its value, or its present ownership. Our interpretation of the record we believe to be accurate but disclaim any responsibility for errors that may have occurred in our abstract of the record.

BUFFALO BILL HISTORICAL CENTER



-SPECIAL SINGLE SHOT RIFLE-

WINCHESTER MODEL 1885, Deluxe Rifle, Serial no.-38427, Cal..40-70 Sharps Straight. Correct terminology is "SPECIAL SINGLE SHOT RIFLE" as described in the 1890 Catalog: "Half Octagon barrel, Fancy walnut checked, Pistol Grip Stock, with Swiss Cheek Piece, Nickel Plated Swiss Butt Plate, Casehardened Frame, Plain trigger, with Mid-Range Vernier Peep and Wind Gauge Sights, without slot cut in barrel for rear sight- - - - -Price \$ 46.00

Serial no. 38427 is as described above in every respect. (but with single adj. trigger) Received in the warehouse March 8, 1890. Shipped March 10, 1890. to order no. 9970 With 30 inch # 3 half round half oct. Instead of a plain trigger, the trigger would be extra with its single adjustable trigger. The Mid-range sights also lettered as shipped in Morocco Case would also have been extra, Extra cost \$.20.00 for trigger perhaps \$ 3.00 for Morocco casing. Weight 8½ lbs.

With "panelled round top frame, Pistol grip with early ebony inlay insert Under stock on lower tang stamped ~~XXXXXX~~ "29I7 XXX SBC" . Under forearm " 3 with 40-65 (scratched out) 40-70 " Stock under buttplate drilled hole for cleaning rod.

The .40-70 Sharps Straight would have been available when the S.S. was first announced. Yet it did not appear as a listed available caliber prior to the October 1886 catalog. It remained in all catalogs up through Cat. No. 75 dated March 1909.

Of all the Old Sharps cartridges chambered in the Win. Model 1885, the two .40 calibers of the .40-70 S.S. and the .40-90 S.S. would survive the longest. All Sharps cartridges were always loaded with black powder. Smokeless powders put them out of business. To-day (1999) many of the old Sharps cartridges are back in circulation as a result of the large number of persons "reliving the early days of the Buffalo and the old West."

All of the old Sharps cartridges were last listed in Catalog No. 80 dated 1916.

The pistol grip is with wedge shaped ebony inlay. The swiss butt with two screws thru back of stock, and with a pointed wedge into wood at heel portion of buttplate. The nickel plated screws are also stamped "29I7" as also is inside of buttplate. The stock in tang slot also stamped "29I7".

Factory records reflect 949 guns shipped in this caliber.

00721

Rifle  
Shotgun

Price 9.00

Overall Condition 40-70 S.S.

Winchester  
(Manufactured By)

1885-  
(Model)

(Special S.S. Rifle)  
(Type)

S.S.

(Single or Repeater)

(Magazine)

30"  
(Barrel Length)

(Type Barr)

(Bore Condition)  
shipped March 10,

(Stock Length)

(Overall Length)

(Weight)

~~1887~~ 1890  
(Date of Manufacture)

(Type Front Sight) (Type Rear Sight)

Swiss with cheek piece  
(Type Butt Plate)

Finish

shipped with sights in Morocco case - No rear sight slot - Set trigger

Remarks 3 X Grade without slot in barrel for rear sight. Pistol grip & checkered

Mid Range vernier & Target front with spirit level sight. Swiss butt plate with spirit level on bottom

Reg. Seign  
(Bought From)

April 5, 1970  
(Date)

800.00  
(Price)

(Sold To)

(Date)

(Price)

6245-1413 Am South  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

cash \$400.00 - Total \$1500.00

See Note on back

55423

38427

Deluxe

40-70 S.S.

This gun purchased from Ray Seign when Lake & Winifred was received  
reflecting it had been originally shipped with "Red Morrell mid Ring Sign".  
The case and sights were added back to this gun to make the  
original letter. Purchased the case sight from Norman Flegderman  
much earlier. —