



January 08, 2013

Mr. Rick Hill
2017 Turnstone Road
Redmond, OR 97756

Dear Mr. Hill:

The manufacturer's data for Model 1894, serial number 119046, as extracted from the original Winchester records housed in the museum, are as follows:

Serial number applied on July 29, 1901

Type: Carbine

Caliber: 30

Barrel Length: 18 inches

1/2 Magazine

No sling ring

Received in warehouse on August 2, 1901

Shipped from warehouse on August 2, 1901, Order number 105116

No other information is available for this serial number.

Sincerely yours,

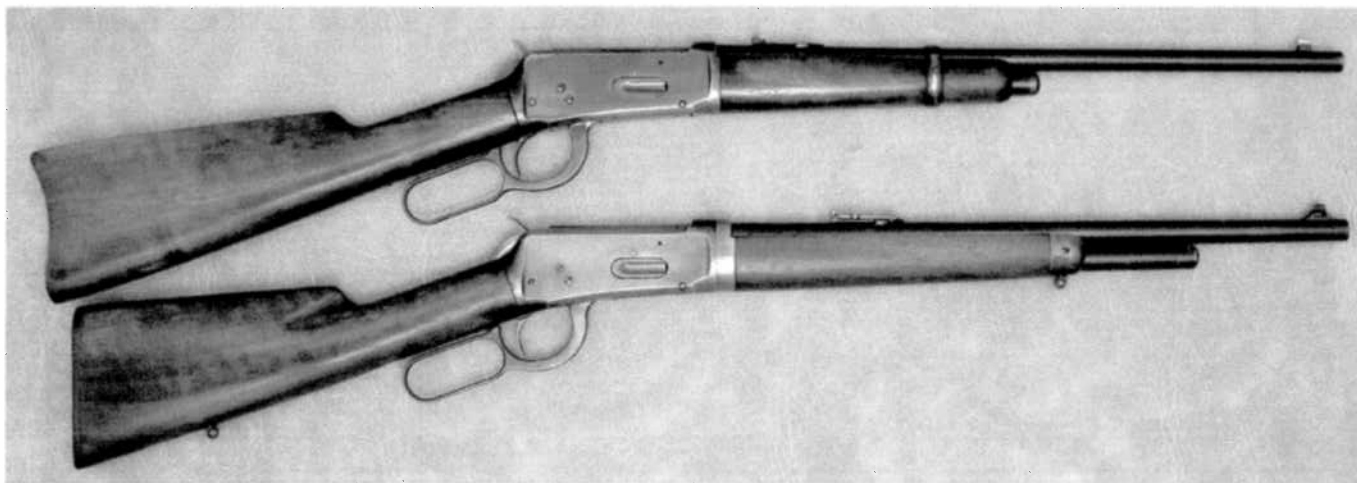
Jessica A. Bennett
Records Specialist
Cody Firearms Museum

Letter for Model 1894 serial number 119046, page 1 of 1

This Factory Letter is a staff interpretation of handwritten, abbreviated records. Some errors may occur in transcription. This letter makes no representations concerning the authenticity, value, or ownership history of the firearm to which it pertains. It should be noted that some replicas and reproductions bear serial numbers identical to the original firearms.

A Memorable Week On The Winchester Collecting Trail

Article by Rick Hill; guns from the Rick Hill Collection; photos by Rob Kassab

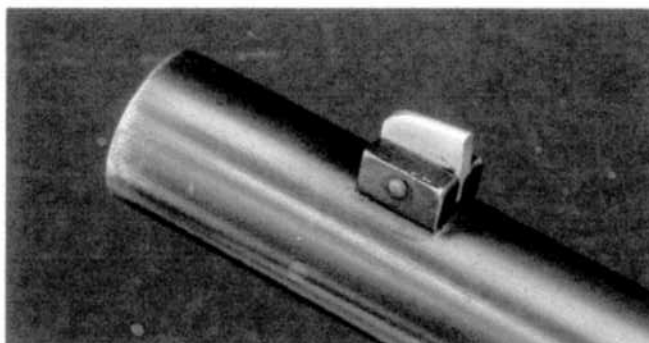


It was May of 2010, a couple of weeks before my 68th birthday, when I received the first telephone call. It was from an older gentleman in South Carolina. We have never met but we have been telephone buddies for a number of years. He collects fine guns, mostly American double barreled shotguns but has a discerning eye for condition and rarity. He originally contacted me several years ago concerning questions he had about some lever action Winchesters. He found me through my ¼ page ad in *"The Winchester Collector"*. One thing led to another and I ended up buying several nice Model 1892s and 1894s from him. He calls me "Mr. Rick."

After exchanging pleasantries, the conversation went something like this: "Mr. Rick, I believe that I may have something that you will be interested in."

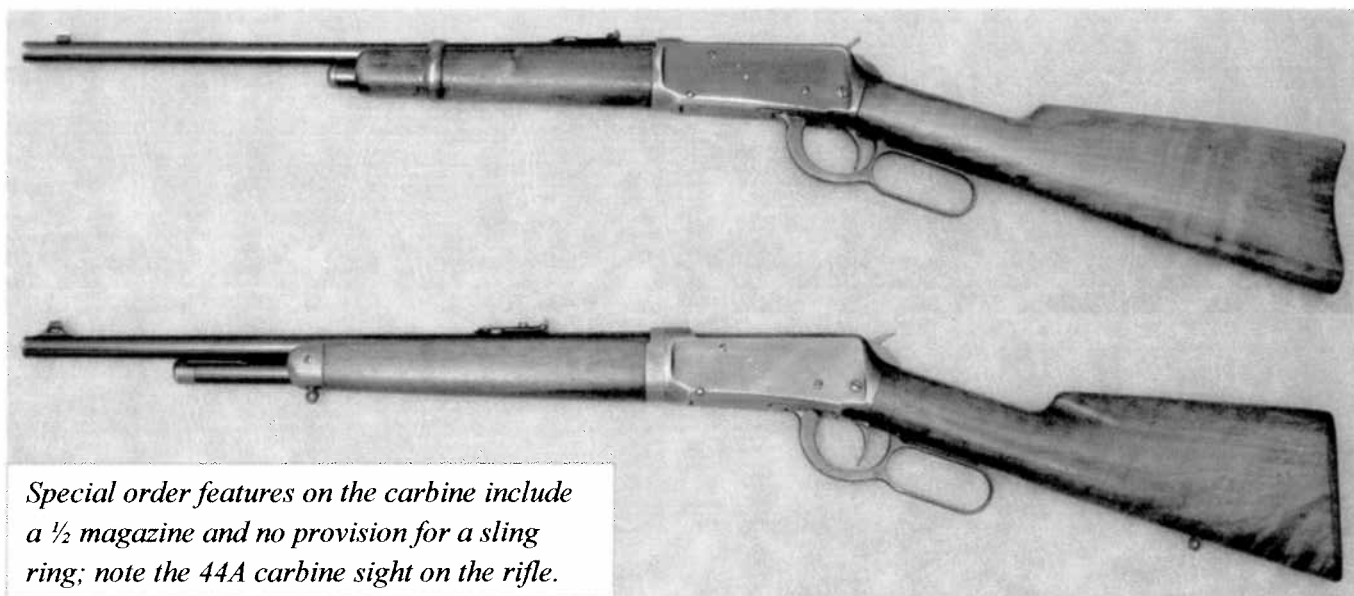
"Tell me more Dave" says I.

"Once a year I like to go up to North Carolina where there is a small gun show at the local fair grounds. I can drive my rig right up to the table to load and



unload and that is good for my back pain. On this particular trip, I was running late as I had committed to dinner with some friends and was in a rush to get there on time. I drove up to my table and piled my stuff so it would be handy to set up the following morning and then took off to go to dinner. As I was driving out, I passed a table where a fellow collector was setting-up and saw him remove this interesting Model 1894 from a gun case. I couldn't help but stop and give it a quick once-over. Now I'm

getting seriously late, so I handed the guy \$100 and said I would I'd be back in the morning to work-out the details. The gun turned out to be an 18" takedown .25-35 caliber rifle with lots of extra features."



By the time I got the phone call the gun had gotten quite a bit of interest and drawn a few significant offers, but Dave said he thought of me when he bought the gun so I could have first right of refusal.

"Say no more Dave, I'll take it." says I. I had already grabbed my 1995 ARMAX Vol. 5 and figured out that there were only forty-three (43) 18" barreled rifles that would letter. While this one was outside the letter range (serial number 750896) the special order features I was quite sure made it a unique piece.

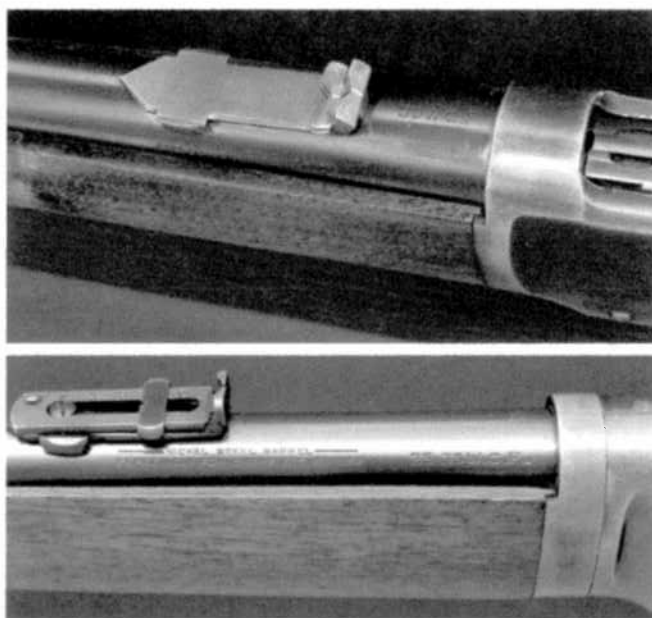
So here I am awaiting the arrival of my new purchase - - sight unseen I might add -- since Dave doesn't do computers or digital imaging, and then the phone rings..... This time it is an older gentleman from CT who also saw my ad in the magazine. His story is quite tragic and involved the death of his wife due to brain cancer. Since they had collected Winchesters together for decades, he could no longer appreciate his guns and decided to sell the whole bunch. The one gun that immediately caught my attention was a letterable, high-condition

special order 18" 1894 carbine! Back to the ARMAX study where I find there are only twelve letterable 18" carbines! Now this is just three days after Dave called and I haven't even had the opportunity to get another Social Security check. Once again, word had gotten-out and there is a major dealer anxious to buy this little gem. The seller

preferred that the star of his collection go to another collector rather than to a dealer, hence the call to me. After a hasty family conference where it was decided we could put-off that exotic vacation and the purchase of a new car for another year, I accepted the non-negotiable price and now had the dubious distinction of acquiring both an 18" Model 1894 rifle and an 18" carbine all in the same week!

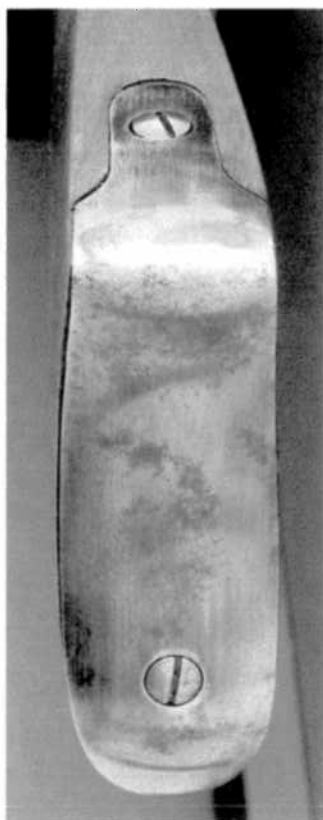
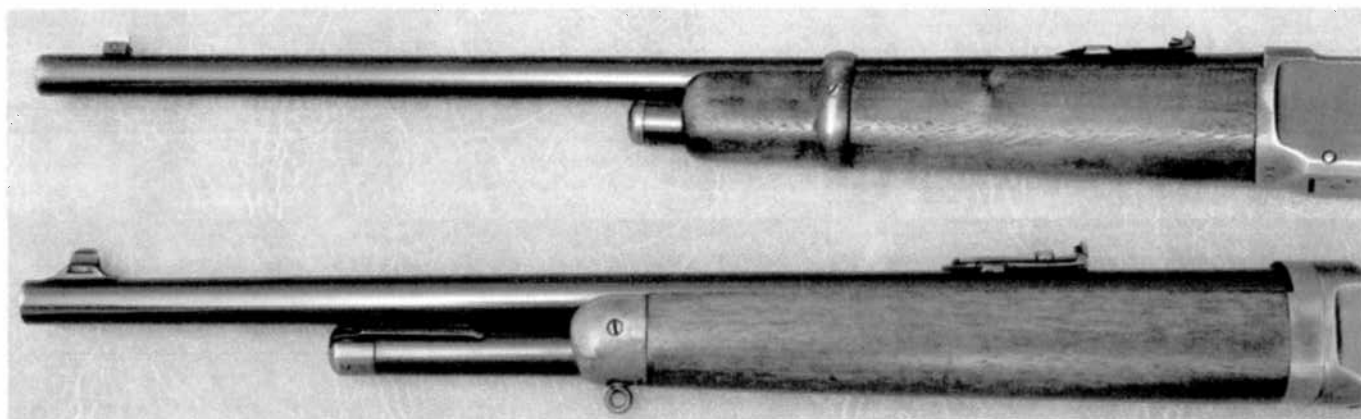
The moral to this story? I suppose it is

two-fold: A collector should always keep a reasonable reserve for when that elusive "must-have" piece pops-up; and, advertising in "The Winchester Collector" definitely pays-off!



**Excerpt from the ARMAX (Cody Firearms Museum) journal rarity study:
*"A Survey of the Model 1894 Records SN 1-153,999"***

| BARREL LENGTHS | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------|
| LENGTH | RIFLES | CARBINES | TOTAL |
| 14" | 12 | 19 | 31 |
| 15" | 13 | 272 | 285 |
| 16" | 2 | 104 | 106 |
| 17" | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 18" | 43 | 12 | 55 |
| 19" | 44 | 0 | 44 |
| 19½" | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 20" | 2,980 | 74,666 (standard) | 77,646 |
| 21" | 4 | --- | 4 |
| 22" | 2,252 | --- | 2,252 |
| 22½" | 1 | --- | 1 |
| 23" | 6 | --- | 6 |
| 23½" | 1 | --- | 1 |
| 24" | 1,661 | --- | 1,661 |
| 25" | 2 | --- | 2 |
| 26" | 268,195 (standard) | --- | 268,195 |
| 28" | 1,153 | --- | 1,153 |
| 30" | 338 | --- | 338 |
| 32" | 46 | --- | 46 |
| 33" | 1 | --- | 1 |
| 34" | 2 | --- | 2 |
| 36" | 22 | --- | 22 |



June 12, 2010

Mr. Rick Hill

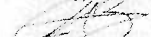
Dear Mr. Hill:

The manufacturer's data for Model 1894, serial number 119046, as extracted from the original Winchester records housed in the museum, are as follows:

Type: Carbine
Caliber: 30
Barrel Length: 18 inches
1/2 Magazine
Reserved in warehouse on August 2, 1901
Shipped from warehouse on August 2, 1901, Order number 115916
No sling ring

No other information is available for this serial number.

Sincerely yours,


Jessica A. Bennett
Records Specialist
Cody Firearms Museum

Letter for Model 1894 serial number 119046, page 1 of 1
This document is a scanned interpretation of handwritten, uncorrected records. Some errors may occur in transcription.

CODY FIREARMS MUSEUM BUFFALO BILL HISTORICAL CENTER 220 SHERIDAN AVENUE CODY, WY 82404