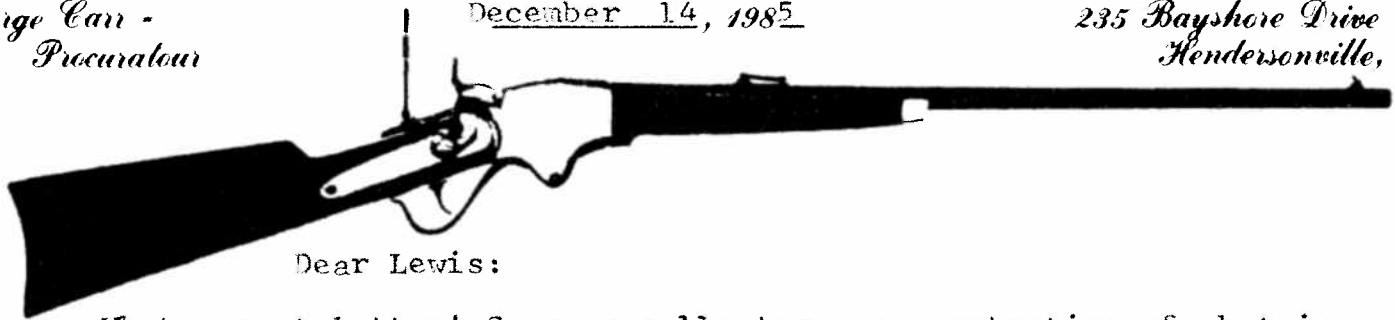


1862 - **Spencer Repeating Rifle** - 1868
Co.
Armory, Tremont Street, Boston

George Carr -
Procurement

December 14, 1985

235 Bayshore Drive
Hendersonville, Tenn.
37075



Dear Lewis:

What a neat letter! So many collectors are protective of what information they possess, and don't extend themselves to share it. I'm full of trivia (others have called it by a different name!) and enjoy exchanging it - try me some time on Spencer Sporters. Tom Lewis and I both learn something new when we get together. He has a super collection of Spencers, whereas I just collect factory Sporters and some gunsmith conversions that appeal to me. Don't quite have a full set of barrel lengths from 22" through 34", but that is my goal. Missing a 32". I have a Factory engraved M1865 carbine.

I'm sort of a half-baked patent man, having been involved in much patent work. I'm going to order both the King and Browning, and I'll make an analysis. There are so many ways to circumvent another's patent - it's all in the correct wording. I've seen it done many times. Do you have copies of both - if not, I'll get them from the patent office.

Just recently had the opportunity to buy a full box of .40/85/2-15/16" paper-patched cartridges (10 in box), W.R.A.Co. mfg., but the guy wanted \$225.00, and I told him that was too much. Probably will hate myself somewhere down the road. These were "expressly for the Ballard." Unfortunately, I don't have a Ballard rifle in this chambering.

Your Ballard 7A-1 Ex.L.R. sounds like a beaut. I'll just bet it's in the 2-13/16" Everlasting chamber - have you checked it? Lay one of your .40/85's in the bottom of the chamber, and edge it in until the mouth edge contacts the foremost chamber ~~xxx~~ cut - it should stick out exactly 1/8" from the barrel face. Do me another favor. Assuming you have an unfired Sharps .45/2-7/8" cartridge, try dropping it into the chamber and see if it goes all the way. My guess is it will stop short by some amount - mike the cartridge at that point, assuming the mouth of the chamber is the restriction. My chamber mikes .502" at the mouth.

Incidentally, I assume your box of bullets is 100 count, not 10 as you indicated. What does the CP ("Form") stand for?

Do you make the Denver show in March? There is a remote possibility that I'll be there. Considering going from there to Cody and then potentially up into Montana to kill a buffalo. All this is very preliminary. If you are in Denver, we should plan to get together.

I probably didn't mention it, but I have a very extensive collection of Marlin pistols. I own the very rare (one-of-a-kind) Marlin Swing-out cylinder, .44 S&W Russian, Ser. No. 2. No others known. Don't expect that it will be included in the forthcoming Marlin book. Herb Houze is interested in looking at it, so I would bring it along.

Just how rare are the Express chamberings in the high walls? I refer to the special Winchester cartridges that Madis and Grant both make honorable mention of. Apparently, ballistically, they were never anything to write home about, so they never became popular. If one goes by the cartridge collectors, the .50/140/3 $\frac{1}{2}$ has got to be extremely rare. Do you have a specimen of each of the Express chamberings; ie, .38, .40, .45, and .50? I'd like to find just one in a high-wall. I do possess one high-wall in the .45/90 chambering, std. 30" Oct., 45,000 ser. no. range.

Incidentally, I have a Ballard Everlasting cartridge, .40/90/3-1/16" with the unusual explosive bullet. These are almost unheard of.

Forgot one thing - back on rarity of highwalls, how many .405's have you seen? The .405 has been one of my pet calibers (I have a Model 1895 in it) for years, and I've paid attention to any and all rifles chambered for it. I recall seeing a Rem. Lee sporter chambered for it, but over the years never recall seeing a highwall. My issue of Madis's book doesn't picture a single specimen (1st Ed. - 1971). Are you one of the lucky few that own a Model 1887 shotgun chambered for the rare .70/150 cartridge? Do you have any of the cartridges?

Has anyone analyzed and made a compilation of all the calibers made in the high-walls, noting what year the first specimen was produced? If not, that would be an interesting trivia project to undertake. How many true "Ballard" chambered and marked high-walls do you have - cal's?

Good to hear that you finally located your engraved 1885 specimens - they must really be a scarce item! Ted Hutcheson in Chattanooga used to have a dandy (pg. 264-265, Madis 1st.). Hart probably has that by now. He also had the low-wall pictured on pg. 257, engraved. I was lucky in finding my engraved Spencer M1865 - Marcot thinks it may be one of a very few authentic "factory" jobs. It came out of Arizona, and I suspect of having had some association with Gov. Goodwin. Had I been searching for one, or not been "flush" from the sale of the finest Ulrich engraved Model 1895 Savage extant just the night before, I probably would not have stumbled upon it. Oh, yes, I forgot to mention, I collected deluxe M1899 and any M1895 Savages for years - have a few left.

You mentioned your gun rooms. I have a walk-in vault room in my lower level, with 12" thick load bearing walls for my house. If anyone should decide to "blow" one of them, they might find the house down on top of them

Don't know what that PH17 no. is on your Spencer Sporter - it would not be the ser. no. If the ser. no. does not appear on the receiver as shown on page 113 (Marcot), which ejector system do you have - the one as pictured on page 112 or 113 - notice they are different. Also, pull your forearm off, and the ser. no. should appear between the two screw lugs. I ~~XXXXX~~ understand the no Spencer markings - the name and address ~~should~~ appear on top of the receiver. (Your cal is probably 56/.46.). But usually in this case someone took it off to inlay the initials H.H.M.H. there. You say it has British style engraving - am I to take this as fine bank-note styling with a lot of fine scrollwork, not too deep cut?

Did you ever know Dr. Gilliam from Townsend? This goes back some years.

Better get off this fool machine. Happy Holiday to you and yours. I enjoy hearing from you - write again when convenient.

Single Shots Forever!!!,

George
George Carr





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Date December 7, 19 73

Montana Arms Collectors Assn.

308 Riverview Drive East

Great Falls, Montana 59401

#920-94	<i>New Model 1859</i> Sharps percussion carbine	275	00
#951-94	Engraved Spencer rifle	650	00
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#1008-94	Sharps percussion carbine	350	00
	<i>New Model 1859</i> "The Winchester Book" (-20%)	16	00
		1586	00
	Postage charges 12/8/73	12	40
		1598	40

Many thanks for your valued order. Very
sorry items 995 and 1042 were sold prior to
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ALL FIREARMS ARE SOLD AS COLLECTOR'S ITEMS ONLY AND ARE
NOT GUARANTEED FOR SHOOTING RELIABILITY OR SAFETY.

4-3-92

Dear Lewis -

When going through my correspondence file I found your Dec 91 letter, and realized that I had not answered it. Do pardon the long delay.

Your engraved Spencer sporter is a real treasure. In all probability it was originally cased (like the others shown in the book. I have only seen three other such guns...

1 1 1 1 ... the same

of the "PH 17." Possible initials of the master c at the factory in charge custom guns for Spencer. This was the "seventeenth" special gun he put together.

Your Spencer shotgun sounds terrific. Bill La Albuquerque collects these engraved Spencer shotguns, about a dozen in his collection.

shared this information with me.
If I reprint again, I may want to
picture your HHMH gun, if you are
agreeable —

all my best

roy marcol

PS — as a *Spence collector*, do let
me know if either you comes up for
sale —

WHITETAIL DEER
(*Odocoileus virginianus*)

Reproduced from the National Rifle Association of America
North American Big Game Series

Original Drawing by Gene Galasso

Whitetail deer are the most common and widespread big game species in North America. Named for their banner-like tails, which are raised when the deer are alarmed, these browsers prefer wood thickets, meadows, swamps and open brushy areas across the United States. The male's antlers are shed each fall after mating season. It is also in autumn that their chestnut coats take on a grayish hue in order to help camouflage their graceful bodies against the stark winter landscape. Fawns are born with a spotted coat and may stay near their mother for as long as a year. The majestic whitetail feeds on twigs, shrubs, nuts and grasses. They stand about three feet tall at the shoulder, can sprint up to 40 mph and leap over barriers as wide as 30 feet and as high as eight feet.



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

Dear Sir:

Not having your full address will send this via your recent article in the CADA Journal. No answer is really necessary- yet I thought perhaps you should know of a couple of guns that have been in my collection for a long time. When your Spencer book was first published I fully intended to write this same letter - - and maybe I did and forgot it - -the recent article reminded me - -that maybe I failed to write the first time- -as I do not have a copy of such in my files. Either way - - if I wrote earlier you allready know of them - -If I failed to do so - -you have it now.

No. 1. is a Spencer Sporter. I purchased it back in Dec. 1973 via Norm Flaydermans list and it is noted in his catalog No. 94 - Item No. 95I.

Serial no. just ahead of the forearm underneath portion of barrel PHI7.

Receiver never
cut for sling
ring & sight
plain not
graduated.

There is no serial no. on the action. 26 in. round barrel. The gun is stock and forearm of Rosewood(I use Flaydermans description of the wood) It is a very dark almost black wood and is not checkered but plain finish. On top where normally on a Spencer is reflected the makers address- -are the initials in Gold " H.H.M.H.)" which I understand means His Highness Maharajah of Hyderabad" of the country of India.

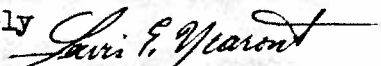
The gun is highly engraved in a delicate scroll and floral design on both sides of the action. Also on the rounded portion of action on top at junction of the barrel just to the front of the flat surface with the gold letters. also on the rear portion of the rounded metal joining the stock, also the hammer, as well as the back action portion of the lock, as well as the lever and lower tang. And also the top of the buttplate, as well as all screwheads of the entire gun. forend cap also engraved as are the forearm screwheads. The front sight is as depicted in your sporter rifle article, but hood is missing. Rear sight is also as depicted with external spring.

Two engraved screws on top signify that it probably had the rear tang sight originally but not there now. 1865 type hammer. standard trigger. Extractor knife blade type. Flayderman listed as cal..44 but the spencer 56-46 fits.

I have owned two other Sporters over the years but retained this one and sold the others- -I should have retained them all but one can't keep everything so I kept the engraved one.

The No. 2 is a Spencer shotgun Serial no. 412. 30 in. damascus barrel stamped Spencer Arms Co., Windsor, Conn. USA, which I would call the Grade B engraving on the action. 12 Gauge. The engraving is on the right side of frame "Spencer Arms Co." in a rectangle surrounded by scroll with a large similiar scroll around all screwheads Left side the same with a dogs head in the same rectangle and the same scroll with trigger guard scroll and serial no. on bottom of action also engraved and bordered. checkered semi pistol grip stock and the checkered small early forearm wood. Buttplate checkered hard rubber. Deluxe grade wood. Engraving scroll also on top of action and top tang.

Sincerely



Lewis E. Yearout, Major USAFR Ret.
308 Riverview Drive East
Great Falls, Montana, 59404

406-761-0859 evenings.

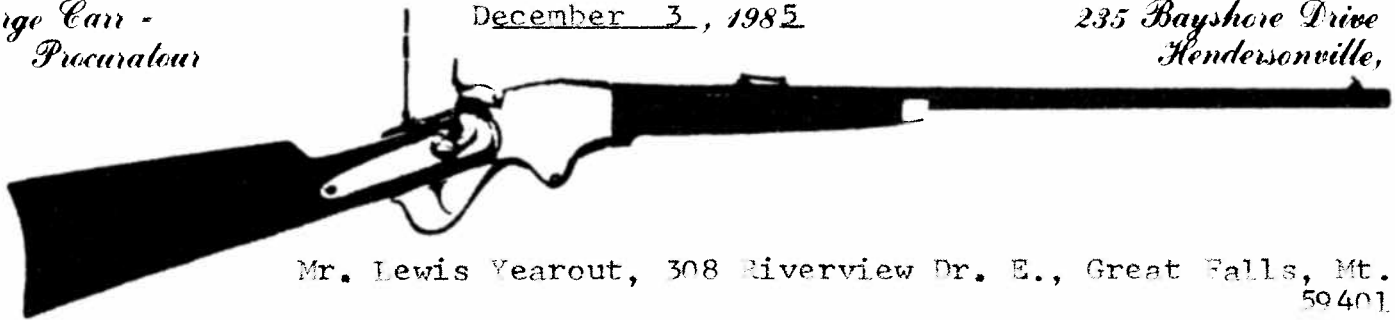
(If you have any questions other than noted above.).

1862 - **Spencer Repeating Rifle** - 1868
Co.
Armory, Tremont Street, Boston

George Carr -
Procurement

December 3, 1985

235 Bayshore Drive
Hendersonville, Tenn. 37075



Mr. Lewis Yearout, 308 Riverview Dr. E., Great Falls, Mt.
59401

Dear Lewis:

It was a pleasure to meet and talk with you at Cody. You must have a fabulous collection of 1885's - someday I hope to see them.

As I related to you, I also collect hunters Ballards in the large bores. Early relationships between Marlin and Winchester have always intrigued me. In Chamberlains book on loading tools, you make the point that the Browning combination tool infringed upon the V.A. King patent of 1880, which resulted in the agreement between Browning and Winchester in 1883 (pg. 234, 1st Madis). Yet here comes Marlin along in about 1883 (pg. 41 catalog) and offers the very same tool, marked "Pat. Oct. 4, 1881" which refers to the Browning patent. How could this be? Wouldn't Winchester have contested Marlin's right to manufacture the tool? Are you aware of any agreement between them?

There appears to be more to the continuing saga. Apparently Marlin and Winchester got into a flap over cartridges for the Marlin Repeating Rifle (Mod. 1881). Winchester issue a circular dated December 10, 1886, to which Marlin issued their own circular dated Jan. 10, 1887 (copy attached). First of all, do you have a copy of the Win. circular 12/10/86, that you could make me a copy? Second, if you were aware of dispute, are you aware of how it ever resolved itself, if it in fact did. My 1890 repro Winchester cartridge board shows the .45-70 and .40-60 rounds labeled "Marlin," but makes no such distinction for the .38-55 and the .32-40 rounds.

Lastly, I have been agonizing over who manufactured the .44-100 and .45-100 Everlasting (2-13/16") for Ballards, whether they were offered as loaded rounds of just the casings, and how they were packaged? Can you give me any insight on this subject. If you have any box labels that designate them, would you make me a copy so I can get some idea as to what I'm looking for. I'm interested in buying even an empty box with a readable label, if you should have one for sale. I'm presently making my own cases and shooting my special order Pacific.

I think that I told you I basically collect Spencer Sporting rifles, and currently own the two known 34" "Creedmoor" specimens, .46 & .50 cal. They are very graceful appearing, what with the pewter forearm tip.

I'd enjoy hearing from you, at your convenience.

Regards,

P.S. - Also looking for a hunters Ballard in bottle-neck cartridge, preferably .44/77.

George Carr