

75

75267

CATALOG NO. _____

VALUE 8,000.00Rifle
~~Shotgun~~

N.R.A. CONDITION _____

Winchester
(MANUFACTURED BY)
S.S.
(SINGLE OR REPEATER)1885
(MODEL)
2 Matching Barrels
(MAGAZINE)Hi-wall
(TYPE) 1-#4
30" 1-#3
(BARREL LENGTH)45-90 WCF &
50-140 WCF
(~~Cal.~~) Cal.
hill Rd half oct
(TYPE BARREL)
Both Full length
(WEIGHT) me HeRecord Blank
(DATE OF MANUFACTURE)
Excellent
(TYPE BUTT PLATE)(STOCK LENGTH)
(TYPE FRONT SIGHT)(OVERALL LENGTH)
(TYPE REAR SIGHT)

(FINISH)

REMARKS checkered stock & forearm, 3X grade wood. #1494 inside Butt plate on stock
Early taken down by 1 screw on left side of frame with Double Set triggers.

(FORMER OWNERS)	(DATE)	(PRICE)	(DISPOSITION)	(DATE)	(PRICE)
<u>Mrs Osemer Andrews</u>	<u>July 29-94</u>	<u>2400.00</u>			
<u>4328- Old Brook Trail</u>					
(ADDRESS)					

Birmingham, Alabama
35243205-9620625THIS ITEM WAS: DONATED, LOANED, PURCHASED
(CIRCLE APPROPRIATE)

2 10% Camer. shipping 40.00
to men who Total cost 3400.00
located via Roberts 340.00
Sporting Goods store 400.00
in Birmingham Alabama
10% net Purchase Price 340.00 \$ 4180.00

75267

50-140 WCF & 45-90 WCF

BILL OF SALE

I, Mrs Osalamar Andrews

residing at the address of :

(name printed)

4328 Old Brook Trail

Birmingham, Alabama 35243

(address printed)

(city)

(State)

(zip code)

Certify that I am the legal owner of the following items and do hereby sell and pass

308 Riverview Drive East

59404

lawful title to: MONTANA OUTFITTERS, 3008 RIVERVIEW DRIVE EAST, BOX 777, GREAT FALLS, MONT. 59401

That Item is as described below: (or Items):

One Winchester Model 1885 Rifle Serial no. 75267 with two barrels

One Caliber .45-90 WCF

Second Caliber. 50-140 WCF. With written history of former owner.

For \$ 3400.00 value received

this date:

DATED:

July 26, 1994

(signature of seller)

Identification of Seller

Montana Drivers License Number

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, herein certify the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge:

On July 26, 1994, as attested by Attachment No. I., (a bill of sale), the undersigned sold the following items to Lewis E. Yearout of 308 Riverview Drive East, Great Falls, Montana 59404. Item as described: Winchester rifle Model I885 Single Shot, known as a Highwall version, bearing serial number 75267. The rifle has Deluxe pistol grip checked stock with two forearms also checked. With 2X grade wood, and crescent casehardened buttplate. Frame is also casehardened, with a takedown screw located on the left side, to allow the use of either of the two barrels. With double set triggers. The two barrels are both with checked wood forearms. One barrel is No.4 half round and half octagon, 30 inch length, with the top surface fully matted. Caliber is .50-I40 W.C.F.. The second barrel is No.3 in weight, and caliber .45-90 W.E.F., also 30 inch length and half round and half octagon, with the top surface fully matted. Both barrels with factory barrel sights and also a rear tang sight on the frame. This specific rifle was the original personal property of my maternal Grandfather, Edward Carlos Carter, who was born on January 11, 1864. He passed away December 23, 1930. ~~I received the rifle after his death.~~ Where, how, or when he acquired this rifle is unknown. ~~He passed away in Evanston, Illinois, and was laid to rest in Diamond Grove Cemetery in Jacksonville, Illinois.~~ Attachment No.2 is a memoir of his life as published by "The American Society of Engineers in Volume 96 of 1932".

As advised by Mr Yearout, there is no Factory data available in the Winchester Museum records concerning Serial no. 75267. See Attachment No. 4. The rifle would appear to reflect that it was originally a custom special order item. Such an item would befit my Grandfather, as he was a Civil Engineer by Life Profession as noted in Attachment No. 2. See Attachment No. 3, which is a photograph of my family and reflects the following members, including my Grandfather, former owner of the rifle. From Left to right in the picture:

Cleon Marshall Bell	- - - - -	My Father (deceased).	
Evelyn Bell (daughter)	- - -	The undersigned, now Mrs Osa Lamar Andrews.	<i>born in Jacksonville, Ill. April 15, 1927</i>
Gertrude Carter Bell	- -	My Mother (deceased).	
Fannie Carter	- - -	My Grandmother (deceased).	Owner
Edward Carlos Carter	- - - -	My Grand Father (deceased) And former owner of the rifle.	
Paul Carter	- - - - -	Son of Edward Carlos Carter (deceased).	
Sarah Bell (Wainright)	- -	My sister still living in Richmond Virginia.	
Bess Carter	- - - -	Wife of Paul Carter (deceased).	
Virgina Bell (Cox)	- - - -	My sister (deceased). 1920-1949.	

Winchester Factory records would place Serial no. 75267 as probably built in the year 1896. As noted in Attachment No.2, my Grand Father at that date would have been Assistant Engineer of the Chicago and North Western Railway Company. He Retired from that Company as Chief Engineer in June 1914, after 27 years of service. From family recollections my Grand Father was an avid outdoorsman, and greatly enjoyed hunting trips, and took many such excursions into the Canadian Wilds, as well as many trips to the western States accompanied by a favorite Indian guide, whose name has been lost in time. Undoubtedly this specific rifle was a part of those now unknown excursions. The rifle was inherited by ~~the undersigned~~ after my Grandfather's death in 1930 and it has been in my possession since ~~1930~~ 1956.

Osa Lamar Andrews

Mrs Osa Lamar Andrews
4328 Old Brook Trail
Birmingham, Alabama, 35243.

STATE OF ALABAMA

} s s.

On this 18 day of November 1994, before me a Notary Public for the State of Alabama personally appeared Mrs Osa Lamar Andrews, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to this certificate, and acknowledged to me that she executed the same:
In WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto set my hand and affixed my Notarial Seal the day and year first above written:

My Commission Expires May 25, 1998

Allyn LeBeau

Winchester Model I885 Hiwall, Serial no.75267, Caliber .50-I40 WCF. and .45-90 W.C.F. (originally made with two barrels with matching ~~XXXXXXXX~~ forearms:

The barrel in .50-I40 WCF. is No.4 (heavy wt.) Half round half octagon. 30 in. length. fully threaded and with an indexing that matches both caibers. With an indexing hole in threads that enables either barrel to be placed on the gun (With a set screw on the left side of the frame. With removal of forearm barrel is stamped "4 and II" no cal. desig 4 for a # 4 barrel II lbs in wt. (Heavy).

The barrel in .45-90 WCF is a No3 half round and half octagon,30 in. in length.

Threaded as noted for the barrel above. Removal of forearm reflects it stamped "3 and .32-40" is crossed out and .45-90 with the initials A.G.E. (apparently the Win. workman that assembled the gun and barrels.

Both barrels are with rolled cross hatch matting full length of each barrel.

with the Winchester factory logo stamped after the barrels were matted.

Both barrels with Lyman front and rear barrel sights. Withe the rear barrel sights being Lyman no.6 two leaf fold down type (made to retain a rear barrel sight that folds down to the barrel allowing use of a tang sight.(Both probably added at a later date as both are later sights than the original date of the guns manufacture.) With Lyman No1.Tang sight. The stock is checkered as are both forearms. With stock removed the lower tang is stamped "284I XXX ". The stock upper tang inlet is stamped "I494" which is also stamped on the inside toe of the buttplate. The stock is drilled for a cleaning rod compartme t. The buttplate is crescent,casehardened has no opening for a cleaning rod.

Stock is Pistol gripped with ebony inlay.

With Win. "doubleset triggers,(commonly known as "close coupled double set trigger".

The gun is with a "take-down system" that entails a set screw imbedded in the left side of the frame that secures the barrel in place after being screwed into the frame.

A system never described or noted in any catalog,but there is no doubt that Winchester experimented with a take-down system for rifles long before Thomas Crossly Johnson invented and patented a successfully system May 28,1907. The "flat spring action" of the single shot was a stumbling block to the development of a satisfactory take-down system which changed when the coil spring action was developed. One of the first attempts to develop a rifle with a take-down system concerns the Model I873 rifle in .22 Short and .22 Long. The catalog dated September 1st, 1884 on page II did not refer to the attempt as a " Takedown System" specifically. It was referred to as a system "for convenience of carrying the rifle"

Quote,"FOR CONVENIENCE OF CARRYING,THE BARREL,FOREARM AND MAGAZINE, FASTENED FIRMLY TOGETHER, ARE ATTACHED TO THE FRAME BY A TAPER PIN. BY DRIVING OUT THIS PIN THESE PARTS MAY BE SEPARATED FROM THE FRAME, THUS MAKING THE GUN MORE EASILY PACKED IN TRUNK OR CASE," UNQUOTE:

There are a number of the .22 Rim Fire rifles in the Model I873 still in existance that have this "Taper Pin" still in the frame, and by pushing out that pin the gun will separate the barrel assembly from the frame and ~~XXX~~ ^{stock}. It was an experimental " Take-down" system, but it had little merit,as the barrel assembly soon developed a "loose fit",and no accuracy. Model I873 in .22 Short bearing serial no.I60063 is such a gun and still in existance with the "Taper Pin" system still intact. It was received in the warehouse March 6, 1885 and shipped March 7, 1885. The above reference to "for convenience of carrying a rifle" was never repeated again in any Win. catalog. The next issue of the I885 Catalog failed to even mention the idea entirely. Any Model I873 in .22 R.F. caliber with this "Taper Pin" will "factory letter" as with such a pin and no further explanation. Such rifles are considered "RAHE". But they are Winchesters "first Takedown system".

Thomas Crossly Johnson worked at Winchester from 1885 till his death in 1934. His main employment was as an engineer "designing guns and improvements". He first worked under William Mason who is credited with the "Takedown System of this flat spring " rifle. Several other rifles are known with such a comparable system including a lowall rifle in .25 WCF Serial no. in the collection of Dan and Dave Kidd of Big Sandy, Montana with the rifle being on display on a loan basis, in the Winchester Museum in Cody, Wyoming.

This rifle no 75267 is casehardened frame paneled and round top receiver.

The Win. Museum does not give credit specifically for any rifles made and marked .50-I40 WCF They do not as shipped two in .50-34 caliber, but whether they denote Sharps or Win. is not noted. But there are at least five such guns in existance marked as either .50-I40WCF or .50-I40EXP.

C E R T I F I C A T E:

I, the undersigned, Mrs Osa Lamar Andrews, herein certify the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge:

On July 26, 1994, as attested by Attachment No. 1, (a bill of sale) the undersigned sold the following items to Lewis E. Yearout of 308 Riverview Drive East, Great Falls, Montana, 59404. Items as described: Winchester rifle, Model 1885 Single Shot, known as a Highwall version, bearing serial number 75267. The rifle has a Deluxe pistol grip, checkered stock with two matching forearms. Wood is 2X grade, and with crescent casehardened buttplate. The frame is also casehardened, with a takedown screw located on the left side, to allow the use of either of the two barrels. With close coupled double set triggers. The two barrels are with checkered forearms. One barrel is No. 4 in weight, half round and half octagon, with the top surface fully matted, and in caliber of .50-140 W.C.F. The second matching barrel is in caliber of .45-90 W.C.F. and in a No. 3 weight and also half round and half octagon form, and also fully matted on the top surface. Both barrels are 30 inch in length, and with factory installed front and rear sights. A rear tang mounted sight is also mounted on the frame. This specific rifle as described was the original personal property of my maternal Grandfather, Edward Carlos Carter, who was born on January 11, 1864. He passed away December 23, 1930 in Evanston, Illinois, and was laid to rest in Diamond Grove Cemetery in Jacksonville, Illinois. Attachment No. 2, is a memoir of his life as published by "The American Society of Engineers in Volume 96 of 1932".

I was born in Jacksonville, Illinois, April 15, 1923, being seven years of age at his death. My Mother inherited his rifle, in a beautifully tooled leather case, with some ammunition. Not wishing to keep the ammunition in her house, she disposed of it by giving it away. In 1956, my mother (Gertrude Carter Bell) gave the rifle and case to the undersigned. As the years passed, the leather case drew dampness and rotted. Eventually the rifle and barrels were removed and the case was thrown away. Today I am sorry this happened, as the case was very beautifully hand tooled.

As advised by Mr Yearout, there is no Factory data available in the Winchester Museum records concerning Serial number 75267. See Attachment No. 4. The rifle would appear to reflect that it was originally a custom special order item. According to the oral conversations of my mother and other family members, the rifle was a special item to be preserved by the family. Yet the exact date of where, how or when it was first acquired is actually unknown at this date. Such an item would have well befit my Grandfathers life style, as he was a Civil Engineer by life profession as noted in Attachment No. 2. Attachment No. 3, is a photograph of my family, and reflects the following members, including my Grandfather, the original owner of this rifle. From left to right in the picture:

Cleon Marshall Bell	- - - - -	My Father (deceased).
Evelyn Bell (daughter)	- - - - -	The undersigned, now Mrs Osa Lamar Andrews.
Gertrude Carter Bell	- - - - -	My Mother (deceased).
Fannie Carter	- - - - -	My Grandmother (deceased).
Edward Carlos Carter	- - - - -	My Grandfather (deceased). Original owner of the rifle.
Paul Carter	- - - - -	Son of Edward Carlos Carter (deceased).
Sarah Bell (Wainright)	- - - - -	My sister still living in Richmond Virginia.
Bess Carter	- - - - -	Wife of Paul Carter (deceased).
Virginia Bell (Cox)	- - - - -	My sister (deceased). (1920-1949).

Winchester Factory records would place Serial number 75267, as probably manufactured in the year 1896. As noted in Attachment No. 2, my Grandfather at that date would have been Assistant Engineer of the Chicago and North Western Railway Company. He Retired from that Company as Chief Engineer in June 1914, after 27 years of service. From family recollections, my Grandfather was an avid outdoorsman, and greatly enjoyed extended hunting trips, and took many such excursions into the Canadian Wilds, as well as many trips to various western States, accompanied by a favorite Indian Guide, whose name has been lost in time.

C E R T I F I C A T E

Continued as Page No. 2. of 2 pages:

Without doubt this specific rifle was an important part of those many but now unknown excursions.

The rifle and both barrels have been in my personal possession from 1956 until its being transferred to Mr Yearout as of July 26, 1994. When originally shipped to Mr Yearout, the rifle and barrels had become lightly rusted from being stored in the case for so many years.

In September of 1994 a special trip was made to Great Falls, Montana, and while there last viewed the rifle and Mr Yearout had successfully removed all of the fleck rust and the rifle and barrels are now in an almost as new condition.

Mrs. Osa Lamar Andrews

Mrs Osa Lamar Andrews
4328 Old Brook Trail
Birmingham, Alabama, 35243.

STATE OF ALABAMA

)
) s s.
)

On this 30th day of December 1994, before me a Notary Public for the State of Alabama, personally appeared Mrs Osa Lamar Andrews, known to me, to be the person whose name is subscribed to this two page certificate, and acknowledged to me that she executed the same:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto set my hand and affixed my Notarial Seal the day and year first above written:

Sandy Cantrell
Notary Public

Address:

4651 Hwy 280 E
B'ham, AL 35242

My Commission Expires
9-26-98

copy

SENDER:

- Complete items 1 and/or 2 for additional services.
- Complete items 3, 4a, and 4b.
- Print your name and address on the reverse of this form so that we can return this card to you.
- Attach this form to the front of the mailpiece, or on the back if space does not permit.
- Write "Return Receipt Requested" on the mailpiece below the article number.
- The Return Receipt will show to whom the article was delivered and the date delivered.

Is your return address completed on the reverse side?

3. Article Addressed to:

The Gun Report
Attn: Kendy Liggett Harrison
Editor
P.O. Box 38
Aledo, Illinois
61231

5. Received By: (Print Name)

6. Signature: (Addressee or Agent)

X *Kendy Liggett Harrison*

PS Form 3811, December 1994

I also wish to receive the following services (for an extra fee):

- 1. ☐ Addressee's Address
- 2. ☐ Restricted Delivery

Consult postmaster for fee.

4a. Article Number

P 522 301 130

4b. Service Type

- ☐ Registered
- ☐ Express Mail
- ☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise
- ☐ COD

7. Date of Delivery

10/16/95

8. Addressee's Address (Only if requested and fee is paid)

Domestic Return Receipt

Thank you for using Return Receipt Service.

COPY

The Gun Report Magazine
Kandy Liggett Harrison-Editor
P.O.Box 38
Aledo, Illinois, 61231

October 12, 1995

Dear Editor:

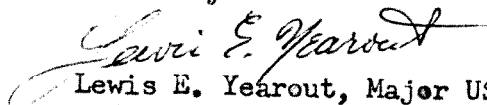
Enclosed is a manuscript entitled, " IF YOU COLLECT-OR INVEST:-BE PREPARED".

WHICH the undersigned herein submits for publication in your magazine, "The Gun Report".

Payment to be at your rates: The article is fully documented, including references and photographs.

If the article, as submitted, does not meet with your requirements, would you please return the same at your earliest convenience. To do so, a self addressed envelope including return postage is included for your use.

Sincerely



Lewis E. Yearout, Major USAFR, Retired.
308 Riverview Drive East
Great Falls, Montana, 59404
Phone:- 406-761-0859

Enclosures:- Manuscript- Consisting of ten pages.
with the following:

- I page- concerning the author.
- I page - References for the article.
- I page - listing of 9 photographs which are included.
- I envelope pre-addressed with postage for return if manuscript does not meet with your requirements.

"IF YOU COLLECT-OR INVEST:-BE PREPARED"

BY: LEWIS E. YEAROUT, MAJOR,
U.S.A.F.R.
RETIRED

Not too long ago, a well known (National) Antique Firearms Dealer advertised for sale, and pictured in his catalog, a Winchester Model 1895 Carbine which carried the "U.S." stamping of an American Martial Contract Carbine. The quoted price for this extremely rare item seemed relatively expensive, yet probably appropriate. In need of such a carbine, it was immediately ordered by phone. The gun as represented would fill a vacant spot in the "Collection of Model 1895 variations". In fact, due to the scarcity of such a specific item, that vacancy had existed for more than 40 years.

The gun arrived several days later via U.P.S. Externally it first appeared as correct. The stamping "U.S." was on the receiver ring. The serial number 926I would reflect as manufactured in the year 1898, which also seemed correct. Thirty minutes later, with removal of the stock and forearm wood, and an examination of the rear sight and the sight base, it became readily apparent. This gun is not as advertised. It is not an original "U.S." Government purchased carbine. The gun is actually an original "U.S." Contract Musket, that someone converted to a carbine status. The musket barrel had been removed, and a commercial .30 U.S. (.30-40 Krag) carbine barrel installed. The top wood (fore-end wood) and the musket rear sight had also been utilized, probably for lack of a correct carbine sight.

The "U.S. Ordnance Contract for the Model 1895 Musket, was for a total of 10,000 guns. Original muskets of this Contract are actually a scarce and seldom encountered item, " in any condition above the grading of Good." The original 1895 Model Carbine Contract consisted of only 100 guns. As such a genuine U.S. Contract Carbine in the Model 1895, must be considered "rare" in any condition. As such, someone recognized the potential of increased valuation, to up-grade one of the Contract Muskets to a Contract Carbine.

Just to make sure of the situation, it was easy to contact the Winchester Museum Records located at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, in Cody, Wyoming. The records reflected that Serial no. 926I was shipped as a "U.S." Contract Musket and departed the Factory

with a quantity of other like Muskets with Order No. 2005 on August 13, 1898.

As a buyer, it is entirely your responsibility to properly evaluate your purchase. The Dealer had offered the item nationally as an authentic item, and it was priced as such. A point to always be considered: Although a dealer offered, the item, does not always reflect a true identification. Some dealers, not all, are no more experienced in proper identification of every item, they offer, than the average Collector. In this case, the Dealer accepted return of the gun, when advised, that it was an "up-graded carbine" from its former Musket status. It seems, he had accepted the gun in a trade with another Dealer, and had accepted the gun at that persons evaluation. The gun was returned, but here again is a good question? What happened to the gun? Where may it now rest? Without doubt it rests in some Winchester Collection. Seldom do "Gold Cadillac's" of the Gun Collecting fraternity ever change color, or fade away. They just keep rolling along. Only you, the individual Collector, can keep such items from "parking" in your Collection.

My "U.S." Model 1895 Carbine vacancy, is still a "vacancy". This one incident reflects it was possible to check the 1895 Winchester Serial Number records for immediate verification purposes. But bear in mind, most serial numbers are not traceable. Yet all of the Serial numbers of the 1895 Muskets are traceable, as all of the Contract was completed very quickly. Of a total of over 426,754 guns in this 1895 Model as manufactured, the factory records exist for less than 60,000 guns. If you like and collect the 95' then by all means, learn as much concerning them as you possibly can. Learn before you spend a lot of money on any debatable item. You may run into a .405 Carbine any day.

Some Collectors, depending strictly on advertised, or person descriptions, would undoubtedly accept the above gun. Most such purchased items, are only returnable within either a 3 day or 5 day inspection period. In some situations, you may run across a "seller" who will not honor any return time, nor will he accept any payment other than "cash" on the spot. In that case, you probably just purchased a gun. Sure - you can hire a Lawyer.

It is far better to purchase from a known and reputable Dealer, with a known reputation.

Or better yet, learn everything possible about your collecting field. It is still excellent advice: Whenever you buy a gun- - -buy a book concerning that item. Thirty or more years back, there were very few books on any such subjects, and few yet, were those books, which were specific in nature. To-day one can normally locate a book, on nearly any collection subject desired. But books alone will not make anyone, an experienced Collector. No more than buying a car, and having a drivers license, will make you a good driver. There is no substitute for experience and knowledge. A good book will give you the opportunity to acquire that knowledge. Experience in any collectable area, must originate by and with the handling of that actual product. One of the best means, is to join a Collectors Association. Seek the counsel of a fellow collector in your speciality. It may save you a lot of money in the long run. As Norm Flayderman once state, "When I started in the Antique Business, there were few books, none very specific. After 5 years, my walls were decorated with my mistakes." Yet this statement, will be of little interest to-day, for one salient reason. Prices and availability have changed in the past 45 years. The past 5 years have noted drastic changes. In the 1950's "mistakes" were easier to absorb. The average Winchester seldom would exceed a price of \$ 25.00 or \$ 50.00. Some were less. Many Henry rifles, in the same period of time, changed hands for \$ 100.00. An Engraved version seldom over \$ 500.00. The average Colt Single Action Model 1873 seldom exceeded a fifty dollar bill. The largest Sharps Collection ever assembled in the State of Montana, was purchased in 1960 for less than \$ 4,000.00. It consisted of 30 items, most being in the Model 1874 Buffalo Rifle category. One being in .50 Caliber. Another was a "Boss" engraved gun. Better known today as a "Fruend Conversion". On todays market this one "Boss" gun would command \$ 15,000.00 perhaps more. In paying \$ 4,000.00 for the 30 guns, in those past days, one did not need to know too much about any Sharps rifles. Averaged out, 30 guns was less than \$ 135.00 per gun. But those days are gone forever.

Shortly after the Winchester Model 1895 incident, another gun was ordered from another Dealers catalog. This gun was being purchased on the Dealers description, as that description created an instantaneous element of desireability, that all Collectors will encounter sooner or later in their quest to build a Collection. A desire to own an item in your

chosen field, that you did not know could exist. Or be available in the market place. This specific item being a Colt medium frame Lightning rifle, or better known as the Model I883. Caliber was the ordinary .32 Colt. But the desireable element was the barrel. A tapered octagon of 36 inch length, and a 34 inch magazine tube. The price of \$ 2500.00 seemed appropriate for such a "rarity". It would be a variation never previously encounter in the Colt line. Winchester 36 inch barrels are well known, yet not common.

On arrival the gun was as described in the original catalog listing, and it did have the 36 inch barrel. The wood could at its best be described as " good". From all appearances the metal had been originally a full nickle plated gun, but only traces of the nickel remained, and then only in protected areas of the frame and barrel and magazine tube assembly. Overall it reflected a lot of hard use, but it could still be termed "honest wear with not too much abuse". The bore reflected the use of black powder cartridges, with some pitting, and very little rifling remained. The trigger assembly was a very desireable feature, being the "Colt patent Set trigger assembly", and at the least must be considered "scarce". Probably a seldom ordered item, as the I888 Colt Catalog lists the trigger assembly as a Special order item with a price tag of \$ 3.00. The same catalog also notes that barrels can be ordered up to a maximum of 36 inches length, but no price being quoted. By the serial number of 3300I, it would be the first or close to the first serial number assembled in the year I889.

At that point, due to the gun's probability of being a custom or special order item, a check was made with the Colt Factory Serial number records. It was quickly learned, that the Serial number 3300I was a blank entry. There was no record of this specific gun ever being produced. As a last resort, normally one can refer to the " Colt Bible", Wilson and Sutherlands "The Book of Colt Firearms". There was no real assistance therein, except to throw up another " red flag" in your mind. According to the book, there were no Medium Frame rifles in this specific model, ever made with a 36 inch barrel. The longest barrel listed was in the 34 inch length. At this point the barrel was re-examined, and in doing so it was apparent. The barrel was all original and the 36 inch length was correct. The gun is correct in all areas, and regardless of the Colt Records not honoring its manufacture

and regardless of the "Colt Bible" not honoring the barrel length, the gun is authentic. But here is a gun that most Collectors, who go strictly by factory records, coupled with the delicate price, would probably, refuse to accept. Yet, the longer one collects, you will find: All Factory Records, whether they be Colt, Winchester or those of any other such firm, are not always correct or complete. The basic reason some factory records do not always give a complete or correct description, lies primarily in their origin. They were made by an employee, for just one purpose. Accountability of production and shipment. They were seldom made to serve the purpose of "exact authentication", this one hundred plus years later. The "Wilson-Sutherland" Colt book was compiled by using factory records for production data. Serialnumber 3300I could not have been considered in any manner, as being blank, there would be no reflection of a 36 inch barrel production for the same reason. Yes, there is at least one Colt Medium Frame Model 1883 Rifle in existence, regardless of available "in the print data" to prove it. Never planning to actually shoot the gun, the bore condition must be disregarded. It is always nice to have a collectable gun with a good bore, or at the least a "shootable" bore. If shootable or "mint" bores are one of your requirements, then such a requirement must be contrasted to an element of the guns availability, scarcity or rarity. As time marches on "Rarity" will come out on top. Never pass up a "Rare" or "Scarce" gun with a bore that does not meet your specific requirements. You will later find such items are highly desirable and easily passed on to another Collector seeking just such items. While on the subject of "Bores", Many old guns, due to the use of Black Powder, will be found in a rusted and pitted condition. Most if not all, are still shootable. They will never win any target matches, nor should they be expected to do so. Most will also clean up to where they will shoot fairly accurate. Scrub the bore out with several applications of a good bore solvent, remembering that such solvent will normally effect any exterior finish, so keep it confined to the bore. Shoot the gun several times, and repeat the cleaning process. It will not remove deep rust or pitting, but it will leave you with a gun that is "shootable".

An unanswered question still exists, as to how and why Serial number 3300I is not accounted for in the existing Colt Records. There is no doubt the Factory produced the gun. With a

long 36 inch barrel plus an extra length magazine tube, plus a nickle finish, plus a non-standard trigger and hammer assembly, there could be only one or two correct answers. It is too long an item to be considered as a "lunch box " gun, thusly it had to be a gun special ordered by some person. Either a factory employee or a worthy customer. The frame was possibly assigned to the "Special Order" or " Custom Section" to be made into a special order requirement. When completed, the gun was undoubtedly disposed of without going back, or to the Shipping Department. Such deliveries, not requiring shipment could well escape further accounting procedures. A good example of such could well point to Mr John Olin, who owned the Winchester Factory. He removed several nice special run Model I2's and Model 2I's - -that still exist today, but the factory has little record of them. He either had such items special made for friends or they were items he used as "Gifts".

Nearly forty or more years ago, an "as new"(mint if you wish), Colt Single Action Model I873, in the short barrel "Sheriff or Storekeeper" version, came by in a leather sachel and offered for sale by a traveling "Gun Trader". It's serial number was I2332I, a very easy number to remember. Caliber was .45 Colt. In those days one could call by phone to the Colt records section and obtain a ready answer. Plus letters were only three dollars. Serial no. ~~XXX~~ I2332I was a "blank" in the records. Thusly with an unproveable gun, coupled with a \$500.00 price tag, coupled with an unknown owner, who dealt in cash only, the risk of purchase seemed too much of a risk. Consequently a good gun was lost by strictly depending on Factory records. But someone did purchase the gun, who either had more experience, more knowledge, or was willing to risk the investment. The gun exists today in a good Colt Collection. From that incident, it became readily apparent. If one is to Collect in any form, whether it be guns, Art, or salt and pepper shakers. Learn as much about your subject as possible. There is an old adage-"Opportunity may knock on your door but once". So "Be Prepared".

The Sheriff Model bearing serial number I2332I had showed up back in the late I950's. In July 1977, another almost identical item in full nickel, with a three and five -eighths inch barrel, in caliber .44 Special and Russian appeared. A quick telephone call to the Colt records section drew the same response. Serial number 348838 was a blank.

An examination of the gun, which appeared as near new (or mint) as any gun could be, resulted in the following conclusions:

- A.-Inside and out the gun with a nickel finish could almost be considered as "never fired" - but if fired, well taken care of.
- B.-Serial number 348838 would reflect manufacture in the year of 1926.
- C.-The year of 1926 reflects a small production by the factory of around 1600 guns.
- D.-Colts main production in 1926 was not the Single Action I873, or any year thereafter.
- E.-The gun would well fit the so called "Lunch Box category". (A gun carried out of the factory by an employee thusly not necessarily ever denoted as manufactured.
- F.-The gun would also, as nickel, special grips and special barrel come under the possibility of a "Custom Order gun". Or a Colt Executive could well have made it for a special person, or possibly his personal use.
- G.-The gun has no quotable history, except the Seller stated it came from the Estate of a Retired Colt Employee, but with no specific name attached for verification.
- H.-The price appeared very high, yet what can be considered as a proper price on an item of "Rare variation", coupled with near new condition?

Considering all of the above, the only logical solution, being to complete the purchase. If the price should prove too high, one can always hang it on the wall in the Collection and let it grow under the current tendency of "such guns never decrease, but tend to increase."

Again, this single item, represents a condition where as a Collector, one must make a judgement decision, in a short period of time. There being no Factory data to assist in that decision, your knowledge and experience for such items will be your only guide.

A comparable situation appeared in June 1993. A request was received from Birmingham, Alabama. The request concerned, "cleaning the rust from a Winchester Hi-Wall Single Shot Rifle." After cleaning to appraise the gun for sale on the current market. The lady who owned the item, had been advised, "if the gun will clean up, it could bring a good price." The owner agreed to forward the gun via United Parcel Service. Also granting first purchase rights if the completed Appraisal to be in writing, would satisfy her in value. When the gun arrived, it was an astonishing surprise. The description was correct, it was a Winchester Hiwall, with a casehardened frame, Serial number 75267, with a "take down" system never before encountered. With two half ~~xxx~~ round and half octagon barrels, each with its own wood forearm and both barrels matted on the top plane. One number three barrel in caliber .45-90 W.C.F.. The second barrel in number four weight, and in caliber of .50-I40 W.C.F. Both barrels being 30 inches in length. The .50-I40 W.C.F. caliber is one of Winchesters

true "Rarities". The stock wood stamped with a three "X" grading, pistol gripped and checked in the fairly common "H" pattern. With special order "double set trigger assembly". Both barrel assemblies with "Express sights" plus an adjustable rear tang sight. Both barrels as well as all metal surfaces being covered with light "fleck" rusting, including the inside bores. A letter included with the gun explained, "the gun was inherited from her Grandfather. It had always been stored in a highly tooled leather case. Over the years, since moving to Alabama, the case deteriorated from the heat and moisture to where the case was eventually thrown away. The gun had rusted in the case, as no-one ever used or cleaned it".

The gun was cleaned of all rust, and when completed, would well grade as 95% of the original finish remaining. All wood cleaned well, and with better than 95% of the original stock varnish remaining. The inside bores of both barrels, cleaned to almost new condition, with no vestiges of rust or pitting. At completion, a check was made with the Winchester record at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming. The serial number of 75267 reflected a complete "blank". Winchester records could not honor the gun in any manner.

The serial number reflects the gun was probably made in the year 1896. The "take-down" system of this gun, was noted earlier, as a system never seen before. Winchester's standard takedown was first advertised in a "Flyer" of one page noted as May 1909, for the single-shot and then only in a few calibers, mainly the .22 Rim Fire Muskets. Yet the Model 1886 rifle, a lever action had first appeared in "take-down" back in 1894. Yet, this gun did not resemble in any manner, the systems found on the Model 1886, the 1892, the 1894 or the system found on the earliest High or Low wall which seems to date around the area of 1909. The closest resemblance would have to go back to the period around 1884 when Winchester devised an early "Pin" system and adapted it to the 1873 Model in the .22 Rim Fire calibers. But it proved so unreliable the factory discontinued its use by "penning both ends of the pin" so the takedown system became a solid frame rifle. The main reason this system proved unsuccessful was the single "pin" was the only element holding the barrel in the action, as the barrel was not threaded, nor was the magazine tube. The takedown system devised on this highwall serial no. 75267 followed this same basic principle except the barrels are both fully threaded into the action. A hole was then threaded into the left side of the

frame at a point mid-way of the barrel, and both barrels are indented at that point to accept the threaded screw with a screwdriver slot head. Undoubtedly this "take-down system" was a Winchester experimental system or made at the request of the person ordering such a gun. Both cartridges, the .45-90 W.C.F. and the .50-140 W.C.F. were Winchester developed cartridges, and both in the year of 1886. The .45-90 W.C.F. became a standard cartridge, whereas the .50-140 W.C.F. did not. There is no trace of the item ever being advertised in any Winchester catalog, but it does appear on the list of Cartridges as manufactured by Winchester. Apparently the basis of this specific cartridges origination goes back to the .50 -3 $\frac{1}{4}$ Sharps. About the only persons actually acquainted with its existence are these individuals collecting American Cartridges. The cartridge is too long to be found ⁱⁿ any model Winchester rifle other than the Model 1885 Hiwall single shot. It truly is a "Winchester Forgotten Cartridge". (And it never appeared on any Winchester Cartridge Board).

A

An additional call was made to the owner of the rifle, to see if she might have any further knowledge concerning the gun. This resulted in producing the original owners name. Her Grandfather was Edward Carlos Carter, born in 1864 and died in 1930. He was a professional Civil Engineer. Chief Engineer of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Company, when he retired in 1914 with 27 years of service. The owner forwarded his complete life history as published in "The American Society of Engineers" Volume 96 of 1932. An avid hunter all of his adult life. This gun bespeaks that type of individual. A Special Order or Custom manufactured gun, built to fit the special requirements of a person financially capable of desiring such an item. The lady was also queried at the same time, as to the possibility of any ammunition she might have for the two barrels. Her answer, " Yes, when I inherited the gun back in 1956 from my mother(the original owners daughter), there were four or five boxes of ammunition with it. But not wanting any live ammunition in my house with small children, I took the ammunition including some shotgun shells to the local Fire Station and they said they would destroy it."

At this point, the gun was appraised in writing and submitted by mail. That appraisal was far and beyond what this person wished to pay on a cash basis. But that price was paid, as it was a top dollar value to the seller and after all it was her gun, but a gun that no good Collector would wish to pass up, even at a high price.

This Model 1885 Hiwall Single Shot rifle is a prime example of an original Winchester factory produced gun, for which there is no Factory data. Being produced in the year of 1896, and the original owner having passed away in 1930 leaves the only data available, as the Notarized history as handed down by the last family member owning the item. As such, it is another good example of why it is necessary to become as familiar with your Collection or Investment subject as one possibly can. As to Winchester Factory Records currently maintained by the Cody Firearms Museum located in the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming, as they pertain to the Winchester Model 1885 Single Shot rifle. Data is available on Serial number 1 thru and including Serial number 109,999, yet some numbers are either "blank" or missing. Serial number 75267 is not the only "blank" item. The caliber designation of .50-140 W.C.F. (winchester center fire), as noted earlier, was not advertised as such, in any Company catalog. Its existence may be located by referring to the publication entitled, "CARTRIDGES OF THE WORLD", by Frank Barnes.

From surviving guns of this model, it is readily apparent that production reached into the 139,700 Serial range. As a Collector, or Investor, one may expect, any day to encounter another of those missing 30,000 or more items. The "Boy Scouts of America" have a good motto,--"BE PREPARED". As a firearms Collector, one will do well to adopt that same motto.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Submitted with the manuscript, "IF YOU COLLECT-OR INVEST-BE PREPARED".

- Photo No. 1.-Newspaper clipping from Great Falls Tribune dated June 20, 1960 with separate photo of Lewis E. Yearout holding Sharps rifle.
- Photo No. 2.-Colt Model Lightning Magazine Rifle Serial no. 3300I.
- Photo No. 3.-Colt Model Lightning Magazine Rifle Serial no. 3300I Patented Trigger Assembly.
- Photo No. 4.-Colt S.A. Model I873 Serial no. 348838.
- Photo No. 5.-Colt S.A. Model I873 Serial no. 348838 Caliber stamping on barrel.
- Photo No. 6.-Winchester Model I885 Single Shot Hiwall Serial no. 75267 with 2 barrels.
- Photo No. 7.-Winchester Model I885 Single Shot Hiwall Serial no. 75267 depicting "Take Down Screw" and 2 Cartridges caliber .50-I40 W.C.F.
- Photo No. 8.-Winchester Model I885 Single Shot Hiwall Serial no. 75267 depicting the No. 3 barrel in .45-90 W.C.F.
- Photo No. 9.-Winchester Model I885 Single Shot Hiwall Serial no. 75267 depicting the No. 4 barrel in .50-I40 W.C.F. with matted barrel and "Take down Screw".

All photographs by*- Ray Ozman, Box 3072, Great Falls, Montana, 59403

LEWIS E. YEAROUT, MAJOR, USAFR RETIRED,- Author of this article:

One of Montana's most well known Arms Collectors. Arriving in Montana with the United States Air Force in 1957. Retired therefrom as a Major in 1963. Founded the " MONTANA ARMS COLLECTORS ASSOC." in 1961.-The oldest such organization in the State. The "RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS" as retained in the Montana State Constitution in 1972, was basically by his individual efforts. Founded the "WINCHESTER ARMS COLLECTORS ASSOC." in 1976, as well as the first "WINCHESTER GUN SHOW" in Cody, Wyoming the same year. He paved the way in 1974-1975-1976, whereby Winchester Trapper Carbines with less than 16 inch barrels may be removed from the National Firearms Act, as governed by the B.A.T.F.

REFERENCES: For manuscript-"IF YOU COLLECT-OR INVEST-BE PREPARED".

- No.1.- Winchester Serial number data:- - Cody Firearms Museum, Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming, 82414.
- No.2.- Colt Serial number data : - - - - Colt Manufacturing Co., Inc., Office of Historian, P.O.Box 1868, Hartford, Conn. 06144.
- No.3.- "Winchester Metallic Ammunition"- A Winchester factory "in house" publication by George Watrous, dated 1943.
- No.4.- Winchester Sales Catalogs - - - - As published by the Winchester Co. for the years 1885 through 1910.
- No.5.-"The book of Colt Firearms": - - By R.Q.Sutherland and R.L.Wilson published in 1971.
- No.6.-"Transactions of the American Society of Civil Engineers"
Volume 96 of 1932 - - By the American Society of Civil Engineers.
- No.7.-Notarized documents and personal correspondence - - Mrs Osa Lamar Andrews, 4328 Old Brook Trail, Birmingham, Alabama, 35243.
- No.8.-"Cartridges of the World" - - By Frank C.Barnes, as published by DBI Books.
- No.9.-Personal files of the author - - By Lewis E. Yearout, "50 years in the American firearms field."
- No.10.-All photographs - - - - - By Ray Ozman, Great Falls, Montana.

Great Falls Tribune Mon. - June 20, 1960.
Montanan Sells Collection

Of Early Day Sharps Rifles

A collection of 30 early day Sharps rifles used by Montana pioneers will soon leave Montana, probably for good.

The collection, owned by Walter Anderson of Kalispell and presently in the possession of Lewis E.

country.

Yearout, who is handling the sale, plans to ship the collection within a few days.

One of the 30 rifles carried by some of the first white men to migrate to this state is one of five "Freund conversions" known to exist. Anderson places a \$2,000 value on that gun alone.

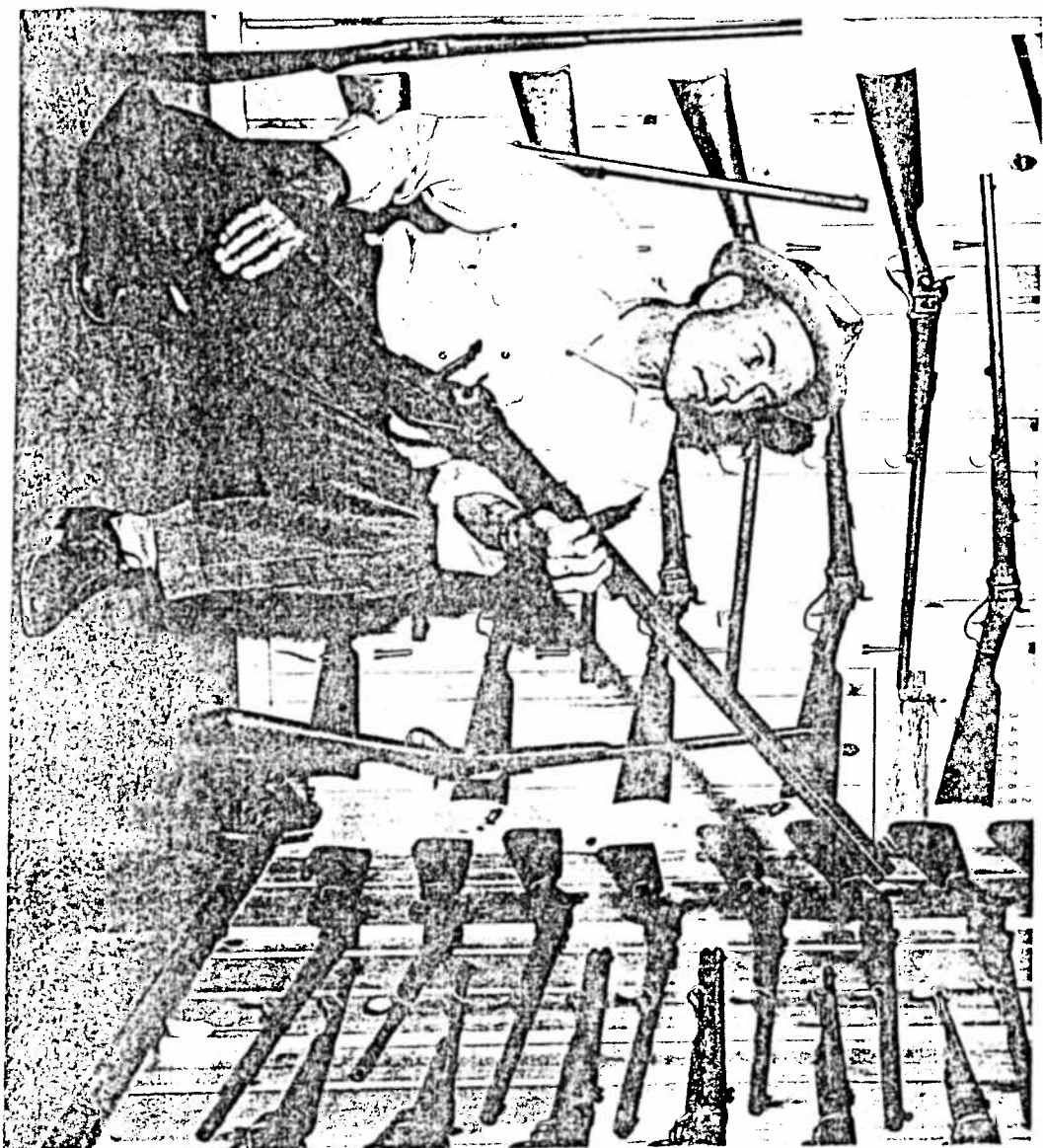
It is an 1874 side hammer single shot rifle that shoots a 40-90 calibre paper patch cartridge.

The collection, which includes many of the early heavy barrel Buffalo guns used throughout the West, is the largest single collection of Sharps rifles known to be in Montana.

Actually, the famous rifles will be returning to their birthplace. The guns originally were manufactured in the state of Connecticut, and were carried by America's pioneers as they moved westward.

Anderson, a retired rancher, spent more than 25 years collecting what is considered one of the best representative groups of Sharps rifles.

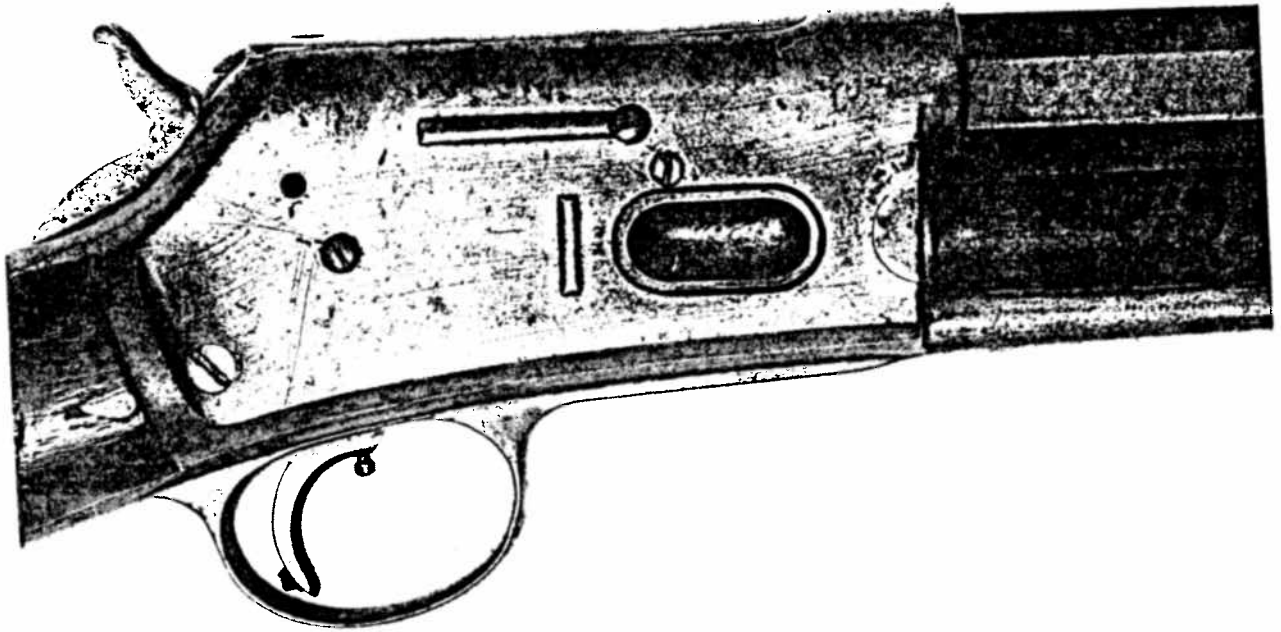
Photo below: Lewis E. Yearout holding the heavy barrel Sharps Ruend "Boss" Rifle.



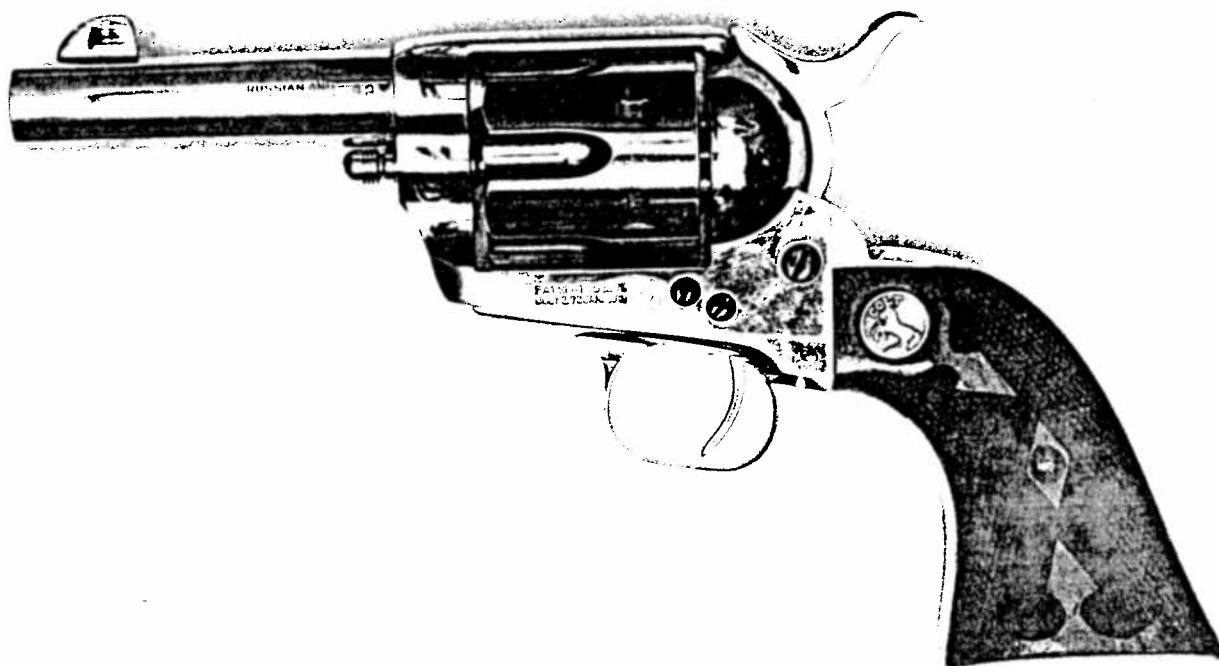
Clipping above from the Great Falls Montana "Tribune" dated June 20, 1960 concerning the Collection of 30 Sharps Buffalo Rifles.



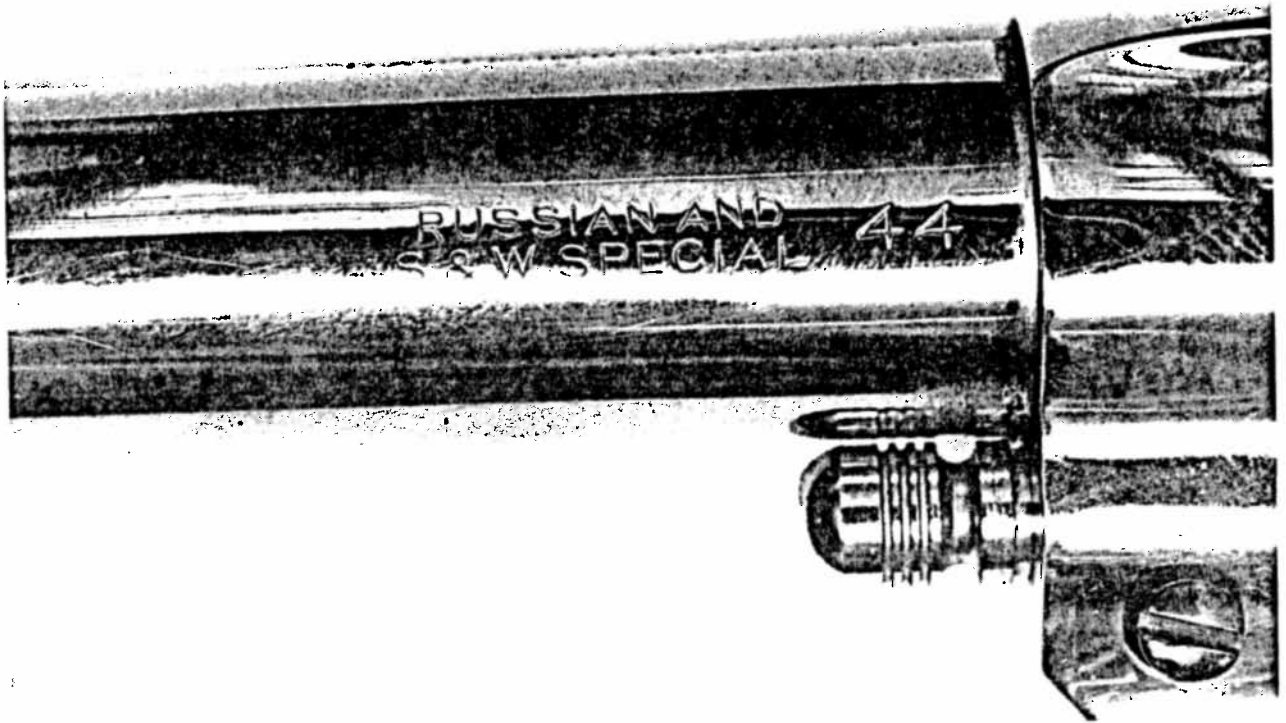
Colt Model Lightning Magazine rifle, Serial no. 33001
Caliber .32-20. 36 inch tapered octagon barrel
with 34 inch magazine tube.



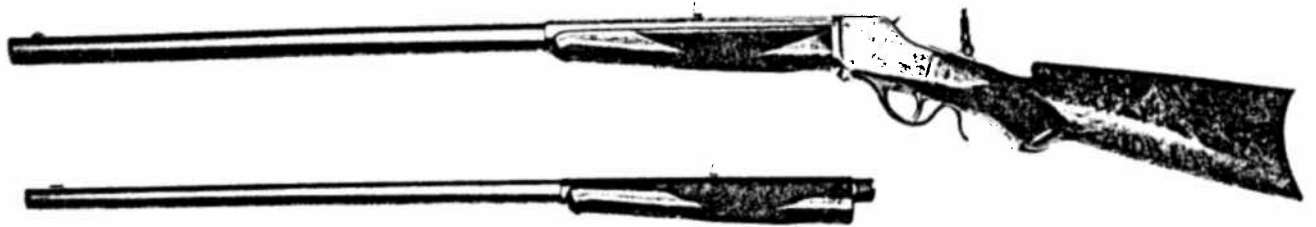
Colt Model Lightning Magazine rifle Serial no.-3300I
with "Colt Patent adjustable trigger assembly," which
requires a "special hammer". As noted, most of the
nickel finish has been worn off.



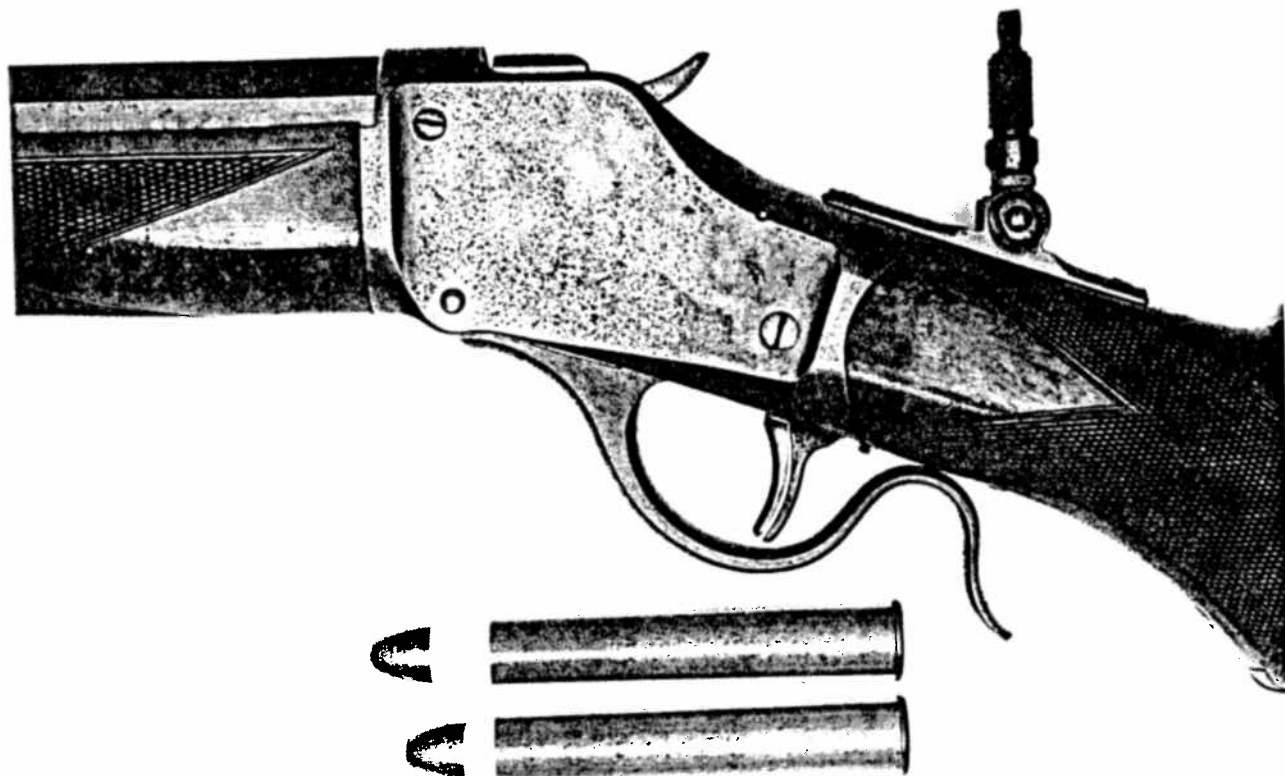
Colt Single Action Model 1873 "Sheriff Model"
Serial no. 348838, 3 and 5/8 inch barrel
Caliber stamping .44 Russian and Smith and
Wesson Special. Full nickel with Colt custom
checked medallion grips.



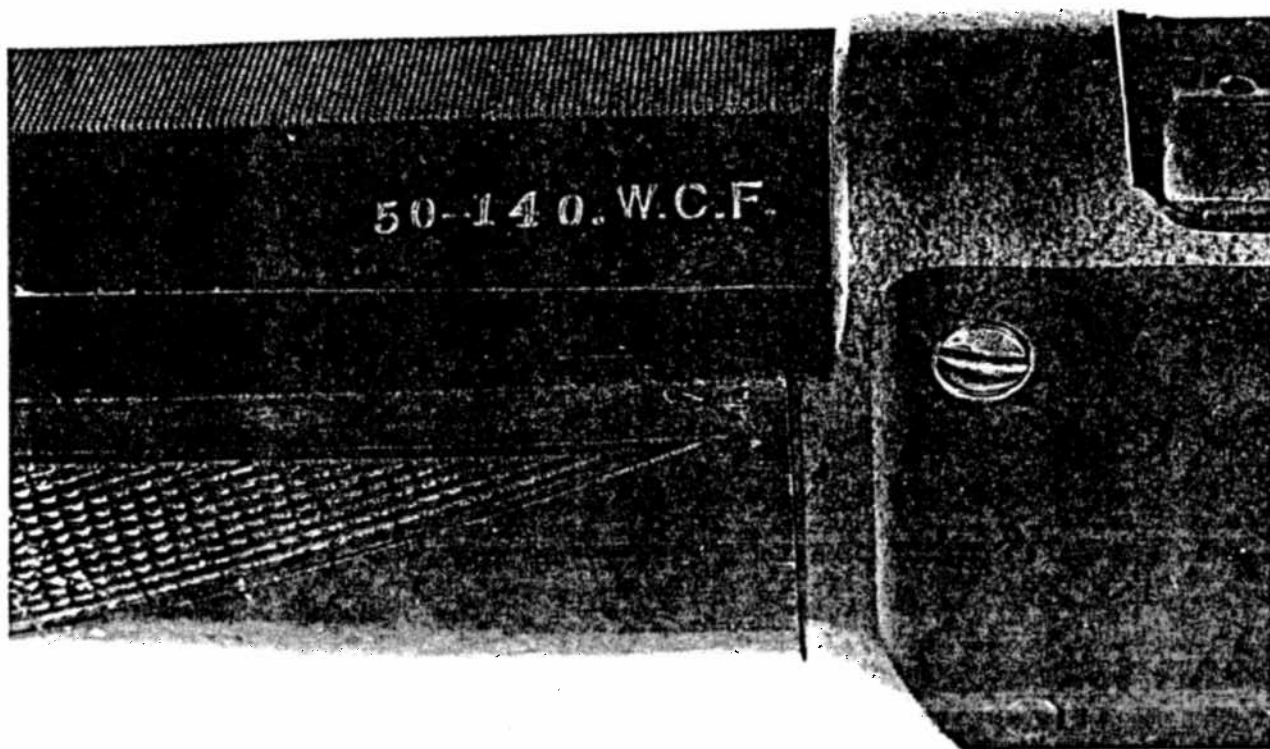
Colt Single Action Model 1873 "Sheriff Model"
depicting the .44 hussian and Smith and
Wesson caliber barrel stamping. No ejector
rod. Serial no. 348838.



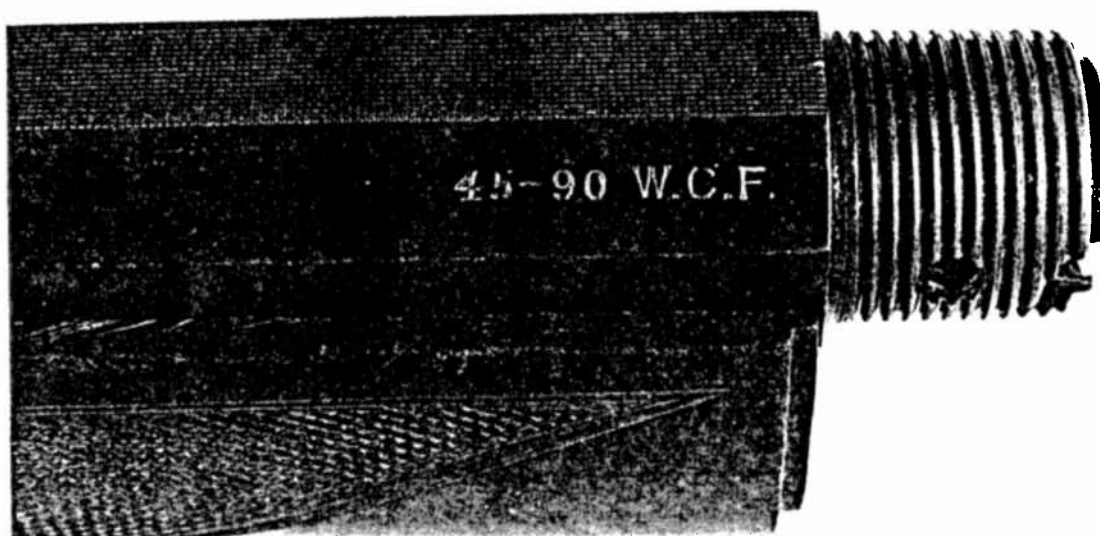
Winchester Model 1885 Hiwall rifle Serial no. 75267
Deluxechecked 3X grade with pistol grip. Top barrel
No.4 weight in .50-140 W.C.F. Bottom barrel a
No.3 weight in .45-90 W.C.F.



Winchester Model 1885 Hiwall rifle Serial no.75267
Note the "slotted head" Take-down screw at the top
of the frame. Double set adjustable triggers.
Rear tang sight. Two rounds of .50-140 W.C.F
cartridges.



Winchester Model 1885 Single Shot Serial number 75267
reflecting the No.4 barrel in Caliber .50-140.W.C.F.
Note:-the "matting" on the top plane of the barrel,
Also the "Set Screw" of the "Take-Down system".



Winchester Model 1885 Single Shot Serial Number 75267
reflecting the No.3 barrel in caliber .45-90 W.C.F.
Note: the " Matting" on the top plane of the barrel,
Also the "Threaded end of the barrel" with the hole
in the threads to retain the Set screw for the
"Take-down system".