



October 15, 2014

The original manufacturer's data for Model 1876, serial number 73, as extracted from the original Winchester records housed in this museum, are as follows:

Serial number application date not available

Type: Rifle

Barrel Type: Octagon

Trigger: Plain

Received in warehouse on July 17, 1877

Shipped from warehouse on July 20, 1877, Order number 9557

No other information is available for this serial number.

Sincerely yours,

Jessica A. Bennett
Records Specialist
Cody Firearms Museum

Letter for Model 1876 serial number 73, 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.

10-15

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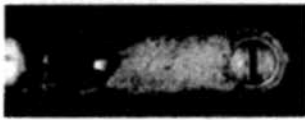
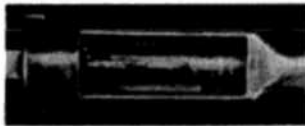
Lot

Description

Revised: 9/28/2014

Please note: The correct serial number is 73 as stated in the title.

RARE EARLY WINCHESTER MODEL 1876 OPEN TOP LEVER ACTION RIFLE SERIAL NUMBER 73.



2060



SN 27723. 45-75 Cal. WCF. Standard grade rifle with 28" oct bbl, full magazine, brass bladed fixed front sight and semi bucktail ladder rear sight and 4-1/2" mid-range Vernier tang sight. Receiver is open top style made without provision for a dust cover as first 3000 M-1876's are. Mounted with unchecked, straight grain, American walnut, straight stock and early style crescent buttplate with trap and thick heel. Open top rifles in both models 1876 and 1873 were produced for a very short period of time. It is reported that at that time there was a weakness in cartridge cases which caused them to rupture and if the dust cover was closed, would bulge the side plates. Apparently Winchester produced these rifles without dust covers which would allow escaping gases to blow upward instead of outward. After many complaints the ammunition problem was corrected and Winchester returned to supplying rifles with dust covers. Any rifle or carbine with an open top could be returned for a factory fitted dust cover. There is no factory letter found but according to Mr. Yearout's notes this gun was shipped July 19, 1877 and that the gun is indeed 45-75 WCF though there is no external Cal. marking. Consecutive SN 74 open top is known. 281 and 306. PROVENANCE: Darwin Buehler, Salt Lake City, UT. Lewis Yearout 1976. Estate Collection of Lewis & Leyton Yearout. CONDITION: Very good to fine. Bbl retains 30-40% thinning bright blue; magazine tube retains traces of blue in protected areas with balance plum/gray patina; receiver retains about 10% thin orig blue, mostly on the sides with the top & bottom a mottled gray/plum patina with areas of pitting; top of frame is cleaned with a streaked gray/brown patina; lever has a gray/plum patina matching frame, hammer has muted case colors on side with balance a blue/gray; buttplate is brown/gray patina; stocks are sound and solid with hand rubbed patina and numerous small scratches and minor blemishes that can be seen in photos. 2-parts of an iron cleaning rod are found in buttstock. Mechanically sound with well discerned rifling though pitted. 4-53828 JS95 (6,000-10,000) – Lot 2060

[Click here to view provenance](#)

15525

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Firearms - Fall 2014

73

2123

Price _____ Rifle _____ Overall Condition _____

Winchester (Manufactured By) 1876 (Model) 45-75 WCF (Caliber)

Full (Magazine & Type) 28 (Barrel Length) Oregon (Type Barre)

_____ (Repeater or Single) _____ (Stock Length) _____ (Overall Length) _____ (Weight)

_____ (Bore & Condition) shipped July 19, 1877 (Type Front Sight) _____ (Type Rear Sight) _____ (Type Butt Pi)

_____ (Date of Manufacture) _____ (Remarks Early Model No dust cover on lever provisions.)

_____ (Date) June 16, 1976 (Price) 1800.00 (Sold To) _____ (Date) _____ (Price)

Derwin Buchler (Bought From) Self Lake City (Date) oct - 86 (Added rear Mid Range Vernier - 200.00)

C. D. ...

77

45-75

This gun for sale G.P. - June 1967 - Page 3-1400, 2
Serial No. 13 Rifle act. Dec. 7-9-97 shipped 7-9-97

74
Serial No. 281 open top - Gordon Auction.
" 306