

50920-2



*L.C. Smith Ideal Grade
Serial Number 202981
Finished January 7, 1944*

This is the information I have been able to find regarding your L.C. Smith shotgun. The Hunter Arms Company, Inc. manufacturing records for Serial Number 202981 are in the Shipping Books and show that it is a 16 gauge Ideal Grade with 26-inch barrels. It was started on October 28, 1943, finished on January 7, 1944 and shipped the same day to the Drybak Corporation to complete order number 54053. The letters FWESP in the ledger indicates that it is a featherweight with ejectors and a single sighting plane. Offered earlier as an option, the single sighting plane was standard on Ideal Grade shotguns beginning in 1941. No other information is available for this serial number. The Research Division has done its best to interpret and report information in the records to answer this request and assumes no responsibility for the recorded accuracy at the factory.

The Ideal Grade was next to the least expensive Field Grade L.C. Smith shotgun. It had the same lock mechanism and rotary cross bolt locking system found on the highest grades of L.C. Smith shotguns. The Ideal Grade was introduced in 1913 at a price of \$37 and manufactured through 1950 by which time the price had increased to \$138.

The Ideal Grade was available only with London fluid steel barrels, and LONDON STEEL was often stamped on the underside of the barrels. The top of the right barrel was usually roll-stamped L.C. SMITH IDEAL GRADE, and the top of the left barrel was stamped HUNTER ARMS CO. M^TF^R'S FULTON, N.Y. U.S.A. Some variations to these markings have been reported. The barrels were rust blued.

The locks were fully engraved with an oak leaf and acorn design, and the outside borders were engraved in a zigzag stitched pattern. Both lock plates were marked L.C. SMITH. The frame had a simple line engraving on the front, top, and bottom and the oak leaf and acorn pattern continued on the breech balls. Some variations in these patterns have been reported. The frame and locks were color case-hardened to add strength and beauty. The stocks were usually made from American walnut. The stock and forend were checkered.

Ideal Grade shotguns were manufactured in 10, 12, 16, and 20 gauges and .410. Total production during the period of 1913 to 1950 was 25,812 with 4,510 16 gauge shotguns. Automatic ejectors were added as an option to 9,035 Ideal Grade shotguns.

The L.C. Smith Collectors Association invites you to keep up with the organization's events and latest information on shooting and collecting L.C. Smith shotguns by visiting www.lcsmith.org.

Sincerely,

James Stubbendieck

James Stubbendieck
Research Division
L.C. Smith Collectors Association

*Records Search
Certificate
No. 01109*