

and assess; therefore, they are not available at this time.

We will make announcements in this publication, on web forums, and by other means as we learn more about these records.

The Model 21 Order Sheets are dated from late 1938 to the 1970s. Shotguns manufactured before 1938 will have no Order Sheet. As with the Model 21 Final Inspection Reports not all serial numbers will have Order Sheets. However, we may now find some Model 21s which have no Final Inspection Reports but have an Order Sheet.

The protocol for the Order Sheets is as follows:

- Availability of an Order Sheet will automatically be indicated on all Model 21 SN searches.

- \$25 fee for information retrieval, whether a SN search or a letter. The fee will be charged on all letters, including letter pack letters, unless information was previously purchased by the same member.
- A number of 1948 Order Sheets were recently located after the digitization project. They have been re-housed, but there is no list of serial numbers at this time. Non-digitized Order Sheets will require the physical retrieval of the information and be charged at the old rate (\$50/hour). ■

## Contact Us Monday to Friday 8 to 5

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Non-Profit Org.  
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Buffalo Bill  
Historical Center

# CODY FIREARMS RECORD

Volume: 2

Issue:2

September 2008

## SHOWS, GIFTS, AND SURVEYS

By David Kennedy

By the time you read this, summer will have given way to fall, the Patron's Ball will be past, and the few visitors in the building will be predominantly hunters. Although the fall and winter months appear to be slower for the staff of the historical center, I like to think of it using the "duck on the pond" metaphor. While it looks like there is not much happening on the surface, the feet are just paddling away underwater. This is our opportunity to get many projects completed and to look back at what has taken place over the previous six months.

This summer saw many great things take place. The Cody gun shows were a big hit, and the Winchester Club of America show's new date did not seem to cause any major hiccups. The weekend of the Winchester Arms Collectors Association (WACA) saw the donation of one of the largest gifts ever received by the Cody Firearms Museum. Cartridge collector (and former WACA President) Ron Stadt saw fit to give us his collection of more than 10,000 American shotgun shells. This collection, the only one in the world of this size and scope, will be an invaluable resource for shotshell and shotgun collectors and historians.

Two projects funded by the family of the late Dr. Kurt Bucholz have also been helping the Cody Firearms Museum (CFM). First, the *Dr. Kurt S. Bucholz Handleable Firearms Collection* project quadrupled the size of our hands-on firearms collection, greatly increasing the quality of presentations to our visitors. Using this collection, staff and volunteers have educated over 1,200 visitors and others about the subject of firearms in our history.

The other project has helped to support the collectors and an important revenue stream to the historical center. Funding a project to scan and index MRL's collections of Winchester firearms records, the Dr. Kurt S. Bucholz Digitization Project has made available Winchester Model 21 order slips, the Nick Kusmit engraving log, and the Winchester Polishing Room Books. This information will, over time, become available as value-added products through the CFM Records Office.

As we head into the winter, we are looking at better ways

by which we can serve our public. Some of these are pretty obvious: attendance at major gun shows, publication of this newsletter, and performing research that improves our knowledge of Winchester and other firearms companies.

To better understand what else we can do, we have enclosed a survey we would like you to complete. We will look at all responses in order to better provide service to you. As a reward for your time and your stamp, all of the surveys returned with a postmark before December 1, 2008, will be entered into a drawing for one of three free factory letters.

Regardless, if you ever have any questions about what we are doing, why we are doing something, or if you just heard a rumor about us (believe me, I have heard some doozies!), please give me a holler and I will give you a straight answer. ■

### Cody Firearms Museum Records Office Fee Schedule

(effective October 1, 2008)

#### Christmas is coming! Letter Packs and Memberships Make Wonderful Gifts!!

Winchester Lever Action and Marlin letters  
\$60 (CFM members \$35, CORR members \$50)

Model 21 and L.C. Smith letters  
\$75 (CFM members \$50, CORR members \$75)

Model 21 letter with Order Sheet information  
\$100 (CFM members \$75, CORR members \$90)

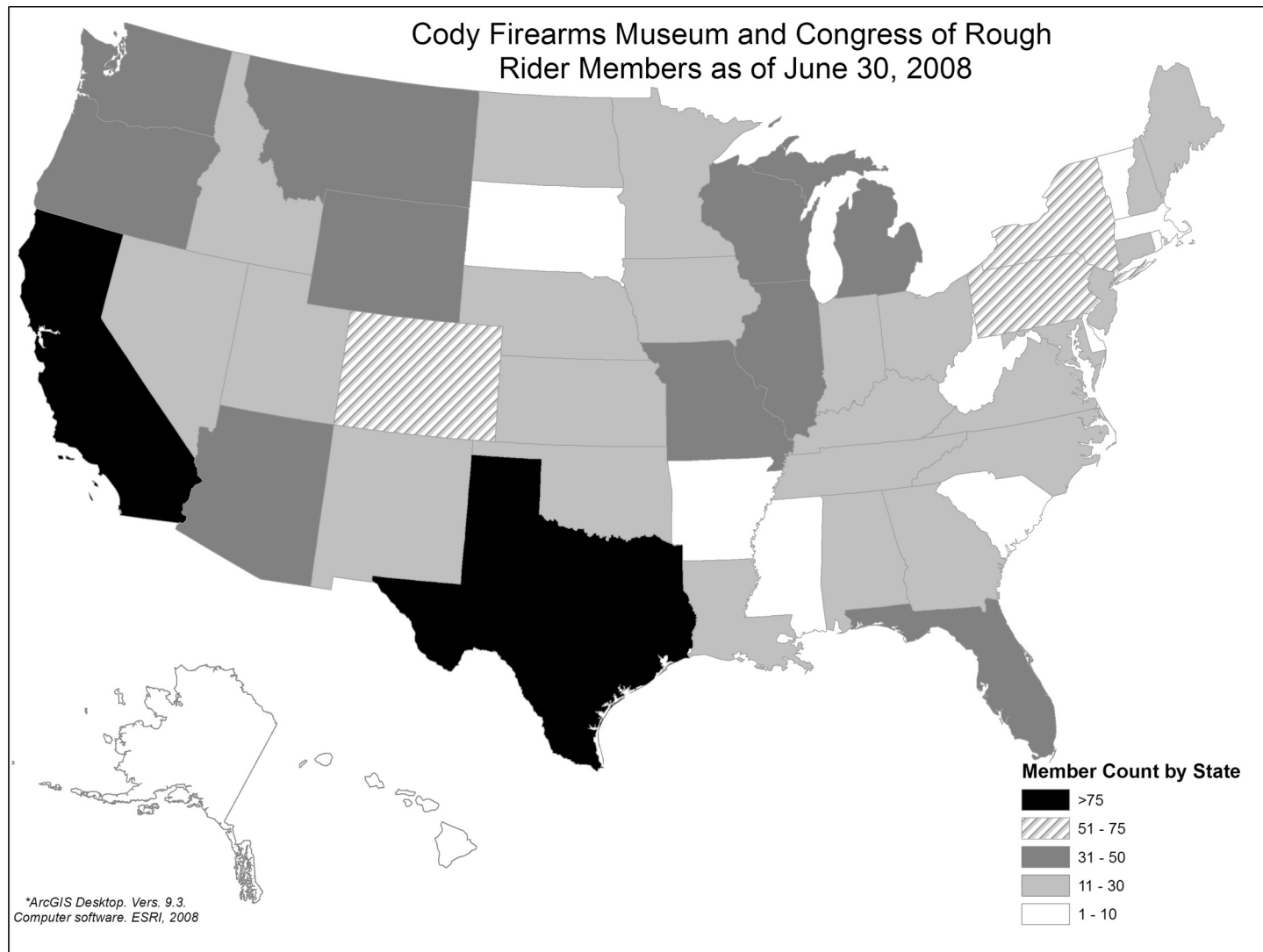
Member 5-Letter package \* \$150

Member 10-Letter package \* \$250

CFM/CORR Member Model 21 Order Sheet information  
\$25 each  
(not included in SN searches)

CFM/CORR Member Extended Research  
\$50/hour  
(one hour minimum, call Jesi for scheduling)

\*Order Sheet information an additional \$25 per letter unless information was previously purchased by same customer



The membership of the Cody Firearms Museum and the Congress of Rough Riders continues to grow year by year. The count as of June 30, 2008, was 1,414 members. Do you know how many of your neighbors are members? We have members from all fifty states, six Canadian provinces, and seven other countries. Check out the map below to see where your fellow members live.

California and Texas are home to the largest numbers of members while eleven states have less than ten members each (Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Delaware, West Virginia, South Carolina, Mississippi, Arkansas, South Dakota, Alaska and Hawaii).

The Congress of Rough Rider (CORR) Membership program is a membership category created two years ago at the historical center and is designed specifically for members of the Single Action Shooting Society.

Our Canadian members number 38.

- Alberta – 7
- British Columbia – 6
- New Brunswick – 1
- Ontario – 19
- Quebec – 2
- Saskatchewan – 3

Thirteen members hail from other parts of the world.

- Australia – 1
- France – 1
- Germany – 1
- Netherlands – 1
- New Zealand – 2
- Switzerland – 3
- United Kingdom – 4

## WINCHESTER MODEL 21 ORDER SHEETS NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH THE RECORDS OFFICE

By Jesi Bennett

The recently completed digitization project has made a number of Winchester records series readily available to us for research and dissemination. The Winchester Order Sheets are original order forms for Model 21s and other Winchester firearms. The Order Sheets often include data

which helps round out the information currently available on the Final Inspection Reports, including order date, additional information on the purchaser, configuration as ordered, and timeline of manufacture. Other items of interest may also be included, such as how many firearms were ordered and changes made to orders during the manufacturing process.

At this time only Model 21 shotgun Order Sheets are available through the Records Office. A small number of Order Sheets exist for other models which we must survey

**See Order Sheets** (continued on page 4)

## A MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

By Jan Jones

I've got one of the best jobs ever! Not many folks say that about where they spend their 9 to 5 hours, but it's true: I love my work. Fabulous paintings and sculptures, impressive natural history exhibits, rare Buffalo Bill and Plains Indian artifacts, and some of the most incredible firearms on display surround me everyday in my workplace. And it even gets better; I also have the opportunity to meet and talk to Gun Guys.

Cody Firearms Museum (CFM) members, a.k.a. Gun Guys (women and wives included!), are passionate about firearms. Some, I conclude, are so passionate I suspect they have Hoppe's #9 running in their veins. When Gun Guys call me to renew or sign up for membership, they often try to talk my ear off about guns. They enthusiastically tell me about Granddad's unusual rifle they just inherited, or the way-too-expensive Winchester they are itchin' to buy at the upcoming gun show. Of course, then they immediately want to be transferred to our "Gun Gals" in the CFM Records Office to request a serial number search so they can hopefully learn more about the gun in question.

Gun Guys see guns for their beauty (embellished or not); they see guns for their practicality, indispensable tools used by the military and hunters for hundreds of years. And I'd venture to guess most of them have a real love of history and see guns as a way to get a glimpse into the past. They can, most likely, easily picture themselves walking the boardwalks of Dodge City right alongside Matt Dillon and Chester, packin' their trusty longarm.

I've found that Gun Guys are generally very friendly, cheerful, and well-rounded. Sometimes, when Gun Guys call to ask a membership question, we end up talking about things beyond guns: the weather, our ailments, family, or politics. Our conversations often provide a pick-me-up on a difficult day at work, and I welcome the diversion. I reason they're happy because they're doing exactly what they love to do—dealing with firearms. That brings me to another point: Gun Guys are knowledgeable. Overall, they know their guns! They frequently talk waaaay over my head when discussing the barrel length of a gun, for example; or the caliber of a weapon. I just listen, say "un huh" at the appropriate

Starting with this issue, recent donors (within the last ten years) and current lenders will receive *The Cody Firearms Record*.

times and am glad they can't see the confusion on my face.

Yes, I have a fantastic job, all right. I get to work in the best museum in the West. And I get the opportunity be associated with a great group of intelligent, fun-loving, interesting, patriotic, hard-working, and passionate individuals who I am proud to be acquainted with and from whom I learn a great deal every single day. Gun Guys, I appreciate all of you and what you stand for! ■

For questions or information on membership at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, please contact Jan Jones, Membership Director at [janj@bbhc.org](mailto:janj@bbhc.org) or 307.578.4032.

### THE RECORDS OFFICE WILL BE OPEN THE FOLLOWING WEEKENDS IN 2008–2009

**Saturdays — all day.  
Sundays — mornings only.  
Call for hours.**

#### 2008

**October 4** WACA Annual Eastern Show, Springfield, MA

**November 8** Wanenmacher's Tulsa Arms Show, Tulsa, OK

**November 15** Big Reno Show/WACA Annual West Coast Show, Reno, NV

#### 2009

**January 17–18** Las Vegas Antique Arms Show, Las Vegas, NV\*

**March 7** National Gun Day, Louisville, KY

**April 4** Wanenmacher's Tulsa Arms Show, Tulsa, OK

**May 16–17** Colorado Gun Collector's Assoc. Annual Gun Show, Denver, CO\*

**June** Winchester Club of America Show in Cody, WY\*

**June** Winchester Arms Collectors Assoc. Show, Cody, WY\*

\*CFM will have a table at this show.

Anyone calling from these shows will receive free serial number searches and \$25 discounts on memberships (new or renew).

Contact David Kennedy at 307.578.4117 or [davidk@bbhc.org](mailto:davidk@bbhc.org) if you would like to help the CFM Records Office attend one of these shows.