**Model Survey Trivia**

By Jesi Bennett

Long time Cody Firearms Museum volunteer John Hawk and I have been steadily doing record surveys of a number of Winchester models for the past year. To date, we have completed the research on nine models and are nearing the end of another. Not all of the surveys have been tabulated yet, but we continue to work on them.

*Did you know that...*

- according to the records, only one Model 1887/1901 (s.n.1-329999) left the factory with a 25-inch barrel and one with a “slightly modified” choke?
- according to the records, only one Model 1890 (s.n.124995 –170101) is recorded with a heavy octagon barrel and 239 had silver trims?
- a number of Winchester models for the past year. To do this, we have completed the research on nine models.

**The Records Office will be open the following weekends in 2009–2010**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 10</td>
<td>WACA Annual Eastern Show, Springfield, MA</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 14</td>
<td>Winemachers’ Tulsa Arms Show, Tulsa, OK</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 14-15</td>
<td>WACA Annual West Coast Show/Big Reno Show, Reno, NV</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 12</td>
<td>National Gun Day, Louisville, KY</td>
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**2010**

| January 16 | Las Vegas Antique Arms Show, Las Vegas, NV                            |
| February 20 | National Gun Day, Louisville, KY                                     |
| April 10 | Winemachers’ Tulsa Arms Show, Tulsa, OK                              |
| May 15-16 | CGCA Annual Gun Show, Denver, CO*                                    |
| June | Winchester Club of America Show, Cody, WY*                           |
| June | Winchester Arms Collectors Assoc. Show, Cody, WY*                   |
| July | Missouri Valley Arms Collector’s Assoc. Annual Show, Kansas City, MO |

**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 Dr. Charles Preston, Interim Curator, at 307.578.4078 or chuckp@bbhc.org if you would like to help the CFM Records Office staff attend one of these shows.

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**Buffalo Bill Historical Center**

Cody Firearms Museum

720 Sheridan Avenue

Cody, Wyoming 82414

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**Cody Firearms Record**

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Foundation, we are creating this display as a pilot project to provide better viewing of firearms in our Study Gallery collection. The initial installation will be completed in September, and we will assess it’s effectiveness with our visitors. If this innovation proves successful, we will move ahead with additional installations, perhaps providing a new model for other firearms museums across the country and beyond our shores. Our goal is to set the standards for firearms display and interpretation that serve the most ardent firearms collector and enthusiast while also attracting and engaging the casual visitor.

Museums of all types and in all settings have felt the economic pinch during the last year as investments tumbled, donors became more cautious, and visitors tightened their purse-strings by holding back on travel and nonessential spending. I’m happy to report that, after a slow spring, the Buffalo Bill Historical Center is enjoying an increase in visitation during mid and late-summer, and the Cody Firearms Museum remains one of our top attractions. One of the things I’ve been most impressed by in my tenure as interim CFM curator is the loyalty and enthusiasm of the firearms community. We are grateful for your continued visitation and support. Although I will turn over the reins to the new curator this fall, I will always feel a kinship for the CFM and will provide assistance and support to its staff wherever possible.

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**Obtaining Images**

The Image Rights and Reproductions Department at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center provides images for educational presentations, professional research, print and electronic publications, media projects, and personal use.

For more information and pricing please go to www.bbhc.org/photoservices/photoServices_01.cfm. You can download the request form, and return the completed version by email. All requests for images must go through this process no matter the end use.

To View the Online Digital Collections please visit www.bbhc.org/html/collection.cfm

If you have any questions please contact Sean Campbell at photosales@bbhc.org or at 307.587.2107.
What in the World?
By Jesi Bennett
As we spend time in the Winchester, Marlin and L.C. Smith records everyday, we occasionally come across entries that we rarely, if ever, see. Sometimes an entry completely surprises us. I’d like to throw a few of these out here to see if you have ever seen or heard of these things or if you think they might be worthwhile.

Here are a few Winchester Model 1873 items:
1. Serial number range 250000 “Moorish Model” on a number of Muskets.
2. Serial number range 2000 & 192000, “Oat F.S.” and “Oat F. Sight”
4. Serial number range 127000, “Winchester stock”

Email me or write me a letter if you have anything to say about one of the items on this list or if you have something on a letter or serial number search that you’ve never seen before and would like me to include it in future “What in the World” columns. You can find my contact information on the back page of this CFM Report.

Gun Show Support
By Jesi Bennett
Hopefully, you all know that we make an effort to have the records office open one Saturday a month (and an occasional Sunday). I work to coincide these week-end hours with gun shows all over the country. Years ago, the firearms staff conducted a small survey of active members to find out which shows we should support. A schedule of these shows and Saturday hours is included in this newsletter.

We would love to be able to attend each show, but, unfortunately, budget constraints just do not allow for much travel out of this office. It is a given that we have a few members who take home a flyer or letter and will look good framed in a gun room. Normally, it takes between three to four weeks to receive your letter.

A Membership Minute
By Jan Jones
In the last issue of the Record, I shared results from the Cody Firearms Museum (CFM) membership survey we conducted in the fall of 2008. Some results were quite predictable such as the value placed on the free serial number searches in our office. Other results were somewhat surprising—for one, usage of the Internet. When I became Membership Director in 2004, most CFM members only used cyberspace for shooting backshot. Now, 70 percent of our “gun guys” embrace the Information Superhighway, using it for communication, research, and perhaps even shopping for firearms!

A few of you who completed the survey asked questions and had comments to make regarding our membership program. This is a great forum to answer those questions and address those concerns.

What exactly is the difference between a serial number search and a factory letter? This question is often shared by many new CFM members. A factory letter is an official report on the information contained in the original production records which the Historical Center holds. It includes the letterhead and seal of the Cody Firearms Museum. A factory letter can be an important tool in establishing the provenance and originality of a gun. The letters are on quality letterhead and would look good framed in a gun room. Normally, it takes between three to four weeks to receive your letter.

A serial number search has the same information as a factory letter, but it is given verbally, e-mailed, or faxed. A factory letter can be requested by members and non-CFM members alike; however, non-members pay more for this service. Serial numbers searches are available only to CFM members and generally take three to four hours to get the information.

The level of detail on letters is very limited. I would pay twice the price for better information. The content of the letter varies with each gun but typically includes the manufacture/warehousing and shipping dates, as well as information on the configuration of the gun when it was produced. Ownership and usage information are rarely available since shipping and sales records no longer exist. The exception to this would be information on late Model 1873 and 1886 Winchesters, and the Winchester Model 21 shotgun. Return and repair information is included in the serial number searches and factory letters when available.

In the next issue of The Record I will address several more questions asked in the survey. Thanks again, to all of you who took the time to complete our survey last year. It’s important to me to create a sound membership program that is beneficial to you. With your valuable input, we can learn our shortcomings and make the necessary adjustments when possible.

In parting, I’d like to thank each of you for being a part of the Historical Center’s membership program. Our goal is to strive to remain one of the finest western museums in the world; your support helps us accomplish that goal.

For questions or information on membership at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, please contact Jan Jones, Membership Director at janj@bbhc.org or 307.578.6032.

BLANK RECORDS IN THE WINCHESTER LEDGERS
By Jesi Bennett
It is frustrating when a serial number search returns with “Blank Record.” These records are found with every Winchester and Marlin model. There are fewer in the L.C. Smith records, but there are some.

The Winchester factory records held by the Cody Firearms Museum of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center were gifted to the Center in the mid 1970s. Our staff has been conducting all Winchester serial number research and producing Factory Letters since. The Winchester ledgers are the original warehouse records and contain the date on which each firearm was checked into the warehouse, the original configuration including any special order features, the date and order number by which the firearm was shipped, and any returns or repairs noted.

Blank records do not necessarily indicate that a firearm was never made, or that there is something wrong with the firearm. We cannot know exactly why there are blank entries, but there are a number of theories. Factory direct sales and internal acquisitions are among the most logical theories. The bottom line is that a blank entry in the Winchester records simply means that particular firearm was not checked into the warehouse. It was removed, sold, or shipped directly from the factory.

Since very few internal records from within the factory survived, and those that did offer no configuration data, there is no way of confirming the original configuration of the “Record Blank” firearms. One must rely on personal physical expertise to determine the degree of originality with these firearms.