

**THE RECORDS OFFICE WILL BE OPEN
THE FOLLOWING SATURDAYS IN 2008**

May 17 Colorado Gun Collector's Association
Annual
Gun Show, *Denver, Colorado**
June 13-15 The Winchester Club of America Show,
*Cody, Wyoming**
June 20-22 Winchester Arms Collectors Association
Annual Show, *Cody, Wyoming**
July 26 Missouri Valley Arms Collector's Association
Annual Show, *Kansas City, Missouri*
September 20 Dallas Arms Collectors, *Dallas, Texas*
October 4 WACA Annual Eastern Show,
Springfield, Massachusetts
November 8 Wannemacher's Tulsa Arms Show,
Tulsa, Oklahoma
November 15 WACA Annual West Coast Show,
Reno, Nevada

ANYONE calling from these shows will receive free
serial number searches and \$25 discounts
on memberships (new or renew).
**CFM will have a table at this show*

Factory Letter Pricelist Changes

On January 1, 2008 the Records Office enacted
a new pricelist.

LETTERS

Winchester Lever Action and Marlin \$60
Members \$35
Model 21 and L.C. Smith \$75
Members \$50
Model 21 (with build sheet information) \$100
Members \$75*

LETTER PACKAGES

Member 5-Letter package \$150
Member 10-Letter package \$250
Additional research \$50/hour (*one hour minimum*)
**Build sheet information will be unavailable during the
new digitization project. We hope to have them available
again by June. Call for updates.*



CODY FIREARMS RECORD

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HELLO AGAIN FROM CODY!

By David Kennedy

As I write this, I am preparing to head to Las Vegas for
the Antique Arms Show. There is some excitement about
this show for a few reasons.

Number one: I'm not paying for it. As you can guess,
being a non-profit institution means there is a limited
budget. Accordingly, our travel opportunities are very
limited, and I wasn't certain if we would be able to have
a presence at the Vegas show. Then Wally Beinfeld
offered us a free table in the Sporting Arms Room, and I
saw that Jesi hadn't spent much on her trip to Reno a
couple months back. This meant there was money left
over from the 2007 gift from the Winchester Arms
Collectors Association, giving me the budget leeway to
attend the show at the Riviera. (If you are interested in
getting us to a show, give me a holler!)

Another reason for our excitement is that we—well,
I—will be unveiling our new tabletop display. As a result
of another donation to the firearms museum, we pur-
chased a new, collapsible display. It fits on a show table
and allows us to design a backdrop that is much more
impressive than the gray wall you may have seen at shows
in the past. If you missed it, picture a six-foot-long
excerpt from the 1886 records superimposed with infor-
mation and images from the museum.

Finally, we are excited that 2008 may be just as busy for
us as 2007, which to date, was our busiest year. The
Records Office processed more than 3,000 letters and
8,000 serial number searches. This means the office
looked at an average of forty-four gun records each work-
day and produced letters on twelve of them. I know there
were more than a few cases when Jesi and Connie nearly
broke our mailman's back with a hundred or more letters
going out of the office. (I will not tell him how many
members of the Cody Firearms Museum bought letter
packs in advance of the 2008 price increase.)

We are not the only ones who should be excited,
though. One of your fellow members very generously
donated funds to allow us to add a large volume of
Winchester records to those records already digitized.
These records will likely include Model 21 order slips,

the Polishing Room Books, and the Nick Kusmit
engraving records. This project will place a digital image
of these records on the same computer used in the
Records Office, saving the time it takes to go to the
McCracken Research Library Archives and find the
necessary information.

Collectors of the Model 21 order slips are already able
to have order slip information on their letter for a sur-
charge. The Polishing Room Book information will
eventually be included on every search and factory let-
ter, possibly allowing us to introduce a discount letter
with the polishing room date for some of the
Winchesters not represented in the Shipping Records,
including Model 12s (to 1963), Model 94s (to 1945),
and Model 97s (to 1957).

The Kusmit records include information on the guns
engraved by Nick Kusmit at Winchester during the
1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. You may be familiar with them
from Dave Riffle's book on the Model 12 shotgun. These
records include information on engraved Model 12,
Model 42, and Model 21 shotguns from that period.
There are even a few rifles thrown in, if memory serves. I
hope these records will be available for letter use by this
fall. I am certain there will be an update in the next
Cody Firearms Record.

And, in case you were interested, there will be a next
Cody Firearms Record. Jesi, Connie, and I—and Jan and
Kristin in Membership—received many kind emails
and phone calls commending us on this publication.
We are here to serve and we hope you continue to like
what you see.

If we don't see you at the Denver Show (we hope to be
there in person), then we will see you here in Cody in
June for the The Winchester Club of America (WCA)
show June 13-15 or the Winchester Arms Collectors
Association (WACA) show June 20-22—both at the
Riley Arena. And, yes, the WCA show did change their
date and location. They are moving from Cody High
School to the Riley Arena (up on the hill), and they are
now a week ahead of the WACA show, not a week after
as in the past. Mark your calendars.

Thank you again for your continuing support of our
activities. You are why we are here!

Stay safe and we will see you in Cody! ■



BUFFALO BILL HISTORICAL CENTER

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Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Buffalo Bill
Historical Center

From the Library

For many of you, June is the perfect time to visit Cody: enjoy the Winchester Arms Collector Association Annual Cody show, attend the Winchester Club of America 2008 Show, and conduct personal research into your favorite firearms topic via the resources in the Cody Firearms Museum Records Office and the archival material at McCracken Research Library.

The library houses original material regarding Winchester; Schuyler, Hartley & Graham; L.C. Smith; copies of the Nicholas Kusmit Engraving records; firearms catalogs, manuals, repair books, clippings of advertisements, research collections, and a variety of relevant periodicals. Also available via microfilm are copies of many Winchester serial ledgers. All of the materials are non-circulating and may only be accessed within the library.

If you are interested in visiting the library to conduct research, you must make an appointment in advance. Please keep in mind that June is a busy time, and if you are interested in visiting the library please call and make an appointment early. Arrangements may be made by contacting Mary Robinson, Librarian at hmrl@bbhc.org 307.578.4063. ■

SPENDING RESEARCH TIME IN THE RECORDS OFFICE

By Jesi Bennett

We are already anticipating seeing many old friends in June during the weeks of the gun shows. Some of you have spent the days between the shows pouring over the records in the Records Office and McCracken Research Library.

The 2008 June shows fall during an extremely busy time at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, so we must carefully schedule researchers during this time. We welcome folks to do their research in the Records Office with advanced appointments. I will be scheduling researchers in one-hour increments during specific hours of the workday. Contact me as soon as possible to schedule your research time at cfmrecords@bbhc.org or 307.578.4031. ■

PASSINGS OF NOTE

As mentioned elsewhere in this issue of the *Record*, I was a bit premature in my mention of the late Russell Dutcher. Unfortunately, there are a couple of folks, friends of the institution both, who have recently passed away.

Frank Sellers, collector, author, and firearms expert, passed away on January 31, 2008. I only met him a few times, but I enjoyed talking with him and picking his brain for information. It was readily apparent that he was one of the small group of folks out there about whom you could truthfully say, "he forgot more than most of us will ever know."

Frank's positions as a Firearms Specialist at Rock Island Auction Company (RIA) and as the President of the Winchester Club of America (WCA) came to benefit the museum in 2004. While performing work at RIA, he saw an IBM time clock in an upcoming auction. This particular time clock had been used at the Winchester Ammunition Factory during World War II. In his position at RIA, he was able to take a first-hand look at the time clock and he knew it should come to Cody. The offer of this time clock as a gift from the WCA was made through his wife, Karen. The sale went through and the time clock shortly arrived in Cody. This time clock is currently exhibited in our firearms factory exhibit area.

The other loss, on the 25th of February, was James Minter, of Cody, Wyoming. Jim was a Trustee of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center (BBHC) and a member of the Buffalo Bill Museum Advisory Board. He is one of the small number of people we can thank for the Winchester Collection being in Cody. The relationship between the BBHC and Winchester started in 1967 at a business lunch in New York City. This meeting led to much interaction between Olin Corporation and the historical center resulting in the development of the Buffalo Bill Commemorative Model 1894 and, later, in the loan of the Winchester Collection to the center in 1976.

This collection became the core of the most comprehensive collection of American arms in the world. With the gift of the collection in 1988, the need to create a museum to exhibit the collection was apparent. Jim was appointed as the chairman of the fundraising campaign to build the expansion of the center's structure. By the time the Cody Firearms Museum opened in 1991, more than \$8 million had been raised. I think that we can safely call that a success.

To the families of Frank and Jim, we will miss them and we are sorry for your loss. ■

A Membership Minute

By Jan Jones

Okay, okay . . . I can read between the lines. Cody Firearms Museum (CFM) Members join our membership program primarily for the firearms services benefits. And why not? It makes good sense.

Only firearms museum members can request serial number searches on individual firearms from Winchester, L.C. Smith, and Marlin. Within hours our "Gun Gals," Connie and Jesi, provide you with valuable information on your firearms. You also receive substantial discounts when you purchase factory letters. And you can receive even greater savings when purchasing a factory letter package, created exclusively for CFM members.

True, the firearms benefits are tremendous, but are you aware of the other valuable benefits that come with your Cody Firearms Museum Membership?

Magazines & Newsletters

Our quarterly membership publication *Points West* enriches your understanding of our great American West. The articles and photographs cover a broad range of subjects (guns included!) related to our vast collections, exhibitions, and programs. And of course, our new *Cody Firearms Record* provides tidbits of firearms information sure to be of interest to you.

Discounts

Members receive a 15 percent discount on online purchases (www.bbhc.org) and in our museum store,

Museum Selections. Members also receive discounts on educational tours and programs.

Free admission

All Cody Firearms Museum Members receive admission not only to the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, but also the nine other museums of the Museums West Consortium.* And when you visit the historical center (Remember the two Winchester gun shows in Cody every June!), your family, as well as two guests, can accompany you every time you visit.

Special invites

You are invited to a multitude of special events created exclusively for our members: dinners, dances, trips, and exhibition previews . . . to name a few.

These membership benefits are one of the historical center's ways of saying thanks for your vital contributions. Our members are very important to us, and we truly appreciate your financial support and participation. Thank you!

*Museums West Consortium members include: National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson, Wyoming; Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth, Texas; Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art in Indianapolis, Indiana; Autry National Center in Los Angeles, California; Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma; National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Rockwell Museum of Western Art in Corning, New York; and newly joined Booth Western Art Museum in Cartersville, Georgia, and Denver Art Museum's Petrie Institute of Western Art in Denver, Colorado. ■

VISIT CODY

As you contemplate travelling to Cody in June, we would like to encourage you all to take a few hours, or days, to enjoy the Buffalo Bill Historical Center while in town. Remember, membership to the Cody Firearms Museum is more than just an opportunity for firearms information. Your membership also includes admission to the historical center as well discounts in Museum Selections, our unique museum store.

Correction: In the previous issue the article *Greetings from Cody* mistakenly reported the demise of collector Russell Dutcher. We gladly retract that comment. Mr. Dutcher is alive and well.

Contact Us Monday to Friday 8 to 5

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