

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 2009 Show, and conduct personal research into your favorite firearms topic via the resources in the CFM Records office and the archival material at the McCracken Research Library.

The library houses original material from firearms companies such as Winchester, Schuyler, Hartley & Graham, and 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 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. Because of demand, researchers will be scheduled in four-hour time slots. Appointments may be made by contacting Librarian Mary Robinson via email at hmrl@bbhc.org or 307.578.4063. ■

Contact Us Monday to Friday 8 to 5

RECORDS SPECIALIST **Jesi Bennett**
cfmrecords@bbhc.org • 307.578.4031

ASST. RECORDS SPECIALIST **Connie Schuster**
conniem@bbhc.org • 307.578.4109

CFM CURATOR **David Kennedy**
davidk@bbhc.org • 307.578.4117

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR **Jan Jones**
membership@bbhc.org • 307.578.4032

MCCRACKEN RESEARCH LIBRARY
hmrl@bbhc.org • 307.578.4063

Page 4



BUFFALO BILL HISTORICAL CENTER

Cody Firearms Museum
720 Sheridan Avenue
Cody, Wyoming 82414
www.bbhc.org

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CODY FIREARMS RECORD

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CURATORIAL REVIEW

By David Kennedy

As winter comes to an end, we look toward the upcoming summer and all that comes with it: tourists, bad parking, hot weather, and the Winchester shows. At least we can look forward to the shows.

Despite worries about the economy and the specter of \$4.50 a gallon for gas, it seems there is lots of interest in the collector's market. We processed a large number of records checks at Wally Beinfeld's Antique Arms Show and the Louisville show, and it sounds like there will be similar interest at the upcoming shows—Tulsa, Denver, and the two Cody shows. Jesi and I also look forward to our table at the Denver show; feel free to stop by and say, "Hello!"

As many of you may remember, we had a survey tucked into the last issue of the *Record*. When the survey results started trickling in, it became obvious that those folks who were interested in internet activity were very interested, and those who were not, were not—no real middle ground there. Jan Jones details the survey results in her column on membership, but we did identify the need to expand our use of technology in communicating with you, the members, donors, and lenders. Our first step in this area was to start a blog about the Cody Firearms Museum. You can get to it by clicking on the link at our webpage, or you can type <http://codyfirearmsmuseumblog.wordpress.com> into your browser. As we go forward, we will likely expand our offerings in several areas.

I keep saying "we", but I need to let the membership of the museum know that I will soon not be part of the equation. In case you have not heard, I have accepted a position as Curator at the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center in Enid, Oklahoma. My last day in Cody will be May 1. I will miss working at the historical

Planning to do research in the Records Office in June? There are a limited number of time slots available on a first come, first served basis. Call to schedule your research time today. 307.578.4031

center and working with the staff and membership, but I have found myself looking to other opportunities within the museum field. I will continue to support the museum in what they do. The staff is the best and I am sure they will continue to take care of you.

One last, unfortunate item to mention is the passing of John R. Woods. His interests ranged from boat racing to large model trains to genealogy, but his primary interest was firearms. John was a founding member of both the Winchester Club of America and the Winchester Museum Advisory Board, currently the Cody Firearms Museum Advisory Board. At the time of his passing, John was a member of the NRA Collector's Committee and had just been named as a Trustee of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center. He was a driving force on our advisory board and was always looking for ways to improve our collection and operations. He will be missed. ■

Cody Firearms Museum Records Office Fee Schedule

(effective October 1, 2009)

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

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

Winchester Lever Action and Marlin letters
CFM members \$35 CORR members \$50
Non-Members \$60

Model 21 and L.C. Smith letters
CFM members \$50 CORR members \$65
Non-Members \$75

Model 21 letter with Order Sheet Information
CFM members \$75 CORR members \$90
Non-Members \$100

CFM Member 5-Letter package: \$150
Order Sheet information an additional \$25 per letter unless information was previously purchased by same customer

CFM Member 10-Letter package: \$250
Order Sheet information an additional \$25 per letter unless information was previously purchased by same customer

By Jesi Bennett

Many of you have received factory record information on your 1890–1912 L.C. Smith shotguns from the Cody Firearms Museum Records Office. Almost half of these records include what the Records Office has long referred to as an “inspector’s code.”

For years, the staff of the Records Office used a list of these codes from one of the assembly room ledgers dating 1899–1902. This list was derived from a photocopy of either a microfiche image, or the original. This list was partially illegible, but interpretations were made nevertheless. In spring 2007, while working with the ledger books in the archives, I located that original list and was able to make a much clearer copy and clarify a

NEW ONLINE ACCESS, NEW FINDING GUIDES, AND A WONDERFUL NEW COLLECTION!

The McCracken Research Library is pleased to announce a new digital archive coming soon to the library Web site. *Guns of Record* will join with the photographic and Buffalo Bill collections to offer digital content to our online visitors and researchers. The archive will incorporate a number of firearms collections and grow as we add digitized firearms materials.

The first archival collection to be available in *Guns of Record* is MS 111, the Roy Marcot Collection of Firearms Advertisements, a selection of over 6,600 clippings of gun advertisements published in magazines and newspapers from 1895–1958. Every effort has been made in cataloging the material to note unique aspects about the advertisement, as well as to provide search options for gun model type and manufacturer. An accompanying finding guide in PDF format will be available later this year.

In our continued effort to expand access to firearms collections, three new or updated firearms-related finding guides are now available in PDF format:

MS 44: Firearms Repair Manuals & Parts Catalogs

This collection includes repair manuals, parts catalogs,

number of the names and codes. We announced in the first issue of this newsletter that we would begin using the new list as of July 1, 2007.

Perhaps no one noticed, but we have not listed a name with the inspector codes on L.C. Smith letters for some time now. We came to this decision after another foray into the archives. I was spending some down time with the assembly books looking for “graffiti” (perhaps another article) when I came across two additional inspector lists. David and I decided to forgo reporting inspector names until we had time to compare the lists and draw conclusions. For the time being, we will continue to only report inspector codes.

In the interest of space we are not publishing the lists in this issue of the *Record*. Contact me at 307.578.4031 to request a copy. ■

price lists and printed material for various 20th century firearms companies, including Browning, Colt, H& D Folsom, Iver Johnson, Ithaca, Marlin, Parker, Remington, Smith & Wesson, Ruger, and Winchester. Material dates from 1931–1981. The collection was a gift from Leigh F. Coffin in 1994.

MS 140: Firearms Catalogs & Fliers Collection

This collection includes dealer and sales catalogs, ammunition catalogs and various fliers for Winchester, Ithaca, and Classic Doubles International firearms and ammunition. Material dates from 1966–1993. The collection was also a gift from Leigh F. Coffin in 1994.

MS 162: Winchester & Marlin Firearms Catalogs and Literature Collection

This collection includes Winchester catalogs from 1960–1999; Winchester price lists that begin in 1933 and end in 1991, but are not complete. Marlin price lists consist of the years 1946, 1953, 1961, and 1982; Marlin catalogs include 1960, 1962–1999, and a parts catalog. The collection was a gift of James S. Rhodebeck in 1999.

For more information email hmlr@bbhc.org or call Librarian Mary Robinson at 307.578.4063. ■

Looking for images?

Information about obtaining images of collection materials for reference or commercial use is now available at www.bbhc.org/photoservices/photoServices_01.cfm. Here you will find new forms and fee schedules for 2009, copyright information, and a contact link. If you do not know the accession number of the item for which you are

looking, make sure to contact the firearms museum before emailing your request. Please keep in mind when planning any publications that requests take about four weeks and may take longer if new photography is needed.

Thank you and we look forward to assisting you with your image requests. ■

Rights & Reproductions Office

A MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

By Jan Jones

Last fall, we surveyed our Cody Firearms Museum members, asking you to weigh in on several topics pertaining to membership and our firearms records services. Thanks to all 138 of you who responded. Your input is invaluable to us as we analyze our programs and think about future activities here at the historical center. Congratulations to Jerry Kitto, John Harris, and J.C. Powers. Because they participated in our survey, their names were automatically entered in a drawing—and pulled out of a cowboy hat—for a free factory letter.

The survey results were enlightening in many ways. I’ll try not to bore you with too many statistics, but I do think you’ll be interested in some of the findings. The first section dealt specifically with our Firearms Records Office. It appears our Gun Gals Connie and Jesi scored a bulls-eye! There were five questions in the survey that related to our firearms records services: telephone availability, days of operation, turnaround time of serial number searches and factory letters, and quality of information provided. Survey results showed that our members are satisfied, moderately satisfied, or very satisfied in all five areas at least 97 percent of the time.

The second section of the survey dealt with membership benefits. By far, the membership benefit deemed most important by our CFM Members is the serial number searches. Results showed that 100 percent of you rated this benefit as important, moderately important, or very important. Other membership benefits scoring high were factory letter discounts, free admission to the historical center, and the *Cody Firearms Record*. At least 92 percent of survey respondents rated these benefits as important to very important. Membership benefits receiving the lowest ratings were online access to our museum store and IRS tax benefits. Respectively, 78 percent and 74 percent of those completing the survey rated these two benefits as important to very important.

The survey’s last section focused on online activity of our CFM Members. Here we learned that just 33 percent of you are moderately interested or very interested in receiving Points West online. However, 48 percent of you are moderately or very interested in reading a digital version of the *Record*. Further, 34 percent of respondents are interested in participating in a Cody Firearms Museum blog, and 45 percent are interested in helping to create a CFM online encyclopedia. Finally, it appears

that many of our CFM Members now explore the information superhighway. Forty-five percent of you reported that you spend five or more hours online per week for your personal needs. Thirty-three percent of you spend ten hours or more weekly surfing the net, while 16 percent of you told us you spend zero time online.

Thanks again to all who took the time to complete our survey. As we continue to study this data, I’ll keep you informed on changes and implementation of new programs concerning CFM Membership. If you would like more detailed information on the survey results, just let me know and I would be happy to send them to you. In future columns of the *Record*, I’ll respond to some of your comments and suggestions offered in the survey.

And finally, thanks to all of you for supporting the historical center through the membership program. If any of your summer travels take you to Cody, stop in and see me in the membership office. There’s always a pot of coffee brewing, and I’d welcome the opportunity to discuss CFM membership with you. ■

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

THE RECORDS OFFICE WILL BE OPEN THE FOLLOWING WEEKENDS IN 2009

Saturdays—all day.

Sundays—mornings only. Call for hours.

- May 16–17 Colorado Gun Collector’s Assoc. Annual Gun Show, Denver, Colorado*
- June 12–14 Winchester Club of America Show
Cody, Wyoming*
- June 19–21 Winchester Arms Collectors Assoc. Show,
Cody, Wyoming*
- July 25 Missouri Valley Arms Collector’s Assoc. Annual Show, Kansas City, Missouri
- August 15 Big Reno Show, Reno, Nevada
- September 26 Dallas Arms Collectors Show, Dallas, Texas
- October WACA Annual Eastern Show,
Springfield, Massachusetts
- November 14–15 Wanenmacher’s Tulsa Arms Show,
Tulsa, Oklahoma
- November 14–15 Big Reno Show/ WACA Annual West Coast Show, Reno, Nevada
- December 12 National Gun Day, Louisville, Kentucky

**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 if you would like to help the CFM Records Office attend one of these shows.