

## WHAT IN THE WORLD

—By Jesi Bennett, Records Specialist—

I am back this issue with another conundrum. What would your reaction be if you got a letter that stated “Barrel Type: 15 Octagon”?

I recently stumbled across a number of Winchester 1894s with odd barrel designations between serial number 319000 and 327999. To date I have found twelve rifles recorded as “3 Oct,” “10 Oct,” “11 Oct,” “12 Oct,” “15 Oct,” and “18 Oct.” All but one of those 1894s were checked into the warehouse on November

10, 1906 and all appear to have been written by the same individual. We have also found one 1886 with the “3 Oct” designation.

We also have at least three 1873 barrels recorded as “L Oct” or possibly “2 Oct.” Could these “L Oct” possibly be “Light Octagon”?

All of us here at the CFM and even a few of you have taken part in the discussion of these barrel designations. We have thrown about theories of barrel lengths, weights, etc. but none seem to be a clear answer. If you would like to weigh in on this discussion, please call, e-mail, or write me a note. ■

## Contact Us Monday to Friday 8 to 5

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### BUFFALO BILL HISTORICAL CENTER

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# CODY FIREARMS RECORD

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## ON TARGET!

AT THE CODY FIREARMS MUSEUM

—By Warren Newman, Curator—

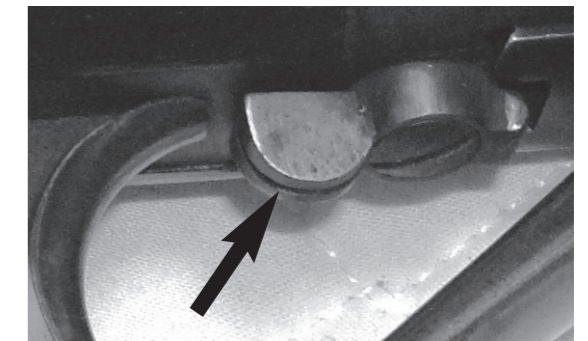
It is often said of speakers on special occasions that they “need no introduction”, since they are already well known. I feel, now in my 15<sup>th</sup> year at the Cody Firearms Museum, that I really need no introduction, particularly to so many of you whom I have met here, and in the “gun world”, across the years. So I will get down to business right away and bring you up to date on recent activity at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center.

The predominant priority at the CFM during the past several months has been the installation of the test case for an expanded firearms display system. Through the generosity of a Gretchen Swanson Family Foundation Grant this experimental case, built by stabaArte, Inc. in Germany, was mounted in the downstairs Study Gallery, modified in several ways for our purposes, and then had one sliding rack of eight long guns and a drawer of nine handguns placed in it. These guns were replicas from the Dr. Kurt Bucholz Educational Firearms Collection. Since these guns can be handled by visitors during presentations by firearms curators, education staff, docents, and other selected presenters, it was preferable to try out the new display system with them before using historic firearms from the collections. A great deal was learned from the replicas about mounting the guns properly and none of them were damaged in any way. Based on the lessons learned from the experiment, the project was deemed worth pursuing.

Another wonderful grant from the Swanson Foundation, enhanced by a supplemental gift from Steve and Dulcie Schalk of Saratoga, Wyoming, enabled us to do just that, and Phase Two of the CFM Expanded Firearms Display System came into being. Historic handguns for the drawers of the test case have already been selected, laid out in eye-catching patterns, and mounts for them are being made. Long guns from our collection are now being selected, and the order of a second case is being finalized.

Why are we going through all this time, effort, and expense? That’s a very good question. The answer is that we are essentially out of both display and vault space. Our current collection of more than 7,000 firearms, and another more than 3,000 firearms-related accessories and accoutrements, has us, quite literally, bursting at the seams. If we are to continue to move toward becoming one of the foremost firearms museums in the world, we must be able to accept and acquire important items and collections that we do not presently hold, and even to house another major collection should it be deemed appropriate to do so. The CFM is already one of the finest firearms museum in the world, but if we are forced to stop growing in both quantity and quality we will, inadvertently, begin to go backwards. If we can remain dynamic, we will flourish; if we become static, we will deteriorate.

In our current traditional displays, we can put out eighteen to twenty guns in a nine linear foot space. In one contemporary display case, we can put out 180 to 200 guns in the same space. In addition, we can view both sides of the guns, as opposed to only one side in our traditional cases; nobody has ever tried this before. There will undoubtedly be problems to be solved in pursuing this unprecedented vision—and it might not succeed totally—but I am very proud of the CFM and the historical center for having the vision and the courage to give it a try! It’s a long-range target on which we are attempting to get a good sight picture. I have every confidence that, when the round arrives down range, we will be precisely **ON TARGET.** ■



### WHAT AM I?

I was born in 1865, and if you don’t want a repeat performance, I can be a real turnoff. (Answer on pg.2)

## FROM THE MCCrackEN RESEARCH LIBRARY.....

**Winchester Publications** In this issue of the *Record*, we call attention to little-known aspects of MS 20, the Winchester Repeating Arms Company collection in the McCracken Research Library here at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center. Our present focus is on special publications associated with the company. For more information on these or other Winchester documents, contact Head Librarian Mary Robinson at [maryr@bbhc.org](mailto:maryr@bbhc.org) or 307.578.4063.

The *Winchester Record* was a company organ published twice monthly by the personnel department for the employees of the Winchester Repeating Arms company. Beginning in August 1918, the *Record* ran for approximately two years and contained employee news, information on technical subjects and company history. It featured regular columns by employees and managers, photographs, cartoons, poetry, and illustrated covers typical of the period. The two bound volumes in the library collection contain thirty-seven issues of approximately ten pages each.

The *Winchester Herald* was the official organ of the National Association of Winchester Clubs. From the first issue in February 1920, the *Herald* offered support and information to salesmen in the field and promoted company spirit. During this period, Winchester expanded its manufacturing line to include sporting goods, fishing equipment, knives, skates, appliances, and tools.

The *Winchester Junior Rifle Corps News* was the publication of a national honorary organization encouraging marksmanship among American boys and girls. Beginning in 1918, the newsletter reported on the activities of local units—including the results of shooting matches—and on outstanding young medal winners. Humor, photographs, and advice from famous marksman Ad Topperwein were regular features of the WJRC news. The library holds issues through 1924.

*Winchester Life* began publication during World War II and continued into the 1950s as a monthly magazine “of the employees, by the employees, and for the employees of the Winchester Repeating Arms Company.” The library owns scattered issues of this magazine.

In the next issue of the *Record*, we will focus in more detail on the *Winchester Record* and the company's wartime expansion. ■

## ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE

—By Warren Newman, Curator—

For any readers who might not have been informed, the membership of the Cody Firearms Museum's Board of Advisors has undergone extensive changes. We have been greatly saddened by the loss of John R. Woods of St. Louis, Missouri; of Richard E. “Dick” Heckert of Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, and Meeteetse, Wyoming; and of Robert “Bob” Donner, Jr., of Colorado Springs, Colorado. Each of these distinguished business and professional leaders, who were also philanthropists, sportsmen, and firearms enthusiasts, brought us many years of outstanding leadership and unwavering commitment as loyal members of our Board of Advisors. We extend to their families and loved ones our deepest sympathy, as well as our sincere appreciation for supporting the incomparable service that each of these great friends of the Cody Firearms Museum brought to us. They—each and all—will always be an inspiration to us.

At the same time, we would like to welcome the newest members of our board. Paul Cali of Cody has been appointed by the Buffalo Bill Historical Center Board of Trustees as the new Chairman of our Board of Advisors. He has already proven himself a capable and insightful successor to J. Laurence “Larry” Sheerin, who served us so brilliantly for so many years and has now retired. The Trustees also appointed Dr. Gerald “Jerry” Asher of Wapiti, Wyoming; Henry H.R. Coe III of Cody; and James B. Taylor of Santa Fe, New Mexico. We look forward to becoming better acquainted and working with them more directly during our upcoming board meeting in June. ■

### OBTAINING IMAGES

The Image Rights & Reproductions Department at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center provides images for educational presentations, professional research, print and electronic publications, media projects, and personal use. All requests for images from the collections of the BBHC must go through this process regardless of the use.

The fee schedule, and forms related to Rights & Reproductions are available online at [www.bbhc.org/photoservices/photoServices\\_01.cfm](http://www.bbhc.org/photoservices/photoServices_01.cfm)

If you have any questions please contact Sean Campbell at [photosales@bbhc.org](mailto:photosales@bbhc.org) or at 307.587.2107.

## A MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

—By Jan Jones, Membership Manager—

I'd like to address the last of the questions that some of you asked in the survey we conducted last year. So, in case you are wondering too...

*It would be nice to be able to speak to staff at the Historical Center regarding items that have special features for which no factory information is available.*

As a matter of fact, the newly-appointed curator of the Cody Firearms Museum, Warren Newman, is on hand during regular business hours to speak with you on just about any firearms-related topic. Please be patient, however! Warren receives more than 5,000 inquiries each year, which makes him one busy chap, to be sure. Contact him at [warrenn@bbhc.org](mailto:warrenn@bbhc.org) or 307.578.4092.

*I'd like information on donating or bequeathing firearms books, firearms, collector cartridges, etc.* The Historical Center carefully considers all prospective donations to determine if the items fit our needs and our collection policy. If you have something in your collection you're considering donating, contact me, and I'll connect you with the appropriate staff member.

*Now and then a gun will pop up on Sunday. It would be nice to be able to request serial number searches on weekends.* We realize our firearms records service is important to you and at times, the timeliness of this information can be critical. But as all of you know, on just about any given weekend across the country, there's likely to be a gun show taking place! We wish we had enough staff available to offer firearms records services every weekend. With help from a few firearms members, we identified thirteen of the country's larger and more popular shows. For the past several years, we have been open on these weekends. To see the weekends that the Records Office will be open in 2010, see below. If you'd like to make a recommendation on covering other gun shows, please contact me by phone or e-mail. If enough of you suggest the same show, we'll consider adding it to our list. ■

### THE RECORDS OFFICE WILL BE OPEN THE FOLLOWING WEEKENDS IN 2010

April 10 *Wanemacher's Tulsa Arms Show*, Tulsa, OK  
April 17 *Big Reno Show*, Reno, NV  
May 15–16 *CGCA Annual Gun Show*, Denver, CO\*  
June 11–13 *WCA Show*, Cody, WY\*  
June 18–20 *WACA Show*, Cody, WY\*  
July 24 *MVACA Annual Show*, Kansas City, MO  
Aug. 14 *Big Reno Show*, Reno, NV

Oct. 9 *West Springfield/WACA Show*, MA  
Nov. 6 *Big Reno/WACA Annual West Coast Show*, NV  
Nov. 13 *Wanemacher's Tulsa Arms Show*, Tulsa, OK  
Dec. 11 *National Gun Day*, Louisville, KY  
\*Cody Firearms Museum will have a table at these shows. ANYONE calling from these shows will receive free serial number searches. Offer good only on dates and times above.

## Cody Firearms Museum Records Office Fee Schedule

(effective October 1, 2008)

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

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

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

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

Model 21 Order Sheet Information  
Order Sheet info an additional \$25 per letter or search unless info was previously purchased by same customer

CFM Member 5-Letter package: \$150\*

CFM Member 10-Letter package: \$250\*

\*Letter package letters expire if membership lapses or is dropped.

### ANSWER TO WHAT AM I?

I am a Stabler Cutoff device, and I was invented in 1865 to change the famous Spencer rifle or carbine from a repeating firearm to a single-shot firearm. If you would like more information on Spencer firearms, please consult *Spencer Repeating Firearms* by Roy M. Marcot, Northwood Heritage Press, Irvine, California (1983).

### JUNE RESEARCH SCHEDULING

A limited number of slots are available for research in the Records Office and McCracken Library during the June gun shows. Slots are filled on a first come, first served basis. Call to schedule your research time today. *Remember, your CFM membership is more than a research tool, it also includes admission to the historical center and discounts in the museum store.*