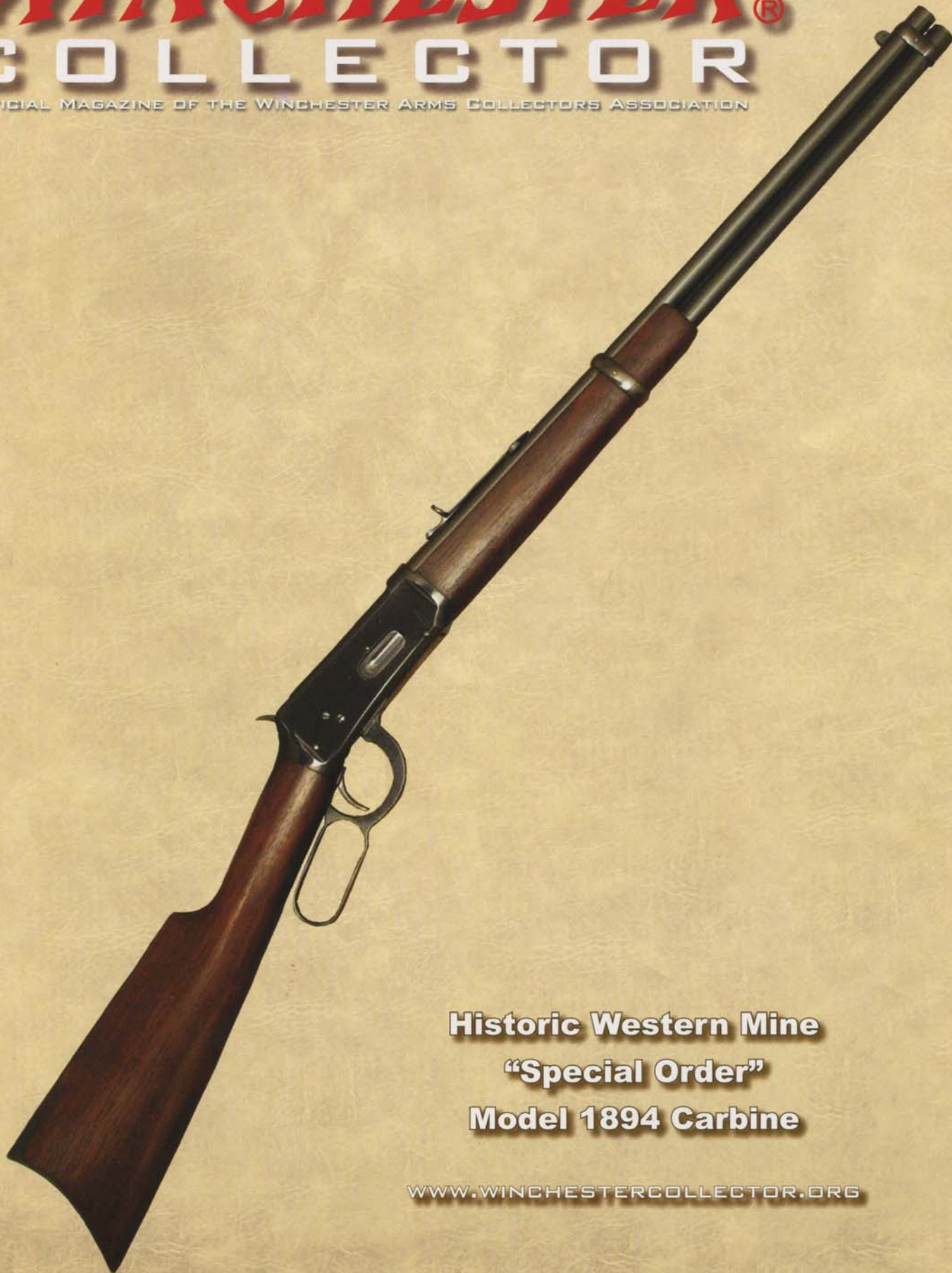


\$10.00

Summer 2011

THE  
**WINCHESTER**<sup>®</sup>  
COLLECTOR

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE WINCHESTER ARMS COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION



**Historic Western Mine  
"Special Order"  
Model 1894 Carbine**

[WWW.WINCHESTERCOLLECTOR.ORG](http://WWW.WINCHESTERCOLLECTOR.ORG)

# Historic Western Mine 1894 Carbine

*From the Rick Hill Collection; photos by Rob Kassab*



This story begins in Ray, Arizona. The town of Ray was constructed by the Arizona Hercules Copper Company on property belonging to the Hercules Townsite Company in about 1909. A man named Bullinger reportedly named the site after his daughter “Ray”. The Ray Mine has been extracting copper there since around 1880 with large-scale copper production beginning in 1911.

Eventually, the Ray Copper Company developed out of these beginnings, and then developed into Ray Consolidated Copper Company (RCCC). The Ray Copper mine is located in Pinal County in southern Arizona (elevation 2,123 feet) about 65 miles east of Phoenix and about equidistant from Tucson in a remote and sparsely populated portion of the state. This company transitioned to Ray Consolidated Copper Company (RCCC) with the acquisition of Globe Mines Exploration Company, Ltd. and Gila & Ray Copper Mines in 1898 and 1906 respectively. Today there is no Ray, Arizona as the town has been consumed by the open-pit mine.



Ray, Arizona mine; Teapot Mountain in background

In 1933, Kennecott acquired all the assets of the Ray Consolidated Copper Company. Amongst the assets acquired by Kennecott were 10 pristine Winchester Model 1894 special order carbines. These carbines had been purchased by RCCC circa 1916 for plant protection purposes. The specific justification for purchasing these carbines is unknown but speculation exists suggesting the mine owners were fearful that hostile union organizing efforts by the

International Workers of the World (the IWW or “Wobblies”) could shut down mine production. Sometime during the 1940’s, the General Manager of the Ray Mining Division of Kennecott, Mr. Thomas, determined there was no longer a need for these rifles so they were sold to company employees. Kennecott’s Mechanical Superintendent at the time was Arthur L. Dickerson who purchased two of the carbines and gave one to each of his sons in 1945. One of those carbines, serial no. 817342, survived in unfired condition from the time it was made until I was fortunate enough to acquire it earlier this year from Arthur’s son, Donald R. Dickerson. Special order features on serial no. 817342 include the lack of a sling ring & stud, a rifle buttplate and a “California” style full buckhorn rifle sight.



The Wobblies were a particularly strident group who campaigned against the Arizona copper mines for a 6-day work week of 6-hours per day and a wage of \$6.00 per hour. This was the same union that disrupted spruce production in Oregon and Washington during WWI and caused the Signal Corps to order 1,800 Winchester

carbines to arm troops protecting the Loyal Legion of Loggers and Lumbermen (L.L.L.L.) while they harvested spruce for airplane manufacturing. See: <http://www.winchestercollector.org/guns/w-mil.shtml>.

While the Wobblies had lost their first organizational fight with the copper mines at Jerome, AZ, they had made headway in their attacks upon the copper camps of Globe, Miami, Bisbee, Clifton and Morenci. Of all the major



copper camps, Ray remained untouched by the Wobblies due to its remote location and the foresightedness of the General Manager, Mr. Lewis S. Cates, the future President of the Phelps-Dodge Corp.

#### Winchester Factory S/N Application Letter



Lewis Cates was born to a distinguished New England family and educated at the famed Massachusetts Institute of Technology as a Mining Engineer. Casting his future in the western copper camps, his ability and



courage to tackle tough and difficult jobs was soon recognized by his employers. He climbed-up the ladder, rung by rung, until he became General Manager of the Ray Consolidated Copper Co. Cates, a cultured gentleman, was a natural mixer among all kinds--a firm and trustworthy friend to high and low alike and an unforgiving enemy.

The Ray mine held an isolated position in the rugged mountains of Pinal County. The mine was connected to the outside world by a railroad spur which was controlled by the company to its junction point with the Arizona Eastern Railway at Kelvin, Arizona, and a rarely used and almost impassible road connected the mine with Superior, Arizona, site of the Magma Copper Co. Anyone entering Ray was obliged to use the railroad or this single county road. A handful of Company Deputy Sheriffs could easily command the access and under Lewis Cates they did. No suspicious character or known labor agitator was permitted to enter the area and if they did, they were quickly picked up and with the help of Judge French, Justice of the Peace, were arrested as a vagrant or trespasser and

"floated out of town." Ray was an out and out, 100 percent, non-union community, and that meant all Unions. Cates well earned his sobriquet "The Czar of the Pinals." The Ray mine had no strikes.

For a colorful description of the Wobblies fight with Arizona copper mines see:  
<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/ops/bisbee-deportation.htm>

APRIL 2, 2011

RICHARD L. HILL  
2017 TURNSTONE ROAD  
REDMOND, OR 97756

DEAR RICK:

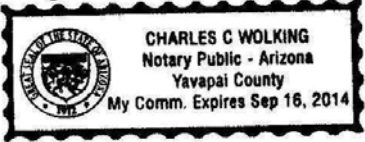
BELOW ARE THE DETAILS CONCERNING THE PROVENANCE OF WINCHESTER MODEL 1894 CARBINE, SERIAL NO. 817342, THAT I KNOW TO BE FACTUAL.

ACCORDING TO MADIS' "DATES OF MANUFACTURE", THE RIFLE WAS MANUFACTURED IN 1917. IT WAS ACQUIRED, ALONG WITH 9 OTHER WINCHESTERS, BY THE RAY CONSOLIDATED COPPER COMPANY IN RAY, ARIZONA FOR GUARD DUTY PURPOSES AT THE RAY MINE. THE PRECISE REASON FOR ACQUIRING THE RIFLES IS UNKNOWN; HOWEVER, THIS TIMING COINCIDES WITH A PERIOD OF INTENSE LABOR UNREST DUE TO ORGANIZATION EFFORTS BY THE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD (IWW) OR "WOBBLIES" AS THEY WERE CALLED. THERE WAS ALSO CONCERN THAT THE REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES ALONG THE MEXICO/U.S. BORDER BY PANCHO VILLA MIGHT AFFECT ARIZONA MINING OPERATIONS. THESE FEARS PROVED UNFOUNDED AND THE RIFLES REMAINED LOCKED IN THE MINE SAFE FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS.

THE RAY CONSOLIDATED COPPER COMPANY WAS ACQUIRED BY KENNECOTT IN 1933 AND THE TEN RIFLES WERE PART OF THE INVENTORY THAT KENNECOTT ACQUIRED. IN 1936 OUR FAMILY MOVED TO RAY WHERE MY FATHER BECAME THE MECHANICAL SUPERINTENDANT OF THE RAY MINES DIVISION OF KENNECOTT. I WAS 11 YEARS OLD AT THAT TIME AND LIVED IN RAY UNTIL JOINING THE U.S. MARINE CORPS IN JANUARY 1944. SOMETIME IN 1945 KENNECOTT DECLARED THESE RIFLES SURPLUS TO THEIR NEEDS AND SOLD THEM TO THEIR EMPLOYEES. MY FATHER, ARTHUR L. DICKERSON, BOUGHT TWO OF THE RIFLES AND GAVE ONE TO ME UPON MY DISCHARGE FROM THE MARINE CORP IN 1945. AT THAT TIME MY FATHER STATED THAT HE BELIEVED THAT THE RIFLES HAD NEVER BEEN FIRED BY THE MINING COMPANY AND THAT HE HAD NEVER USED THE GUN FOR ANY PURPOSE. I HAVE HAD THIS RIFLE, SERIAL NO. 817342, IN MY CONTINUOUS POSSESSION FOR OVER 65 YEARS AND HAVE NEVER USED OR FIRED THE GUN. MY FATHER GAVE THE OTHER RIFLE TO MY BROTHER. THE WHEREABOUTS OF MY BROTHER'S RIFLE IS UNKNOWN; HE USED IT FOR HUNTING AND SOLD IT AT SOME POINT TO AN UNKNOWN THIRD PARTY.

IT WAS MY DESIRE TO PASS THIS RIFLE DOWN TO MY CHILDREN AND GRAND CHILDREN BUT THEY HAVE NO INTEREST IN OWNING A FIREARM. THIS IS THE REASON THAT I AM NOW SELLING IT.

SINCERELY,  
*Donald R. Dickerson*  
DONALD R. DICKERSON  
4868 N. SPRING DRIVE  
PRESCOTT VALLEY, AZ 86314

*Charles C. Wolking*  


This article draws freely from "True Copy of the Notes of Hon. Thomas E. Campbell, former Governor of Arizona". Arizona Historical Society Library, MS 132, Campbell Family Papers, Folder 6. The notes were written between 1934 and 1939.

--Rick Hill