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Model 1894 Special Short Carbine Number 186261

A careful inspection has been made of this rare Winchester and I find it is all original or made by Winchester.

Winchester records show this serial number was assigned to the production line for the 1894 model in 1900.

The warehouse records, now at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming list this as a carbine in caliber .38-55, received in the Winchester warehouse on July 24, 1903 and shipped out on August 5, 1903 to order number 13768.

Twenty inch round barrels were stocked for 1894 carbines and were most popular. Very few customers ordered non-standard lengths, and the sixteen inch barrel of this carbine is very rare. In catalogs and sales brochures, Winchester offered, for a short time, special shorter carbines but these were listed in fourteen and fifteen inch lengths.

This sixteen inch length is very rare in the model 1894, and it is probable less than one hundred are in collections and museums.

Front sight posts of carbines in this serial series were forged integral with the barrel, and pinned to this post is a

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nickel-silver sight blade. The rear sight is a standard Carbine style sight with graduations from two to nine.

One of the most features of this Carbine is the caliber, which is .38-55. While this was an excellent cartridge, Winchester promoted the famous .30 W.C.F., or "30-30" and the .38-55 sold in very limited numbers.

This caliber is especially rare in a "baby" Carbine such as this.

All of the markings on this were Carbine are correct and original.

All magazines such as on this gun were standard, and saddle rings were always provided unless otherwise ordered. The saddle ring and its retaining stud are original; because of the sound of the ring striking the receiver many other saddle carbines have had the ring or stud removed.

Select straight grain walnut was used for stocks; this gun, and it remains in very good condition, showing use and some light handling marks but the stock and forend have not been abused.

Many of the special short carbines have seen a great deal of use, abuse and neglect. These short Winchesters were usually ordered by men who often used them very much and neglected them. After a gun was just considered as a tool, and few frontier homes

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or rather had cleaning equipment or gun
parts.

A good degree of the original finish
is seen on the steel and iron parts which
were blued or case hardened, and a light
patina of age is now forming on the metal
components.

Number 186261 has most of the
features eagerly sought by collectors; it
has rarity, condition and age of over
one hundred years. This Corbin is a
fine addition to any collection of rare
arms. It will be an outstanding gun
in any collection or museum.

George M. ...