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Model 1895 Delate Rifle Serial Number 31095

I have made a thorough inspection of this Winchester, inside and out, and find it is all original or made by Winchester.

Records show this serial number was assigned to the 1895 model in 1901.

On the warehouse records, now at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming

this is listed as a rifle in caliber .30 ~~clt~~ was received in the warehouse on October 14, 1901 and it was shipped out on October 15, 1901 to order number 116090.

On the barrel are the nickel steel markings and ".30 U.S.", which was the .30 U.S. Krag cartridge, one of the more popular cartridges in the model 1895.

Under the barrel are some partly legible marks, indicating the various inspectors, fitters and assemblers who worked on this gun.

In addition to these markings, we find "Δ" and "UP" as well as the letter "J".

Winchester's general inspection mark was a triangle with the letter "I" and "UP" signified "viewed - proved", showing the gun had been proof fired as well as visually inspected and passed. The letter "J" is the stamp of an assembler or fitter.

At the rear of the barrel, underneath,

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is another fitter or assembler letter, only partly visible, and also "NS", showing the barrel was made of nickel steel.

Under the found on the receiver is the letter "K", another stamp of a fitter or assembler.

The unusual number of markings under the barrel indicate a special gun.

Near the trigger on the receiver is the small letter "J", the mark of the fitter who adjusted the critical fitting of the hammer and trigger. A small letter "J" is also seen on the inside of the lever loop.

On this serial series assembly numbers were not usually applied to lower tongs. At the rear of the stock, under the buttplate is seen "95" and "11198". This is the model number and assembly number.

Markings under the buttplate such as this one found only on special guns such as number 31095.

Twenty-eight inch round barrels, as seen here, were standard for the .30 U.S. rifles.

Ramp front sight bases were forged on the barrel, and the sight blade is pinned to the base. We see a gold head front sight and a "sporting leaf" rear sight here.

This sight has serrated edges, and an adjustable sighting notch. The profile of the rear sight is the semi-buckhorn style,

and a "32-B" elevator was provided. This elevator is the early style with a groove at the front, rarely seen, and the patent date is stamped on the elevator "PAT. FEB. 5. 1901."

Deluxe grain "tiger-stripe" walnut was used for the stocks and forend of this rifle. The checkering is original to the gun and is in Winchester's early style "H", correct for a rifle in this serial range. A hard rubber shotgun style buttplate was provided.

Deluxe grain fancy walnut is a rarity on all early Winchester, and the original varnished finish remains in excellent condition.

In "The Winchester Books" I show a model 1895 engraved with a pattern very similar to the engraving on this receiver.

The original photograph reproduced in my books was made for Winchester at the time the gun was new, and the serial number, "76308", is written on the photo, which also includes the name of the engraver and other details. In the Winchester workhouse records there is no notation regarding the special features of number 76308, and this is also the case with number 31095, discussed here.

A close inspection of the engraving here shows it was also engraved by Stokes, and the pattern and scrolls closely match the gun shown in The Winchester Books. Since all engraving is hand work at Winchester in

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the earlier years, small variations will be seen, even when the pattern is the same. The bear on the right side of the receiver matches the bear in the old photo, as do the scrolls.

It is my opinion this gun was engraved by Stokes as a sample of less expensive engraving, as seen by the less coverage and lack of shading and backgrounds.

Stokes engraved and apparently designed unusual patterns and scrolls, and the engraving on number 31095 has many features characteristic of Stokes.

Engraved Model 1895 Winchester are very rare, and this is especially true of engraving by Stokes.

Much of the original blue remains on the barrel and some other parts. While this rare rifle shows age, it shows care in use and proper storage.

Now over one hundred years old, this is a rare gun with the original engraving, dark walnut and checking and overall excellent condition.

With its rarity and high collectors interest, number 31095 will be a welcome addition to any fine collection or museum.

Harry Wood