

April, 2025



## COLORADO GUN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

**Dear CGCA Members,**

### **A note from our President,**

Several of the anti-gun bills are now headed to the Governor's desk for signing. The one we are most interested in is the Gun Show Bill HB25-1238. Apparently, the whole reason for this Bill is because some anti-gun people went to a gun show and saw a standard capacity AR magazine for sale (by law we only allow 15 round magazines) and supposedly they saw a ghost gun for sale (I went to the same gun show, and I think they are mistaken) and they got angry.

The Governor could still veto it so please call and complain about this and the other gun bills. In essence the Gun Show Bill says that only licensed FFL dealers are allowed to be table vendors at gun shows. This means that a collector cannot get a table at a gun show unless they just have holsters or decoys or something on their table, possibly.

The bright spot for us though is that we were able to work with the authors of the Bill and get an exemption that says, "Collectors Shows are not Gun Shows." It wasn't the wording I had requested but it hopefully allows us to keep having our show in the future. Collectors' shows are only allowed to have antique and Curio and Relic firearms (greater than 50 years old) for sale, otherwise we turn into modern gun show. The majority of our table holders are not FFL holders. If a transfer requires a 4473-background check for someone that doesn't have a C&R or FFL license, we will have a designated Colorado dealer available to do that transfer.

At least now we have a way to make it work for our show after this year. We have worked very hard to fight the liberal anti-gun people in our legislature. They are probably well meaning, but misguided and uninformed.

It is a little premature to talk about all of this stuff now, but I wanted you to have a heads-up before you got to the show this year. My understanding is that this won't go into effect until January 1, 2026. All of this brings up a good point. We didn't know how good we had it at the Merchandise Mart years ago. Things were pretty easy then. Things are harder now but who knows, maybe this year will look like we had it easy compared to ten years from now.

I don't think any new legislation will affect us this year, so let's get together and enjoy a great show. There will be lots of great displays, and many table holders that we have been friends with for years. I firmly believe we will still be able to have our show next year, but I don't want to ever take anything for granted again. I love our Collectors show weekend so let's enjoy each other's fellowship, and party like it's 2025! If you don't have a table reserved yet, there are still a few left if you want to join the fun.

Thanks,  
Rick Wilson

**Our next meeting will be April 15, 2025** at the American Legion Post 1; 7:00PM.

Our program will be: Merwin Hulbert's Part 2 by Scott Anderson.

Thank you to Brent Brown for his presentation of the Unusual Items from his collection. We learned a lot about the Dickert Kentucky Rifle.

Thank you to Henry Platts for his article on L.W. Seecamp & CO.

If you have an article that you would like to share in our newsletter, please send it to Cindy.

We have received a new member application from Patrick Hodgson of Lubbock, TX. Patrick collects Smith & Wesson Revolvers – Early Hand Ejectors: 1896-1961.

**We need volunteers for our show. We cannot have this show without volunteer help. Please contact Scott Anderson if you can help with door security. Please let Scott know the days and hours that you can work. You can email Scott at [scottro@ecentral.com](mailto:scottro@ecentral.com) or text him at 303-903-1956. Please be sure to leave your cell #. Scott will have a meeting on Thursday, May 15 for the door and table volunteers at 1:00 PM. The doors will open at 2:00 PM for vendors.**

**OUR COLORADO GUN COLLECTORS SHOW IS  
MAY 17, AND MAY 18, 2025  
VIP DAY ON MAY 16, 2025.  
WE STILL HAVE TABLES AVAILABLE.  
ISLAND GROVE EVENT CENTER, GREELEY, CO  
PLEASE CONTACT OUR SHOW CHAIRMAN,  
DAVE WEDDLE 720-482-0167.**

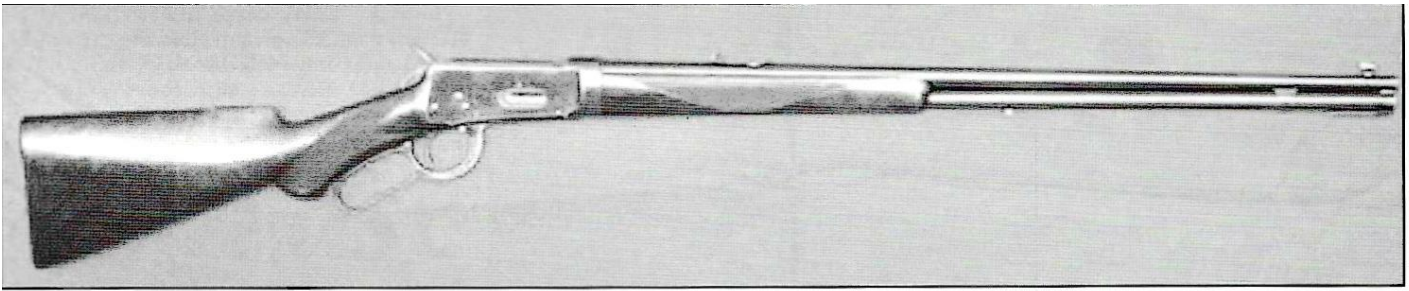
*Please visit our website at [www.CGCA.com](http://www.CGCA.com) for club news and updates.*

If you have questions, please contact:

Rick Wilson, President [President@cgca.com](mailto:President@cgca.com)

Cindy Jewell, Secretary/treasurer 303-750-5645; [sectreas@cgca.com](mailto:sectreas@cgca.com)

Dave Weddle, Show Chairman 720-482-0167 [CGCAShow@cgca.com](mailto:CGCAShow@cgca.com)



# 1894 “Extra Lightweight” Rifles

by Rick Wilson

One variation of the 1894 that is of particular interest to me is the “extra lightweight”. Being a hunter myself, I can appreciate the advantage of having all of the long-range capabilities of a rifle but in an easier to carry package. For the price of \$5.00 Winchester offered “extra lightweight “ barrels on the 1894 model, which resulted in a considerable weight savings. This amounted to savings of anywhere from four ounces up to a pound, depending on the other variables.

“Extra light” referred to the fact that the barrel had a more rapid taper toward the muzzle resulting in a skinnier and lighter barrel. These were offered in 38-55 caliber down to the 25-35 caliber and since have become known as “pencil barrels”. The standard length barrel in the rifle was twenty six inches but frequently these extra light rifles would have barrels of twenty-four or twenty-two inches, especially after the first few years of production, as the extra light was becoming more standardized. These shorter rifles would frequently have shorter magazines as well as shorter forearms. Round was the most common shape but there were also half octagon as well as full octagon “extra lightweight” barrels. Interestingly they would frequently have a shotgun butt as apposed to a rifle butt, possibly to handle quicker like an upland shotgun, but probably because the crescent steal rifle butt was heavier.

These so called pencil barrels also created a few engineering problems that had to be addressed as well. First of all the front sight had to be taller to account for the fact that it was starting

out lower to the bore so the same sight would not be interchangeable between the different barrel weights (there was also a light weight barrel). Next was the problem of securing the front sight. The standard rifle would have its front sight dovetailed into the barrel and this was also the case with the early extra lightweight rifles. It is quiet obvious that this dovetail cut out of the end of the extra lightweight barrels makes for a pretty thin spot in the barrel. Rather quickly this was phased out in favor of a short ramp that was

either brazed, welded on, or made integral with the barrel. This would also help with the height issue of the front sight. In some cases a different rear sight would be used to make up for the difference in height of the front sight.

In the example in my collection (serial number 36295), it is a very early example with a dovetailed front sight in thirty caliber. The barrel measures 0.5 inches in diameter at the muzzle and is noticeably smaller than the magazine tube. It also has a rare full length magazine since shortly afterwards it

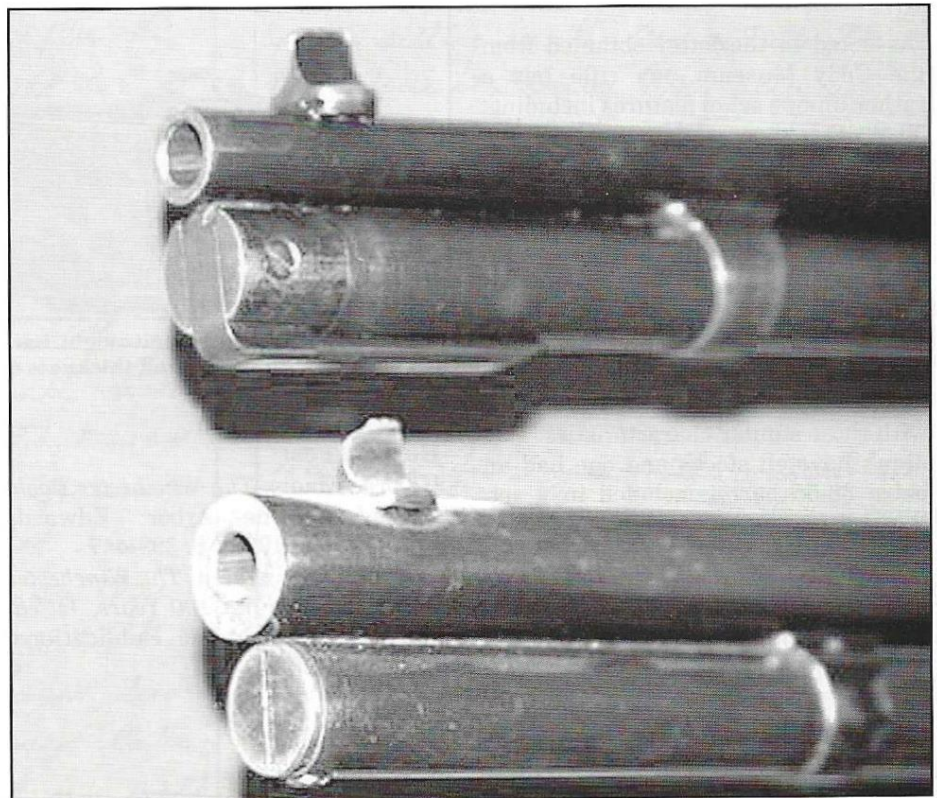


Photo 1. Extra lightweight 30 WCF barrel on top with standard weight 30 WCF barrel on bottom for comparison.

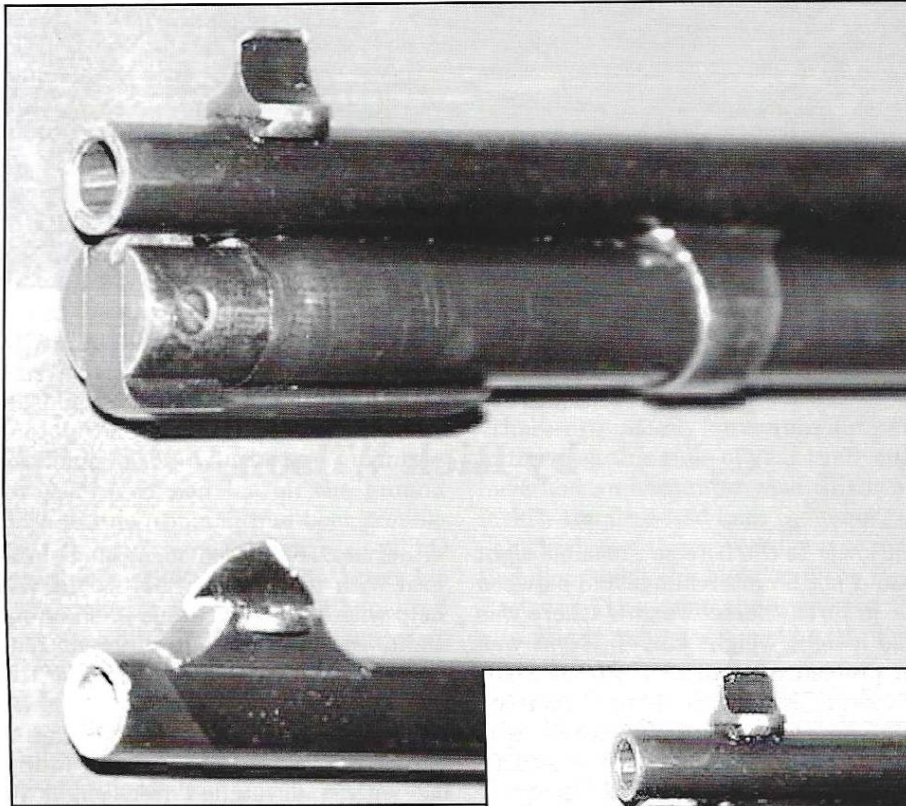


Photo 2. Early extra lightweight barrel (serial #36XXX) on top showing dovetailed front sight contrasted with extra light barrel (serial #48XXX) with short ramp sight brazed to barrel.

was apparent that a half or three quarter magazine would save even more weight. The forearm is also very slender since it is proportioned to the barrel.

As noted in the letter obtained from the Cody Museum, my rifle has a rather unique set of features including: 30 WCF caliber, matted round barrel, extra light, checkered stock with oil finish, takedown, and rubber shotgun butt. Since the Cody Museum offers to do research of their records for a reasonable charge, I thought I would see if I could document that my rifle was one of a kind. As I soon found out, there were seven other rifles out of the 353,999 records that are still available, with those similar characteristics. Two didn't have oil stocks and one had an extra 38-55 barrel included in a set. While it isn't the only one like it, it was the first produced, and one of eight is still pretty rare. The Octagon barrel Winchesters will probably always epitomize the Old West, but I can't help being impressed when I look at this sleek little marvel of one hundred year old engineering.

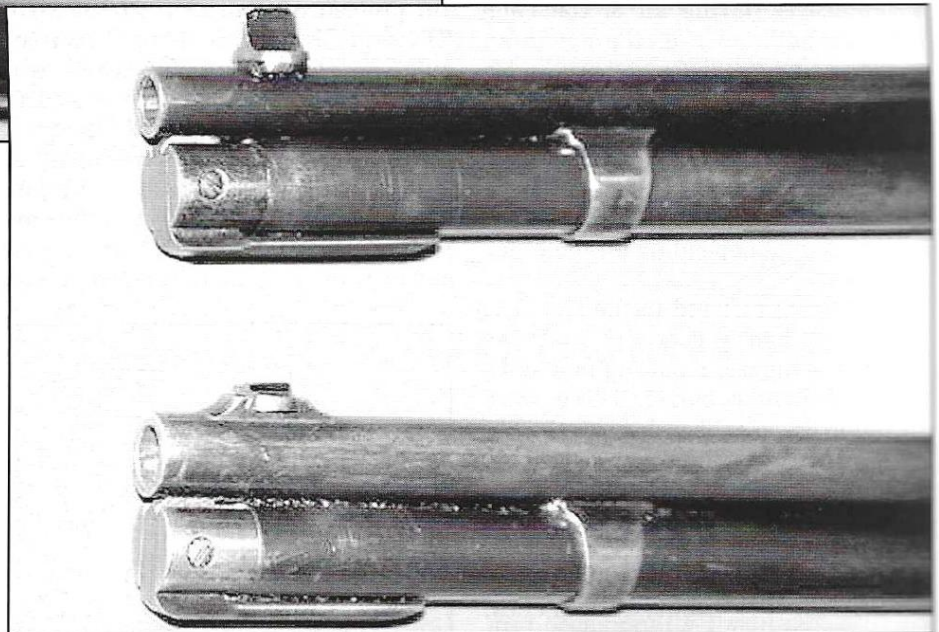


Photo 3. 30 WCF extra lightweight barrel contrasted with 38-55 extra lightweight barrel, both with barrel wall thickness of about 0.1 inches.

**References:**

<sup>1</sup>George Madis, *The Winchester Book, 8th ed.*, (Anne Arbor: Edwards Brothers Inc., 1985), p. 399-447.

<sup>2</sup>Robert C Renneberg, *The Winchester Model 94: The First 100 Years, 1st ed. revised*, (Iola: Krause Publications, 1991), p 51-56. ♦

