

Rifle

The Magazine for Shooters

May-June 1974

Number 33

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.33-308

Zero Group

Varmint Cartridges

Model 71 Winchester

Rifle

The Magazine for Shooters

"Only accurate rifles are interesting"

— Col. Townsend Whelen

Volume 6, Number 3
May-June 1974

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This Month's Cover

The handsome shortened Mauser on the cover started life as a military Model 98 and an assortment of scrap parts. Action-maker Fred Wells of Prescott, Arizona, shortened the receiver and bolt, ground the sides from the front ring and built up the square bridge by welding. Color transparency by Rick Jamison.

Last Month's Cover

Many readers noticed that the cover story was omitted from Rifle 32. The Model 71 Winchester was stocked by Hal Hartley of Lenoir, N.C. and engraved by Albin Obiltschnig, Ferlach, Austria.

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Editorial

Ammo Prohibition Authority Claimed

LAST FALL A READER sent us a tear sheet from an engineering magazine in which Consumer Products Safety Commission Chairman Richard O. Simpson was quoted as saying "bullets" could be banned under the consumer protection laws although firearms had been specifically exempted. We wrote Mr. Simpson asking how he could extend his authority so greatly when the will of Congress had been to exempt firearms, and presumably the ammunition which makes them work. After two months we received the following reply, printed in its entirety:

This letter is in response to your inquiry of October 25, 1973 addressed to Chairman Richard O. Simpson, concerning his remarks before the 4th Annual Product Liability Prevention Conference with regard to the Consumer Product Safety Commission's authority over ammunition.

Mr. Simpson stated during his talk that while firearms are exempted from the Commission's jurisdiction under the Consumer Product Safety Act, we could probably ban bullets (sic) under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act. The statement was intended to serve as an example in advising conference participants that persons should not overlook the Commission's authority based on the authorities the Commission possesses besides the Consumer Product Safety Act. Mr. Simpson further stated that the Commission recognizes both its direct and indirect authority and will use both with a great deal of discretion.

Firearms and ammunition are both exempted from the Commission's authority under the Consumer Product Safety Act [15 U.S.C. 2051] by provisions of section 3 [a] [1] [E] thereof.

However, section 30 [a] of that Act vested the Commission with authority to administer the Federal Hazardous Substances Act [15 U.S.C. 1261] which does have application to ammunition.

Varieties of ammunition are subject to classification as banned hazardous substances in accordance with sections 2 [f] [1] [A] [vi] and 2 [q] [1] [B] of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act. Section 2 [f] [1] [A] [vi] defines as a hazardous substance any substance or mixture of substances which generates pressure through decomposition, heat or other means [the definition is supplemented by 16CFR 1500.3 [c] [7] [i] [formerly 21CFR 191.1 [m]]. Section 2 [q] [1] [B] provides for the banning of hazardous substances when it has been determined that the degree or nature of the hazard involved is such that, notwithstanding cautionary labeling, the best interests of the public can be adequately served only by keeping the substance out of the channels of interstate commerce. To date, no ordinary ammunition has been determined to be a banned hazardous substance.

For your information, the only current regulation under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act pertaining to ammunition is 16CFR 1500.83 [a] [6] [formerly 21CFR 191.65 [a] [6] which exempts small arms ammunition from the general labeling requirements applicable to hazardous substances and requires that retail containers bear: [1] the common or usual name of the ammunition in the container; [2] the statement, "WARNING - Keep Out of the reach of children," or its practical equivalent; and [3] the name and place of business of the manufacturer, packer, seller, or distributor.

I trust that the above information is responsive to your questions. Should

you wish any further information, please let me know.

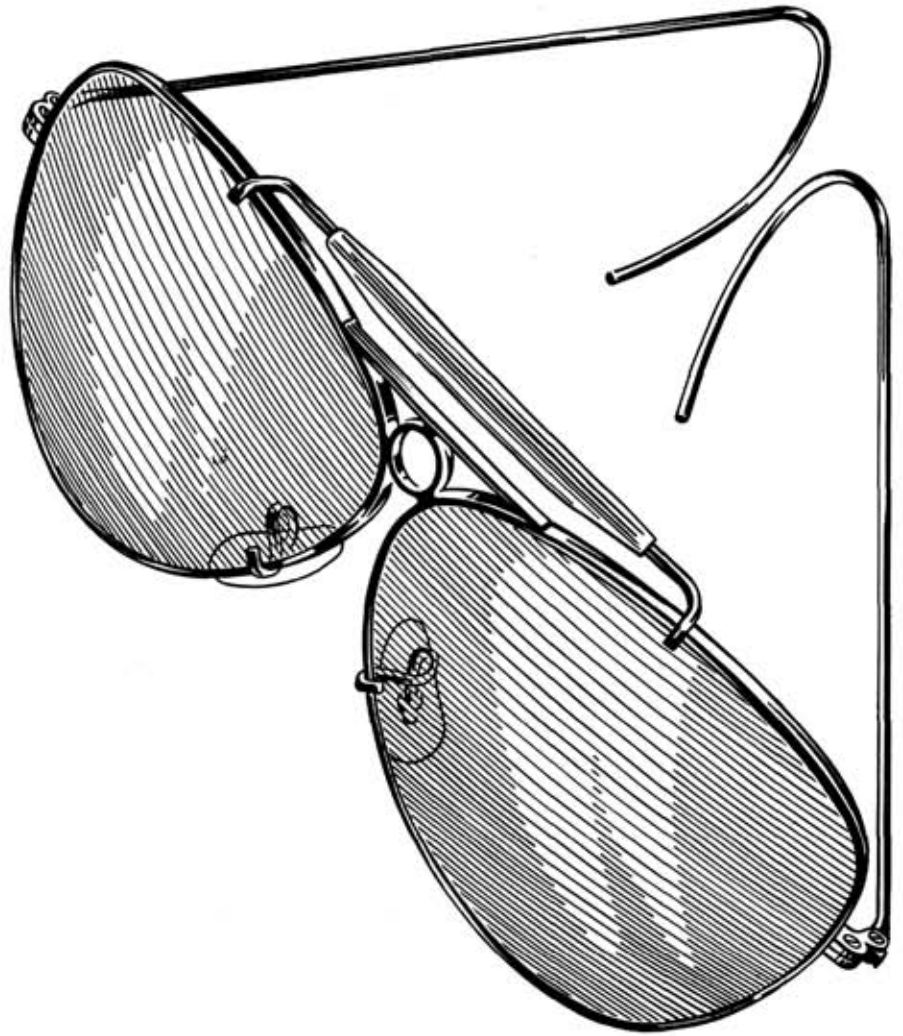
Michael A. Brown
General Counsel

The above letter says more than anything we might write about the hazards of paying too little attention to laws which do not mention guns by name — or too much attention to assurances that bureaucrats can be trusted to administer broad powers with common sense and discretion.

But if anyone needs any examples, consider the BATF (then ATTU) ban, in 1957, of shot revolvers, though there had never been a known case of one's being used in a crime. Or consider the BATF (by then, ATFD) supervisor who attempted to file charges against the City of Boston for possessing unregistered weapons with greater than .50 caliber bores, to wit the 16-inch guns on the city-owned de-commissioned battleship Massachusetts. (Honest, we didn't make that up; we even knew the agent.)

Or how about the Occupational Safety and Health Act enforcers who ordered that a business owned by and employing only a man and his wife install separate men's and women's rest rooms. Or the OSHA agent here in Arizona who ordered that the owner-operator of a one-man mining venture had to carry a two-way radio while working underground — although he had no one above ground to monitor the radio.

These incidents are so ridiculous they're funny, but they're also frightening. And when men like Mr. Simpson cite their authority to ban "bullets", even while assuring us that such authority will be used with "a great deal of discretion," we worry. And we wonder about the lawmakers who give them such powers, and the voters who sent them to Washington — Neal Knox



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See your target better with our famous Shooting Glasses. No matter what your light conditions are.

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May-June 1974

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OPTIMUM OPTICS — OPTIMUM RELIABILITY



MODEL 71

GOLDEN JUBILEE WINCHESTER

By JIM SCOTT

Photos By LES GARD



“A NEW WINCHESTER lever action rifle with its own newly developed high intensity Winchester Super Speed cartridge — here is the world’s newest and most efficient lever action big game rifle — the Winchester 71 with the new 86 Golden Jubilee Action.” These glowing words were taken from the Winchester sales brochure printed at the introduction of the Model 71 in 1936 — exactly 50 years after the introduction of the John Browning-designed Model 1886, hence the “Golden Jubilee” title. It has since proven to be one of the best balanced short and medium range lever action rifles for deer and larger game ever to be produced for the American firearms trade.

As was becoming almost a habit at New Haven, Winchester was again introducing another “new and improved” model which for all practical purposes was an older design redesigned. This same “re-introduction” of an already successful and time-tested model in a new set of britches was not a new idea. The basic Browning design of the Model 1890 was scaled down somewhat in the stock and

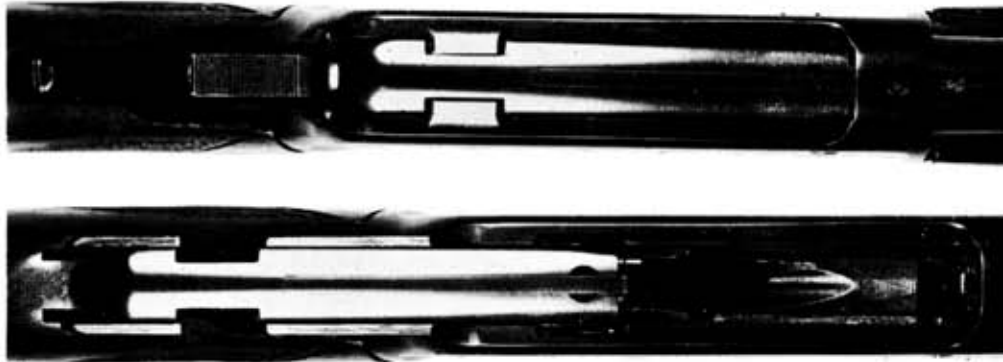
These Model 71 Winchesters from left are the postwar deluxe rifle with 24-inch barrel, prewar deluxe rifle with 24-inch barrel, prewar standard rifle with 24-inch barrel and prewar deluxe carbine with 20-inch barrel. Note the distinctive difference in the appearance of the comb on the prewar guns due to the longer tang.

A side view of the open action shows the locking block cut in the breech bolt. The hinged magazine cover is common to both the 86 and 71 models.

barrel department to become the Model 1906, then the Model 62, and finally the Model 62-A. The model 92 lever action (itself a descendent of the Model 86), gave birth to the Model 53, and later to the Model 65. The basic model design of the classic 1894 fathered the Model 55 and the Model 64, but unlike some of the other designs outlasted its offspring.

The year 1936 was also the date for the introduction of another Winchester rifle, the now world famous Model 70 — also a redesign of the Model 54. In introducing the Model 70, Winchester seemed to be sensing an increasing demand for a bolt action centerfire rifle; a market the Model 54 had been testing for 11 years.

The telescopic sight was waiting in the wings and would soon be fully accepted by the buying public, which would insist on rifles suitable for mounting it. The



These top views of the Model 71 show the action both closed and open. The closed view illustrates the serrated hammer and short tang of the postwar model.

wildcatters and experimenters were hampered by the pinch of the depression, a lack of good sighting equipment, problems of poor quality bullets and powders which were not always ideally suited to their needs, but these problems would be solved in the next few years, providing impetus for bolt guns more suitable for experimenting. World War II was to introduce the GI to reliable mass-produced machine-made arms involving less and less hand fitting and hand labor. Wages were to increase along with materials costs, making models which required a great deal of milling and fitting, such as the Model 71, an expensive proposition to produce. The average American hunter was about to become totally spellbound by speed and flat trajectory, both of which are sometimes sadly lacking in the field of both the "medium bore cartridges" and the lever actions. Had the Winchester factory been able to gaze into their crystal ball and foresee all these things, it is quite possible they might not have even introduced the Model 71 at all, but might have given the Model 70 a louder sendoff. But I expect that at the time, riding on the success of previous lever action designs, another high quality lever gun looked like a sure winner.

As accompanying photographs show, the sales literature and an inspection of the rifle itself quickly give evidence of its close relationship to the Model 86. The 86, last chambered for the .33 WCF now was modernized in both design and cartridge.

The basic changes featured a semi-beavertail fore-end, pistol grip stock

These '71's from left are the late issue postwar 24-inch deluxe grade rifle with Lyman 66 rear sight, prewar 20-inch deluxe grade carbine with standard open sight, prewar deluxe grade 24-inch rifle with bolt peep sight, and prewar standard grade 24-inch rifle with bolt peep sight. Note the longer tangs on the prewar guns.

available in checkered or plain styles. Metallurgical changes involved new high strength chrome-moly steels enabling the action to contain much higher pressures than had previously been the case. The major mechanical change involved altering the ejector of the 86 design so that the firing pin and primer area were not included in the ejector surface, thus allowing higher pressure loadings to be used.

The basic action design was one of the smoothest operating best balanced of all the Winchester lever guns. The Model 95, the only other lever action rifle to be chambered for fairly high pressure loads was a rather clumsy rifle to carry since its rather large fixed box magazine had the misfortune of being located right at the balance point of the rifle, making it a real handful for the great majority of the hunting public. The 86 design however was a great deal more streamlined, and when fitted with a tapered 24-inch barrel and half magazine, its balance point came right where it was easiest to carry. Thus the rifle earned a reputation for being well balanced and quick pointing. So basically the rifle had, and still has, a great deal going for it in terms of balance, design, and the indefinable quality sometimes termed "feel".

Weaknesses have been hinted at, at the outset. Mechanically they are few, the main one being the rear locking bolt which supposedly allows a fair amount of springback and causes case stretching and finally head separations.

More serious disadvantages arose from the top ejection design, which to John Browning in 1886 was no problem at all. However in the forties and fifties which introduced the scoped rifle to the shooting scene, this was a real problem. Side-mounted scopes can be adapted to these rifles, but being set to the side to allow empty cases to be ejected properly, they require the shooter to cheek the stock lightly or not at all in order to properly align the eye with the scope. Such a practice is not conducive to quick





The deluxe version was equipped with a pistol grip capped with the traditional Winchester Repeating Arms Company hard rubber cap. The serial number was located on the receiver just behind the fore-end.

shooting nor is it particularly comfortable.

The design of the cartridge case itself was not particularly inspired, and I feel the large degree of body taper of the case serves to create as many or more problems in case stretching and bolt back thrust as does the rear locking design. As the cartridge was wildcatted, one of the first changes that evolved was a straightening of the case and changing of shoulder angle in the classic "improved" design.

The peep sight mounted in the breech bolt was another minor weakness, being rather fragile, and also fairly difficult to remove temporarily. The Lyman 66 which later supplanted it was a much better and more sturdy design.

The medium bore cartridge itself was and always has been a rather lackluster proposition, sales-wise. The track record of the .358, the .350 Remington Magnum, and to some degree the excellent .338 Winchester Magnum shows that some quite excellent cartridges seem to lack what it takes to make it in the marketplace. All but the .338, when used with the lighter weight bullets lack

These .348 Winchester cartridges and bullets give an idea of the undiversified bullet selection available for loading the .348. The Super-X bullets were once packed 25 to the box, as shown. The individual bullets alongside the factory cartridge from left are the 250-grain Winchester Silvertip, 200-grain Hornady soft point, Winchester 200-grain soft point, 200-grain Winchester Silvertip and 150-grain Winchester soft point. Speer at one time offered bullets in this caliber in 180 and 220-grain weights and a few of these bullets may still be available.

At right, the postwar deluxe gun, left, displays a coarser checkering pattern with a more extended comb that the deluxe prewar gun, far right.

sectional density to perform well downrange. When used with 200-grain bullets, velocity drops and trajectories curve, having a negative effect on the sales appeal of these numbers.

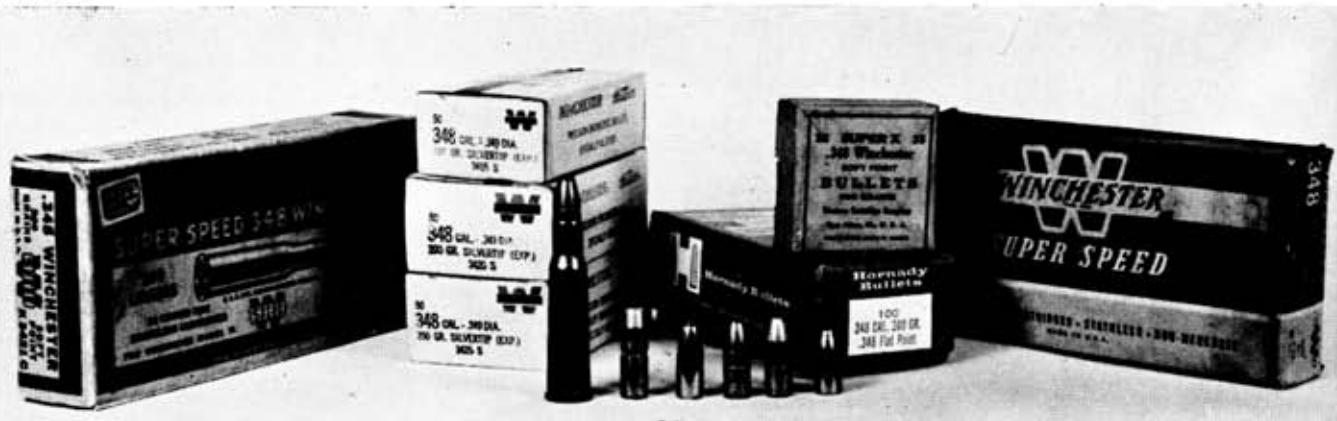
The .348 cartridge was originally introduced in two bullet weights, the 150 and 200-grain. The 250-grain loading was added in later years. Of these only the 200-grain load remains on the loading sheets of the two major producers today. The 150-grain bullet left the muzzle at a respectable advertised velocity of 2,890 fps. This reading comes within 10 fps of the famous 150-grain loading of the .270 factory cartridge and bests the factory ballistics of the .280 Remington, the .308 Winchester, the .300 Savage, and is a scant 80 fps behind the 150-grain factory load in the .30-06. Without exception, these are all smaller bore diameter cartridges and the 150-grain projectiles are ballistically superior at any longer range. With the 200-grain load, the cartridge is a much better balanced proposition. Its velocity listing at 2,530 fps is quite respectable and duplicated the performance of the much more modern .358 Winchester load. The 250-grain loading at 2,350 is only 60 fps slower than the current .350 Remington Magnum. All these figures are the advertised factory data and handloading could change the picture somewhat. The blunt design of the bullet necessitated by the tubular magazine of the rifle added to its woes ballistically. However the .348 is no slouch by any stretch of the imagination



and will perform a great deal better than popular notions would have us believe.

The rifle was produced in two grades and two barrel lengths. The standard version, which is by far the most common, could be had with either the long leaf open rear or bolt-mounted peep sight with the integral milled ramp front sight with hood. The standard grade stock was plain uncheckered straight grained

(Continued on Page 52)



WINCHESTER LEVER ACTION RIFLES

MODEL 71 FOR BIG GAME HUNTING



STANDARD BARREL, LENGTH 20 OR 24
INCHES ONLY

SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber, Super Speed .348 Winchester. Barrel 20" or 24", round tapered; Gold bead front sight on ramp with removable cover; choice of peep or open rear sight, both quick-adjustable. Solid frame (not takedown). Lever action. Tubular magazine, four shots in magazine with one in chamber makes five-shot repeater. Shotgun butt-stock with pistol grip; semi-beavertail fore-end; pistol grip and fore-end checkered. Furnished with 1-inch N.R.A. leather gunslang attached by quick-detachable bow swivels. Weight about 8 lbs. Also furnished without checkering on stock and fore-end, without pistol-grip cap and without sling and swivels, at proportionate reduction in price.

State Length When Ordering

Model 71 Rifle with Lyman No. 31W front sight and Winchester 22K sporting rear sight.....	\$57.75
Model 71 Rifle with Lyman No. 31W front sight and Winchester 28A peep sight, as illustrated.....	57.75
Model 71 Rifle without checkering, gun sling and swivels with Winchester 22K sporting rear sight.....	49.95
Model 71 Rifle without checkering, gun sling and swivels with Winchester 28A peep sight.....	49.95

MODEL 94 CARBINE SOLID FRAME



AMERICA'S FAVORITE
DEER RIFLE

FOR .30 (.30-30) WINCHESTER OR .32
WIN. SPECIAL C. F. CARTRIDGES

Model 94 has been for over forty years one of the famous Winchester lever action arms. It is recommended in both calibers for deer and similar game.

The mechanism is simple, accurate and reliable. The breech bolt, operated by a finger lever, is locked by a vertical locking block, which shows on the top of the gun when closed and covers the whole rear of the breech bolt. The firing pin is positively withdrawn at the first opening motion, and the trigger locked until the parts are again in firing position. The magazine is tilted while the gun is closed, through the spring cover at the side.

Model 94 Carbine is both calibers furnished to standard specifications only.

SPECIFICATIONS

BARREL—20 inch round with ramp front sight base.
STOCK—Straight grip carbine type stock and forearm. Steel carbine butt plate.
SIGHTS—Lyman gold bead front sight mounted on ramp with sight cover. Adjustable carbine rear.
MAGAZINE—Full Magazine. Holds six shots which, with one in the chamber, makes carbine a seven shot repeater.
WEIGHT—About 6¼ pounds.
Price.....

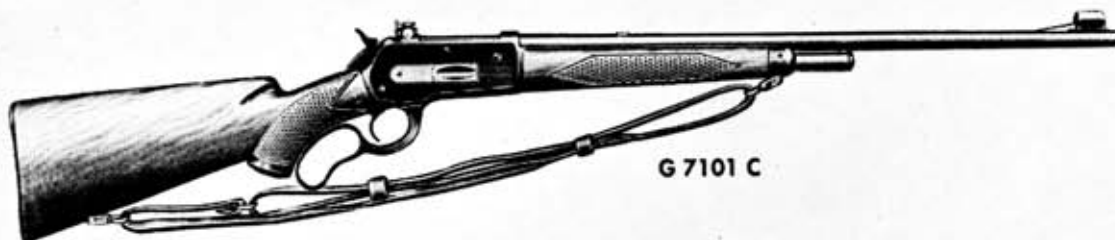
\$30.00

An early Stoeger catalog, above, shows the bolt peep deluxe rifle and lists both standard and peep sight models as well as carbines in both styles. Note the comparative price of the 94 Winchester carbine.

Immediately below is a page from one of the last Winchester dealer's catalogs in which the Model 71 was listed. Note the carbine version was not available, nor was the bolt peep sight.

Model 71 LEVER ACTION REPEATING RIFLE

MODEL 71



G 7101 C

SYMBOL	CALIBER	SIGHT	Suggested *Retail Each	Suggested *Wholesale Each
24" BARREL				
G7111C	348 Winchester	Lyman 66A Receiver	\$117.70	\$ 88.30
G7112C	348 Winchester	Sporting Rear	\$110.05	\$ 82.55

MODEL 71 SPECIAL

(With Checkering, Pistol Grip Cap, Sling and Swivels)

SYMBOL	CALIBER	SIGHT	Suggested *Retail Each	Suggested *Wholesale Each
24" BARREL				
G7101C	348 Winchester	Lyman 66A Receiver	\$134.95	\$101.20
G7102C	348 Winchester	Sporting Rear	\$127.20	\$ 95.40