

Oct. 5, 1979

John Kopec  
SAA—U.S. Military

Thank you for your letter of August 15th.

Though your Colt Single Action revolver appears to be a "U.S." issue, in all probability it is a civilian overrun revolver. This is to say that it was made up after the completion of the then current Government contract, from overrun or surplus Government inspected parts, nickel plated and sold directly on the civilian market.

The serial number of this revolver (#14,465) falls well within the group of 148 revolvers shipped from the factory on October 3, 1874. This serial number range is from #14,403 thru #14,550. There is therefore a good chance that this serial number is recorded in the Colt factory ledgers and that you can write for this historical information.

There is strong supporting evidence that when the Colt factory encountered revolvers which bore the "U.S." markings, that these were all nickel plated to avoid any possibility of their being confused with the standard Government Issue revolvers which were all furnished in blue with case-hardened frames.

The term "Pinched frame" has to do with only a very few of the earliest produced revolvers (under serial #100) which had a slight "pinched" area in their sighting groove. Your example, though early, is considerably beyond the serial range where this occurred.

We have made it a policy not to place values on revolvers without personal examination. There are simply too many variables, which must be taken into consideration before a revolver's value can be determined.

Thank you for writing the ARMS GAZETTE. We hope that we have been able to help.

Kindest regards

  
John A. Kopec