



Springfield Mass

July 12, 2004

The revolver you inquired about in your recent letter is a Model 29. The Model 29 was first shown in 1955 and cataloged as a standard production item in January of 1956. This early model was available in a 4" and 6 1/2" barrel and could be obtained in either blue or nickel.

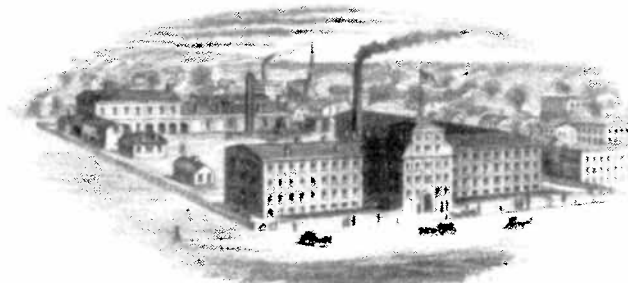
In mid summer 1957, the number of screws retaining the side plate was changed from four to three. This change took place at approximately S170000. Later in that year, or in early 1958, the model number was stamped on the frame at the yoke cut. It was at this time that the first 8 3/8" barrel became available with a limited production number of this barrel length installed on the four-screw side plate variations.

The first .44 Magnum (Pre-Model 29), serial number S-121836 was custom built in our Experimental Department. The first production serial number was in the low S-130000 range.

The Model 29-1 incorporated a new extractor rod with a left-hand thread. This change was incorporated as the old style right-hand threaded rods would work loose and bind the revolver. This change was incorporated in November, 1960, at approximately serial number S-207001.

The Model 29-2 was introduced shortly thereafter. This engineering change eliminated the old style cylinder stop plunger spring, located in the front of the trigger guard.

The mahogany presentation case was introduced in 1960, replacing the older style of black case which had been previously used for this model.



SMITH & WESSON

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'S. W.' or similar initials, located in the bottom left corner of the page.



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In 1969, as a result of the passage of the 1968 Gun Control Law, Smith & Wesson changed its serial number prefix on the N Frame revolvers. At this time, the S. prefix was ended at Serial number S333454 and a new series began with serial number N1.

In 1979 Smith & Wesson standardized the barrel lengths of the "N" frame revolvers and the 6.5 inch barrel was dropped from production and replaced with a 6 inch barrel. This was followed with another modification in 1982, changing the cylinder and eliminating the recessed charge holes and the barrel pin. This new variation was marked Model 29-3.

The N serial number prefix series was continued into 1983 through N960000, at which time the serial numbers were changed to the new Smith & Wesson serial number series which was composed of three letters followed by four numbers. In January of 1999 the standard Model 29 was removed from the catalog and discontinued, ending 43 years of continual production of this famous blued revolver.

We have researched your .44 Magnum Pre-Model 29, Five Screw Variation, caliber .44 Remington Magnum, in our company records. These records indicate that your revolver with serial number S166051, was shipped from our factory on June 11, 1956, and delivered to Jurek Brothers Inc., Greenfield, MA. The records indicate that this revolver was shipped with a 6.5 inch barrel, target hammer, target trigger, blue finish, and Goncalo Alves target grips.

We trust that the information furnished will be helpful and of interest to you.

Sincerely,

SMITH & WESSON

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Roy G. Jinks". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Roy G. Jinks
Historian