

Springfield Mass

December 27, 2019

Dear Mr.

We received your letter of recent date in reference to a Smith & Wesson K-22 Outdoorsman revolver.

On August 13, 1930 the factory issued an engineering order to build the first 500 .22 caliber revolver that were called the K-22 beginning a long line of the K frame .22 caliber target revolvers. When this model was introduced in 1931 the factory named it the K-22 Outdoorsman, but today it is referred to by collectors as the K-22 First Model. The first revolver release was serial number 632132 and was issued to Douglas Wesson on January 3, 1931. The early production revolvers featured a Call gold bead front sight. An engineering change was issued on September 16, 1931 to change the bead to a stainless steel Call bead front sight. This change was incorporated between December 1931 and January 1932.

The K-22 Outdoorsman became an immediate success with the target shooters and sportsman. After 1936 it became available with the new Smith & Wesson Magna grips which extended over the frame at the top of the grip. The last option that became available was the Smith & Wesson hump back hammer which was designed to allow for faster cocking of the revolver in rapid fire. On December 28, 1939 the engineering change was issued to stop production of the K-22 Outdoorsman in favor of an improved model. The total production of the K-22 First Model was 17,117 units.

A special group of this model was produced with fixed sights for the United States Coast Guard in February 1935. These 25 units were serial numbered from 650929 - 650953 and are the rarest variation of the K-22 First Models.

We have researched your Smith & Wesson K-22 Outdoorsman or K-22 First Model, caliber .22 Long Rifle. Company records indicate that this handgun with serial number 666645 was shipped from the factory on January 17, 1938, and delivered to Western Metal Co., San Diego, CA. The records indicate that this revolver was shipped with a 6 inch barrel Patridge front sight, adjustable notch rear sight, blue finish, and checkered walnut silver medallion grips. This shipment was for 3 units of this model in the above configuration and they were billed at the wholesale price of \$22.63 each.

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

Sincerely,

Smith & Wesson Historical Foundation

Roy G. Jinks

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Historian



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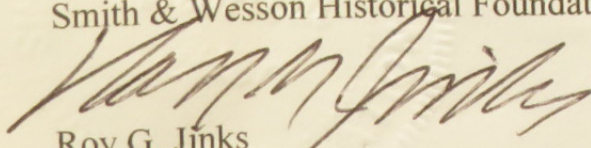
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