



Figure 1. Philadelphia Reading Coal and Iron Company Ceremonial Guards, circa 1873. (Photo from the University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus).



Figure 2. Coal and Iron Police Badges.

# Some Examples of the Use of Firearms in the Mining Industry Circa 1860-1980

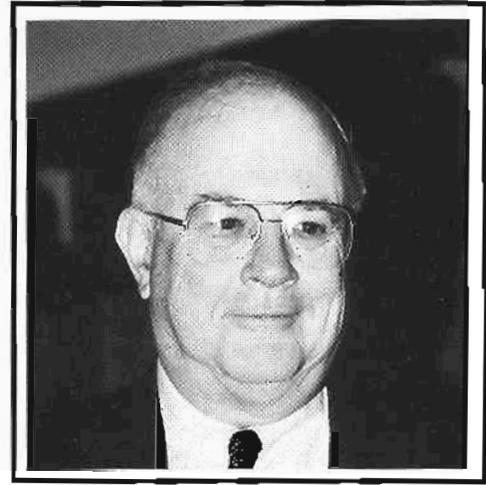
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Throughout firearms literature little mention has been given to the ownership or use of firearms by industrial concerns. This brief article is an effort to rectify that void, with emphasis being placed on their use in the mining industry. In many respects, the westward movement was primed by those adventurous souls who plodded west in search of land for farming or ranching or to those who journeyed in search of valuable mineral resources. It is this search that led to the establishment of Scranton and Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania; Bisbee, Arizona; Lead, South Dakota; Butte, Montana, and numerous other places which in turn required the infrastructure to support the mining-based economy. With the influx of people, the need for mining concerns to protect property and facilities was important and the ownership of firearms was necessary. The migration started in the East and moved to the West as does this presentation. The subject matter is so vast that it would be impossible for this article to be all encompassing; therefore, only a few examples of mining company ownership will be addressed.

## THE EASTERN UNITED STATES

The mining industry in the United States has its roots in the eastern part of the country. Bituminous coal was mined in western Pennsylvania near Fort Pitt as early as 1761. In 1762, anthracite coal was discovered in the Appalachian Mountains near Wilkes-Barre. These discoveries led to the development of an industry that equaled the current oil industry as a provider of energy for the nation. The anthracite region fueled the industrial revolution along the eastern seaboard in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The development of the anthracite industry was the beginning of the American mining industry. Anthracite development was not easy. The coal was not easy to burn, which required the development of appropriate stoves and boilers. Once this had been addressed, the difficult part of development began. The country was mountainous with rugged topography, no means of travel, and no towns. It was a wilderness. Into this environment, in 1793, an unincorporated group of individuals formed the Lehigh Coal Mine Company with land that was warranted to it by the State of Pennsylvania. This company did not survive and it was taken



over by Messrs Josiah White and Erskine Hazard, who formed, in 1818, the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company, which was the oldest continuously run firm in the nation at the time of its demise in 1985. This company was responsible for building the Lehigh Canal for delivery of coal to Philadelphia and ultimately to the New England states via the Lehigh and New England Railroad, a company affiliate. Several other feeder lines were leased to the Central Railroad of New Jersey for access to New York. This was the path that many mining companies took in their development. They owned both the natural resources as well as the means of transporting the product to market. This established a monopolistic arrangement that would ultimately create social problems requiring governmental intervention in the form of the Pennsylvania Constitution of 1874, which prohibited railroads from owning coal reserves. Those railroad companies who had an existing charter could not achieve a greater capitalization and, hence, most of the early railroads sold off their coal reserves.

The Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company controlled the eastern one third of the Southern Anthracite coal field, while the remaining two thirds was controlled by many small independent operators. Short feeder line railroads brought the coal to either the Schuylkill or Union canals. The canals were not capable of moving large tonnages, since freezing closed them in the winter and flooding damaged them at other times. The Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, which was incorporated in 1833, reached Mount Carbon in 1842 and finally by 1872, it had significant control of the transportation network including the Schuylkill Canal. It did not,



Figure 3. Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company Winchester Model 1866 carbine, Serial Number 80185, circa 1871.

however, have control of the coal resources. In the late 1860s, the independent coal operators and the Benevolent Workingman's Association determined that restrictive marketing measures were necessary to maintain an equitable posture between supply and demand. Annual shutdowns were instituted to the detriment of the railroad. Therefore, in the early 1870s, under the leadership of Franklin Gowen, President of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, a massive land acquisition program commenced which made the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company, a railroad company subsidiary, the major reserve holder in the southern and middle western fields. The company, by 1875, had acquired over 100,000 acres and in the process reduced the number of independent operators from over 175 to about 36. It became the largest mining company in the United States and remained so into the early 1900s.

The expansion of the anthracite industry in the southern field was not controlled in a fashion that promoted corporate profitability or social justice. For most years in the 1840s and 1850s, supply consistently outstripped demand so that wages were low, working conditions bad and living conditions semi-primitive. The influx of miners from foreign countries with their differing ethnic values further primed this brewing pot so that labor unions started to make their inroads in the mid 1840s. Though not successful, the die was cast for confrontation between the miners and management. During the Civil War, the mines worked at a maximum to support the war effort. After the war, there was excess production that resulted in reduced prices, lower wages and reduced work. Unions such as the Workingman's Benevolent Association, the American Miners Association, and the Knights of Labor began to make inroads into the mining areas. They were not successful in their efforts but the miner's dissatisfaction with working conditions was felt and violence in the southern anthracite field was becoming a relatively common expectation as strikes and colliery burnings occurred. Into this scene appeared a secret organization known as the Molly Maguires, a group of Irishmen who developed their cult

within a social organization known as the Ancient Order of Hibernians. The overall objective of the Mollies is not well defined in history; however, it appears that disruption of the enlistment programs during the Civil War was one goal. Post-war activities appeared to be focused on correcting mine management's felt injustice to the Irish population by burning mine facilities, killing mine managers and supervisors and intimidating the general population.

The result of the turmoil in primarily the middle and southern anthracite coal fields was the enactment in 1866 of Pennsylvania State Session Law No. 87, which permitted, in addition to railroad companies, those Corporations engaged in the coal mining and steel industries to employ policeman commissioned by the State of Pennsylvania, provided these individuals wore badges marked "Coal and Iron Police." Thus was born the C&I Police, a company owned organization that not only policed company property but also the communities near the operations. It proved to be of benefit in controlling strike activities as well as the theft of company property, including raw coal. It is interesting to note that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania did not have a state police force until 1905 and the C&I Police were the only state-authorized organization until that time. In 1929, the C&I Police became Industrial Police with reduced authority and increased governmental controls and finally, in 1935, the concept was abolished. The guards shown in Figure 1 were employed by the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company. This photograph was taken about 1873 and must be a ceremonial group. They are armed with what appear to be 1865 Springfield trapdoor muskets. The guards in the photograph are not wearing C&I badges. This is the earliest observed photograph of mining related firearms. Figure 2 shows a collage of C&I badges, not all of which are company marked as mandated by law. The generic badges were to be company marked at will. Some of the early badges are hallmarked Mortimer, Pottsville; E.K. Tryon, Philadelphia; American Railway Supply, New York, and Quint and Sons, Philadelphia.

The outrages perpetrated by the Molly Maguires in

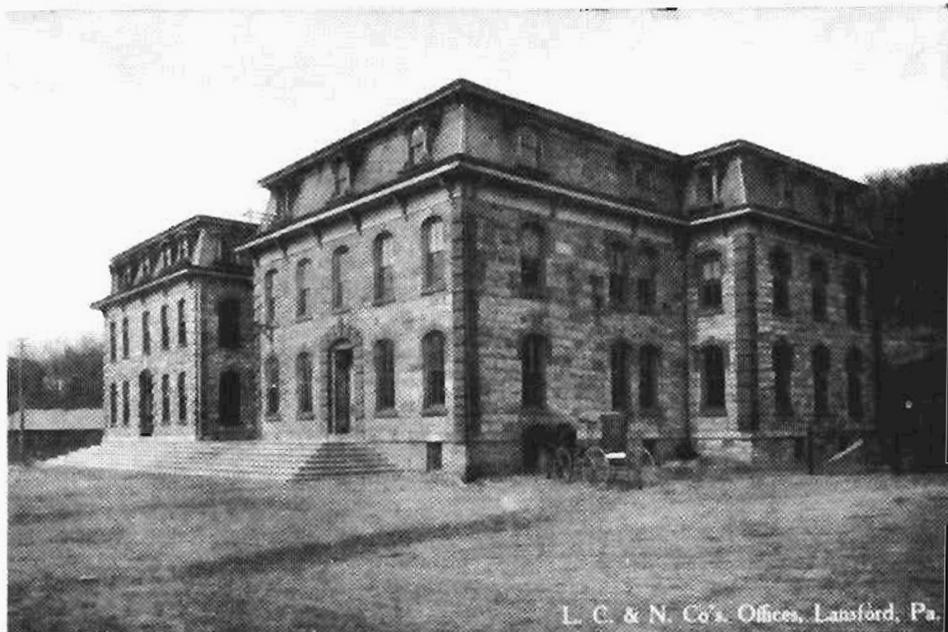


Figure 4. Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company No. 7 Office Building in Lansford, Pa.

Schuylkill County against the mining companies finally caused Franklin Gowen to take action. Even though he had at his disposal the C&I Police, Gowen sought the services in 1873 of the Pinkerton Detective Agency. They infiltrated an undercover agent by the name of James MacParlan into the ranks of the Mollies and his testimony resulted in the hanging of 20 members between 1876 and 1879. Gowen, an attorney by trade, personally prosecuted the case, which resulted in six hangings in one day in the Schuylkill County prison in Pottsville, Pa. Four were hung in 1877 in the Carbon County Prison in Mauch Chunk, Pa., the corporate headquarters of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company. The rest were hung in nearby Schuylkill County communities. This essentially stopped the terrorism of the Molly Maguires.

It is apparent that during the mid 1870s, both the P&RC&I Co. and the LC&N Co. began to arm themselves. The LC&N Co. purchased a group of 1866 Winchester saddle ring carbines (Figure 3) with serial numbers in the 80100 range. The purchase must have occurred in 1871. All the carbines were hand engraved "LC&N Co." in script letters on the left side of the receiver. These guns were stored at the No. 7 office building in Lansford, Pa. (Figure 4) and it is apparent that in excess of 50 guns were kept in locked cabinets in this building, which burnt down in December, 1975. Prior to the destruction of the building, several cases of guns were sold to a Connecticut gun dealer. At least four of these carbines are known. It is unfortunate that the Winchester records do not contain Model 1866 serial numbers in this serial range. The P&RC&I Co. acquired 1873 saddle ring carbines as shown in Table 1, which is a study of the records at the Buffalo Bill Historical Society in Cody, Wyoming. Though the records do not indicate to whom the carbines

were shipped, the serial numbers of three carbines acquired by one individual from a P&RC&I Co. facility in Ashland, Pa., in the mid 1930s gives some validity to the table. Two of the three carbines are in the second group of 30 guns, while the other is the first one in the first group of 50 guns. None of the carbines are company marked. Shown in Figure 5 is a February 23, 1888, photograph of the special P&RC&I Co. Coal and Iron Police railroad unit that was used to police

**Table 1**  
**Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company**  
**Winchester 1873 Carbines**

Order Number	Serial Number	Date Shipped
9627	14613, 14614 14619 thru 14667	July 28, 1877
9647	14668 thru 14697	July 30, 1877

strike areas. Twenty three of the first model carbines are in use.

There are some rumors that the P&RC&I Co also owned a group of Winchester 1892 rifles and these rumors are supported by several photographs in the archives of the Historical Society of Schuylkill County which show Coal and Iron Policemen holding Winchester Model 1892 rifles. It is not clear whether the guards were in the employ of the P&RC&I Co. One of the last savage acts in the anthracite region occurred on September 10, 1897, near a small coal mining patch town<sup>1</sup> called Lattimer (Figure 6) which was

<sup>1</sup>"Patch town"—a small town established by a company in the immediate vicinity of its mining operation.



Figure 5. Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company, Coal and Iron Police at Gordon, Pa. on February 23, 1888. (Photo from the Historical Society of Schuylkill County).

near Hazleton, Pennsylvania. On this day, 18 striking miners were killed by sheriff's deputies under the command of James Martin, High Sheriff of Luzerne County. This episode was recorded in a small 1950 volume entitled *Lattimore Massacre* by Edward Pinkowski. In this work, reference is made to 500 rifles being ordered by the Coxe Brothers & Company as reported by the *Hazleton Plain Speaker* newspaper. In addition to this group, Michael Kovak, in his historical novel, *The Guns of Lattimer*, makes reference to another group of 300 Winchester rifles being shipped to A. Pardee & Co. If this is in fact true, these are the two largest groups of rifles owned by any mining company. Information on them is totally lacking. Coxe Brothers owned mining lands east of Hazleton and their involvement with the Lattimore episode is minimal. A. Pardee & Co. owned property in the vicinity of Lattimer, and C. Pardee & Co. owned the mines at Lattimer. C. Pardee was the son of A. Pardee.

#### THE SOUTHWESTERN UNITED STATES

About the same time that the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company was taking delivery of eighty 1873 Winchester carbines, government employees by the names of George Dunn and George Warren separately filed claims on the magnificent copper orebody in the Mule Mountains of southern Arizona. In the 1880s, a portion of this deposit

became the property of the Phelps, Dodge Company. The town of Bisbee was settled and the Copper Queen Consolidated Copper Company, a Phelps Dodge subsidiary, was the primary producer. There were two other producers of note, the Calumet and Arizona Mining Company and the Shattuck Arizona Mining Company, both of which were involved in the deportation that occurred on July 12, 1917.

Before 1903, labor problems in the southwestern part of the United States were relatively minor. Starting in 1903, the Western Federation of Miners made an attempt to organize the Bisbee mines but did not succeed. They did manage to organize a local chapter in 1906. This was not a particularly well-received move by either mine management or the majority of the miners. The result was the discharge of 400 union sympathizers. Organizing continued and an additional 800 miners were discharged in early 1907. The Union called a strike in the summer of 1907 and 3000 miners walked out and were replaced by strike breakers and that ended the strike at the end of the year. The Warren Mining District remained relatively quiet until 1916, when the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, successor to the Western Federation of Miners, signed up about 1500 of the 5000 miners in Bisbee. At the same time that this activity was occurring, the Industrial Workers of the World, otherwise known as the Wobblies, were active throughout most mining districts in the Southwest. The IWW was an eastern union



Figure 6. Lattimer Mine, Lattimer, Pa., circa 1910.

that had as a preamble to its constitution the stated philosophy that "the working class and the employing class have nothing in common." It was a militant union that would use any means at its disposal to achieve its ends. Thus when it appeared on the scene, management knew adversarial times were at hand. The IWW took over the organizing activities in Bisbee in 1917 and overpowered the IUMMSW. This activity was done at a time when the U.S. was becoming involved in World War I and was deemed to be an unpatriotic act. It was a time of high prices, production and profits for the companies and not an acceptable time, from a business sense, to interfere with a good thing. The stage was set for one of the most notable confrontations in labor management history.

About half of the miners went on strike on June 27, 1917, as mine management refused to recognize the IWW. The IWW encouraged the miners to stand fast and the usual threats and property damage ensued. Management told the miners that the mines would close if they did not return to work. On June 30, 1917, the Workman's Loyalty League formed of miners who wanted to return to work and the Citizens Protective Association, a group of local merchants, joined forces to thwart the union. This association was placed under the command of Sheriff Harry Wheeler, the Sheriff of Cochise County. Prior to this time there was little violence. On the evening of July 11, the Loyalty League with Sheriff Wheeler in charge met in the Phelps Dodge dispensary to discuss the plan to effect the mass deportation of Wobblies and those sympathetic to them. After the meeting,

guns were issued from an armory in the dispensary. This operation commenced at 4:00 AM and was completed by noon on the morning of July 12, when the 1186 deportees and 186 armed guards were loaded into 23 boxcars of an El Paso and Southwestern train (Figure 7) which transported them 174 miles to the east to Columbus, New Mexico. Needless to say Bisbee was union-free until 1935. This episode resulted in two deaths and numerous litigations.

The firearms used in the deportation are not well documented, though at least one machine gun was mounted on top of a boxcar as the train left Bisbee and Sheriff Wheeler had a Marlin machine gun mounted on his car during the roundup. The Copper Queen Consolidated Mining Company maintained company stores in Bisbee, Naco, Douglas, and other locations in Arizona. William H.D. Goddard in his book, *The Government Models*, presents a series of tables from the Colt factory records. This group of records deals only with automatic pistols delivered up to 1928. Between 1900 and 1912 the Copper Queen Consolidated Copper Company and its successor, the Phelps Dodge Mercantile Company, acquired 219 Colt pistols of varying types. Seventy five percent or 164 guns were purchased between 1903 and 1909, a period of labor strife. The majority of the weapons were for public sale through the company stores. The Copper Queen Consolidated Copper Mining Company received direct shipment of 91 pistols and these could have been for internal use. After 1908, no pistols were shipped to the company. The Colt Bisley model shown in Figure 8 was shipped on January 20,



Figure 7. Deportation on July 12, 1917, Bisbee, Arizona.

1903, to Bisbee and there were two guns in the shipment. This gun, as well as 600 other Single Actions, are known to have a Copper Queen or Phelps Dodge association. Very few of this huge sale of guns are known to exist. A list of 540 of these pistols is contained in Keith Cochran's *Colt Peacemaker Encyclopedia*. Unfortunately, there is little information on long guns. It is, however, rumored that Marlin rifles were disposed of by the Morenci branch of Phelps Dodge in the early 1960s and these may also have been used at Bisbee.

A hundred miles northwest of Bisbee in a drainage of the Gila River called Mineral Creek there was found in 1873 indications of copper mineralization; however, as with most mineral deposits the location was not conducive to development. In 1883, the Ray Copper Company was organized, though little production was achieved. James Hill and associates, in 1899, organized the Ray Copper Mines, Ltd., with British capital and proceeded to open a mine at Ray, Arizona. After producing only 13000 tons of ore, the enterprise was out of business by 1901. The capital that was committed to the project went for polo and golf courses, elaborate offices, and an elegant 40 room dormitory. An option on the property was acquired from the receivers in 1904 and after extensive developmental testing, a financial arrangement was made with Utah Copper Company interests and the Ray Consolidated Copper Company was incorporated on May 11, 1907, with production commencing in 1911. Ray made several notable contributions to the mining industry. It was the first major property to have the orebody delineated by surface

drilling and sampling. It was also the first property to mine 8000 tons per day by the block caving method. Utah Copper Company was owned by Kennecott Copper Corporation and eventually mines at Bingham Canyon, Utah; Eley, Nevada; and Chino, New Mexico, as well as Ray, all became divisions of the parent. The mine at Ray is now owned by the American Smelting and Refining Company.

Ray was a young mine compared to those at Bisbee, but it was subject to the same labor problems as the rest of the mines in the state of Arizona. It, too, had an armory of weapons with which to defend its property and personnel. The weapons were stored in the elegant 40 room dormitory that was built by the British syndicate in 1899 and which was later called the Ray Con Club. It is barely visible in the 1916 photograph shown in Figure 9. To the left of the Ray Con Club and not visible in the photograph was a concrete pillbox complete with searchlight that overlooked the No. 1 Mine surface plant. One must question the paranoia that resulted in these facilities; however, labor problems were assured. Labor problems became a reality in late June and early July, 1915. The Western Federation of Miners tried to organize the mine but had little luck and only mild problems occurred even though a state militia encampment resulted. The inventory of firearms that were in the Ray Con Club on November 13, 1915, is shown in Appendix I. The inventory details by serial number 102 long arms, in which there were 97 rifles and 5 shotguns. There were 77 Winchesters, including 2 Model 1892s, 69 Model 1894s, 5 Model 1895s and 1 Model 1907.



**Figure 8. Colt Bisley Revolver, Serial Number 238745, shipped January 20, 1903, to the Copper Queen Consolidated Copper Mining Company, Bisbee, Arizona.**

The list also included 17 Model 1899 Savage rifles and one Remington automatic. Page three of the list is missing and it is assumed that at least 12 shotguns and possibly 30 more rifles and some revolvers were inventoried. In addition to these guns there were some other Model 1894 Winchester carbines that were purchased sometime after 1918. Figure 10 shows one of the latter guns, while Figure 11 shows a rifle from the original list. None of the Ray guns are marked and, when sold in 1962, most were in new condition with the original grease in the bores and the hang tags intact. In addition to this group of guns, there was another group of reduction plant guns that were sold in 1957. This group consisted of twenty-six 1895 Winchester carbines in .30-06 caliber that had UCC stamped in the stock signifying they were the property of the Utah Copper Company. There were also in warehouse inventory in 1963, several spare Maxim machine gun barrels, and the belt loader was stored in the basement of the assay lab in Hayden, Arizona, which was the location of the reduction plant facilities. A machine gun was used in the mine's plant pill box mentioned earlier and there were four owned by the company. All the rifles and carbines were sold to employees for \$25.00 each. Some, if not all, of the Model 1895 Winchesters at the mine's plant at Ray were cut in two and scrapped due to perceived safety problems. This is one of the best authenticated groups of industrial mining guns that has surfaced. It is interesting to note that some of the employees on the list to whom the guns were assigned are of some significance: L.S. Cates was General Manager and became Chairman of Phelps Dodge Corporation; W.S. Boyd was Mine Superintendent who became General Manager in 1919 and then became Managing Director of all the Nevada Consolidated properties including those in Nevada, New Mexico and Arizona; R.W. Thomas was a mine engineer who became General Manager in 1929.

### THE BLACK HILLS OF SOUTH DAKOTA

The discovery of gold in the Dakota Territory can be traced from 1833; however, little activity occurred until 1874 when the Custer expedition to the Black Hills found traces of the yellow metal. Rumors of this find started the rush of 1876 with a few individuals entering the region in 1875. At this time the major recoveries were of placer gold. Fred and Moses Manuel, in late 1875, started to search for the vein that provided downstream gold and finally located the Homestake Lead on April 9, 1876. In 1877, the Homestake Lead and another claim were acquired by a California syndicate headed by George Hearst. With Hearst were James B. Haggin and Loyd Tevis, entrepreneurial lawyers from San Francisco with interests in the Wells Fargo Company. It is interesting that this group over the years had interests in three of the richest metal mines in the U.S. These included the Ophir Mine on the Comstock Lode in Nevada; the Ontario Mine in Utah and, finally, the Anaconda Mine in Butte, Montana. The Homestake Mining Company was incorporated on November 5, 1877, and is still in existence today. The Homestake Mine has been America's premier gold mine.

Homestake maintained a small armory to arm bullion

**Table 3  
Serial Numbers of Winchester Model 1897 Shotguns  
Sold by Homestake Mining Company in 1985**

448,045	448,300	442,337	442,347
447,649	442,327	449,124	442,096
448,087	446,184	442,362	447,647

guards, one of whom is shown in Figure 12. The exact number of guns inventoried is unknown; however, the list shown in Table 2 are those that were sold in 1985. All the guns were solid frame Winchester Model 1897 riot type shotguns that were stamped H.M.Co. on the left side of the

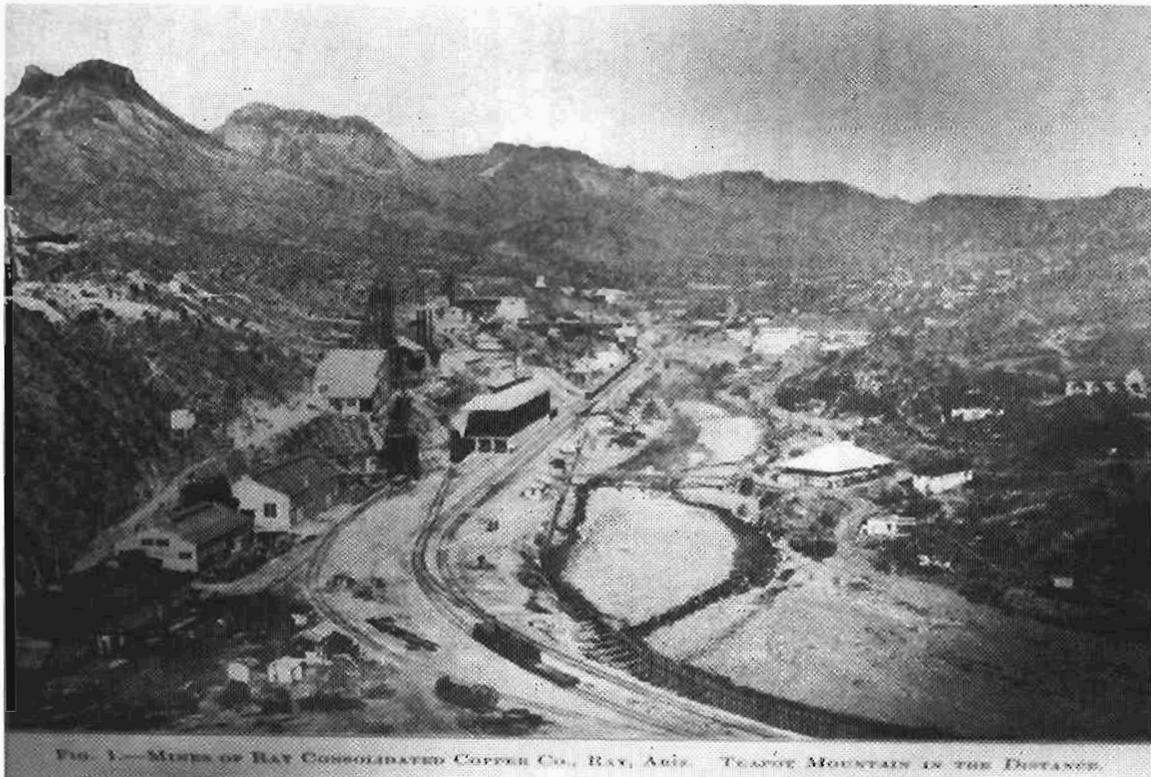


Figure 9. Ray, Arizona, circa 1915.

butt stock. In addition to the 12 guns on the list, there are 2 shotguns in the Blackhills Mining museum as well as a Homestake Winchester Model 1894 standard takedown rifle. A Smith and Wesson Model 10 revolver was sold in 1986. All the shotguns have seen use, with replacement parts evident on some. One of the shotguns and the Smith and Wesson revolver are shown in Figures 13 and 14.

Besides mining gold, Homestake was the first producer of sub-bituminous coal from the eastern part of the Powder River Basin. It established a power plant and mine at Wyodak, Wyoming, in 1927. This facility provided power to the Blackhills and the facilities at Lead, South Dakota. It was the portent of things to come in the Powder River Basin. The Arab oil embargo in 1973 caused the vast coal resources of the basin to be opened as a supply of steam fuel for power plants throughout the mid-western United States. In the forefront of this massive mine development was Amax Coal Company, who developed in 1972 the Belle Ayr Mine about 17 miles south of the town of Gillette, Wyoming. This property became the largest surface coal mine in the U.S.; however, it has been eclipsed by others in later years. In the late 1970s Amax supported the studies of a doctorate student who was interested in learning the migratory habits of antelope as they lived on the surface estate of the Belle Ayr Mine. In order to catch the animals, Amax purchased a dart gun to humanely drug the animals for tagging and radio attachment. The gun that was used for this work is shown in

Figure 15; it is a Harrington and Richardson topbreak smoothbore called a Powder Projector. Since very few mining concerns currently permit guards to carry firearms, this is perhaps the last legitimate use that the mining industry has for firearms.

#### WESTERN MONTANA

When one talks about mining in Montana, the discussion will undoubtedly be about the big snake otherwise known as the Anaconda Copper Mining Company. Silver Bow County, the home of Anaconda, is the smallest county in Montana but over the years it has been the richest, since it contains the "richest hill on earth" at Butte, Montana. Originally, the area around Butte was placer mined for gold in 1864. The first lode mine, the Parrot, was opened in 1866 in silver and copper ore with the copper being considered as a nuisance mineral. Silver continued to be the metal of choice as the Travona Mine came into production in 1868 and the silver drive continued into the mid 1870s. Into this silver rush there appeared in 1876 Marcus Daly, a young Irishman who was retained by a Utah merchant banker to ascertain the significance of the Butte activities. He acquired the Alice Mine and ran the property for the Utah owners until 1880. In this year, Daly approached Hearst, Haggin and Tevis to finance the acquisition of the Anaconda claim that had been filed on by Michael Hickey in 1875. Daly, as a quarter owner



Figure 12. Homestake Mining Company, Bullion Guard, circa 1910.

in the Anaconda, served as General Manager while Haggin was President of the Anaconda Mining Company. The Anaconda, which started out as a silver mine, hit bonanza copper or at 300 feet and silver was history. A new smelter was constructed at Anaconda, Montana, in 1884 and based on this one mine the Anaconda Copper Mining Company grew through consolidation and acquisition. It was owned by the Rockefeller interests in the early 1900s and was known as the Amalgamated Copper Company, which remained in existence until 1915. After the Amalgamated years, the name returned to Anaconda Copper Mining Company. Atlantic Richfield Company acquired Anaconda in the 1970s and the company went out of business in the 1980s, a somewhat sad comment on American business acumen.

Butte has always been a bastion of unionism. The Butte Workingman's Union was established in 1878 and Miners Union No. 1 of the Western Federation of Miners was organized in the early 1890s. There were many other unions that served mining industry employees. Labor strife was not unusual and on occasion involved open hostility between unions as occurred in June of 1914, when a group of independent miners blew up the Butte Miners Union No. 1 union hall (Figure 16). At this time, they also dynamited the rustling office<sup>2</sup> of Anaconda at the Parrot Mine. This rather adversarial environment coupled with intense litigation on

mineral ownership required the retention of an inventory of firearms to protect property and personnel. In 1961, an inventory of Anaconda Copper Mining Company guns in storage in the Hines Building in Butte included 81 Winchester Model 1897 riot shotguns, 4 Winchester Model 1897 standard shotguns, 13 Winchester Model 1894 rifles in .30 WCF, 5 Colt revolvers in .38 Special, and 2 Colt Model 1911 automatic pistols. There were also listed such exotic items as 7 Ithaca Auto-Burglar guns, 1 Lake Erie Chemical Co. 37mm long range gas gun and 7 H&R 37mm gas guns. Since several of the Model 1894s are in the 400000 serial range, it is assumed that

**Table 5**  
Serial Numbers of Winchester Firearms Sold by The Butte-Silver Bow Law Enforcement Agency in 1981

<i>Model 1897 Riot Shotguns</i>				
477725	519920	520766	866008	866496
<i>Model 07 Self Loading Police Rifles</i>				
47663	47737			
<i>Model 94 Carbine</i>				
1076803				

the group had its origin in 1912 with some Model 1897s being added as late as 1942. The WWII dated guns were undoubtedly acquired to arm guards as mandated by the federal government in order to control wartime sabotage. The Ithaca Auto-Burglar guns were used for many years by payroll guards as they made deliveries to the many mines that

<sup>2</sup>"Rustling Office": an employment office.



Figure 14. Homestake Mining Company, Smith & Wesson Model 10-8 revolver with backstrap engraved "Homestake No. 1", Serial Number 6D58494, circa 1970s.

were controlled by Anaconda. This inventory is shown in Appendix II.

Shown in Figures 17 and 18 are two Butte and Anaconda related guns. The first is a very high serial number Model 97 riot shotgun circa 1955 that was sold at an Anaconda sheriff's sale in November, 1989. A conversation with the Anaconda, Montana, Sheriff indicated that this shotgun originally was the property of the Anaconda Company. With the shut down and dismantlement of the reduction works at Anaconda, Montana, all surplus material was sold, including firearms. According to the former Anaconda Company chief of security for the reduction works there were several lots of firearms in storage; however, the quantities and identity are unknown. The other illustrated gun is a Winchester Model 07 SL police rifle in .351 Winchester caliber. This rifle was shipped circa 1938 and was one of a group of 8 guns sold by the Butte police department in October, 1981. A listing of these guns is shown in Table 3 and includes 5 Winchester 1897 riot shotguns, 2 Winchester Model 07 rifles, and 1 Winchester Model 1894 carbine. The Butte guns are not believed to have any association with the Anaconda Company. They are presented herein only as matter of interest.

In addition to the Anaconda guns mentioned above, there are many guns that were sold through the Anaconda Copper Mining Company Hardware Department which ultimately became the Montana Hardware Company. Several Colt handguns and a group of Winchester Single Shot rifles in .30-06 caliber have been documented by others.

#### CONCLUSION

Through the efforts of this study as well as that of others it appears that at least over 800 firearms have been identified as mining industry related and that seems to be a very

conservative number when considering other mining areas that have not been addressed. What happened to the guns that were used by the rest of the major producers in the anthracite and bituminous coal regions of Pennsylvania, the bituminous regions of the southern and midwestern states, the Phelps Dodge guns from Jerome, Morenci, Globe and Ajo (all in Arizona), those from the Calumet and Hecla Company and the Quincy Mining Company on the upper peninsula of Michigan, where labor unrest must have had the need for firearms? Finally, the tri-state lead zinc district of Missouri, the metal and coal mining areas of Utah, New Mexico and Colorado are all candidates for study. The search goes on and I hope that the future will bring forth more information on the industrial ownership of firearms.

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APPENDIX I

Ray Consolidated Copper Company  
LIST OF RIFLES AND SHOTGUNS AT THIS PLANT

November 13th, 1915

RIFLES

Gun No.	Make	Caliber	Charged To	Gun No.	Make	Caliber	Charged To
653645	Winchester	30-30	Office	644473	Winchester	30-30	Office
644542	Winchester	30-30	Office	547557	Winchester	30-30	Office
745790	Winchester	30-30	Office	550764	Winchester	30-30	Office
729813	Winchester	30-30	Office	134990	Winchester	30-30	Office
736761	Winchester	30-30	Office	550639	Winchester	30-30	Office
731205	Winchester	30-30	Office	736185	Winchester	30-30	Office
653904	Winchester	30-30	Office	654124	Winchester	30-30	Office
655634	Winchester	30-30	Office	730295	Winchester	30-30	Office
550632	Winchester	30-30	Office	657979	Winchester	30-30	Office
736233	Winchester	30-30	Office	653616	Winchester	30-30	Office
729167	Winchester	30-30	Office	544083	Winchester	30-30	Office
726365	Winchester	30-30	Office	712859	Winchester	30-30	Office
757141	Winchester	30-30	Office	472240	Winchester	30-30	B. Bradley
709942	Winchester	30-30	Office	728553	Winchester	30-30	L.S. Cates
730294	Winchester	30-30	Office	729700	Winchester	?	Geo. O'Neil
543124	Winchester	30-30	Office	729392	Winchester	?	R.E. Carr
550660	Winchester	30-30	Office	747257	Winchester	30-30	J. Kendrick
550659	Winchester	30-30	Office	589477	Winchester	30-30	Bud Snow
653804	Winchester	30-30	Office	424596	Winchester	32 Special	S.G. Dolman
541393	Winchester	30-30	Office	42566	Remington	30-30	L.S. Cates
731721	Winchester	30-30	Office	86939	Winchester	30-40	Geo. O'Neil
550626	Winchester	30-30	Office	108797	Savage	30-30	W.S. Boyd
710063	Winchester	30-30	Office	145051	Savage	30-30	J. McCafferty
737386	Winchester	30-30	Office	89659	Winchester	30-40	L.N. Strehlow
742100	Winchester	30-30	Office	148621	Savage	?	A. Anderson
726621	Winchester	30-30	Office	396537	Winchester	30-30	S.W. Lowe
755330	Winchester	30-30	Office	591694	Winchester	30-30	Wm. Shores
547912	Winchester	30-30	Office	550769	Winchester	30-30	C.A. Richmond
625286	Winchester	30-30	Office	12836	Winchester	35 Auto	L.S. Cates
87885	Winchester	30-Army	Office	656574	Winchester	30-30	J.T. Morrissey
63681	Winchester	30-Army	Office	550638	Winchester	30-30	J.B. Nicholson
77322	Winchester	30-Army	Office	748747	Winchester	30-30	R.W. Thomas
152376	Savage	30-30	Office	136642	Savage	30-30	J.T. More
153276	Savage	30-30	Office	125321	Savage	30-30	A.B. Emmet
134489	Savage	30-30	Office	117329	Savage	30-30	O.C. Loomis
152638	Savage	30-30	Office	152685	Savage	30-30	H.G. Beck
627254	Winchester	30-30	Office	109073	Savage	30-30	C. Bergstrom
742412	Winchester	30-30	Office	145987	Savage	30-30	D. Rebstock
532697	Winchester	30-30	Office	121256	Savage	30-30	C. Hollister
652559	Winchester	30-30	Office	136844	Savage	30-30	W. Whitehead
739552	Winchester	30-30	Office	151018	Savage	30-30	Ed Lilley
633143	Winchester	30-30	Office	153809	Savage	30-30	J.T. Keating
535348	Winchester	30-30	Office	636039	Winchester	25-35	L.E. Edwards
711799	Winchester	30-30	Office	767905	Winchester	25-20	H.C. Penny
766663	Winchester	30-30	Office	55920	Stevens	12 Ga	S.E. Stretton
724960	Winchester	30-30	Office	55769	Stevens	12 Ga	L.W. Delhi
719803	Winchester	30-30	Office	107166	Remington	12 Ga	J. O'Grady
654266	Winchester	30-30	Office	134610	Remington	12 Ga	H.O. Hall
551084	Winchester	30-30	Office	584904	Winchester	12 Ga	J.C. Devine

Note: Invoice from Pinney & Robinson, dated July 1st, calls for 16 shotguns. You will note listed above 17 shot guns. Shotgun No. 584904, now in the possession of Mr. Devine, was loaned to the Company by Miller Brothers during the trouble but cannot be returned to them on account of the condition it is in.

In the checking of guns at this time, I find we are short 1 Winchester 30-30 cal, #654611, originally given to A. Lopez, but he states it is not in his possession, and I can find no record of one Winchester, 12 Gauge, shotgun, and one Colt's 38-40, revolver, delivered by Miller Brothers to the Guest House on the night of June 27th.

Authors Note: This listing of guns, along with 12 original hickory cleaning rods, was found by the author in the Ray Con Club armory in 1963. It was missing the third page which obviously contained at least 12 shotguns. The notations above were on the original inventory.

APPENDIX II

Anaconda Copper Mining Company Guns

at

Butte, Montana

Mr. E.O. Bonner  
 Gen'l Supt of Mines  
 The Anaconda Company  
 Butte, Montana

Dear Sir:

The following is a complete inventory of the vault in the basement of the Hines Office taken on March 4 & 11, 1961 by Clyde Scott, Earl Nye and myself.

82 - Model 1897 Winchester 12-Gauge Riot Guns: Numbered as follows:

477,352	518,183	511,583	487,622	513,671	518,084	518,081	566,824	517,090
518,327	521,005	885,220	516,556	518,836	481,049	488,196	518,387	521,833
519,440	885,327	687,014	653,061	685,090	520,069	518,676	519,356	518,821
476,139	690,166	518,246	518,442	652,397	517,954	519,158	518,102	518,943
517,653	517,294	518,223	519,766	513,667	515,092	519,282	518,242	518,732
521,489	480,251	518,715	489,910	521,935	480,257	480,148	489,251	488,832
863,995	414,676	688,189	689,457	518,117	480,111	?	489,305	518,923
518,234	476,971	518,197	518,195	470,749	688,140	687,540	687,290	683,189
571,826	653,221	571,225	578,322	584,385	571,168	883,797	885,168	880,050
885,227								

4 - Model 1897 Winchester 12-Gauge Long Barrel Shot Guns: Numbered as follows:

652,326	771,542	647,875	653,213
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13 - Model 1894 Winchester 30 WCF Rifles: Numbered as follows:

568,540	480,740	538,224	480,737	564,297	673,917	569,018	532,666	674,042
580,644	532,673	567,213	537,879					

4 - Ithaca Auto and Burgler Guns: Numbered as follows:

361,412	361,447	332,331	361,411
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1 - 37mm Super Long Range Gas Gun - Lake Erie Chemical Co., - No. 1087

7 - 37mm Harrington and Richardson Gas Guns: Numbered as follows:

1,977	1,903	647	2,801	2,225	739	2,165
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7 - Colt Hand Guns: Numbered as follows:

1 - Colt 38 Special - 2" Barrel	No. 41366
1 - Colt 38 Army Spec. 4" Barrel	No. 437196
1 - Colt 38 Army Spec. 6" Barrel	No. 409968
1 - Colt 38 Army Spec. 5" Barrel	No. 404595
1 - Colt 38 Army Spec. 6" Barrel	No. 428154
1 - Colt 45 Automatic	No. G-5258
1 - Colt 45 Automatic	No. 79445

Author's Note: This listing has floated about Montana for quite a few years and is presented here courtesy of Rod Wamsley of Kalispel, Montana. It appears that there was a second page to this letter which is missing and, hence, the original author is unknown.



Figure 10. Ray Consolidated Copper Company, Winchester Model 1894 rifle-carbine, Serial Number 81679, circa 1917.



Figure 11. Ray Consolidated Copper Company, Winchester Model 1894 takedown rifle, Serial Number 652559, circa 1913.



Figure 13. Homestake Mining Company, Winchester Model 1897 solid frame riot shotgun, Serial Number 442327, circa 1910.

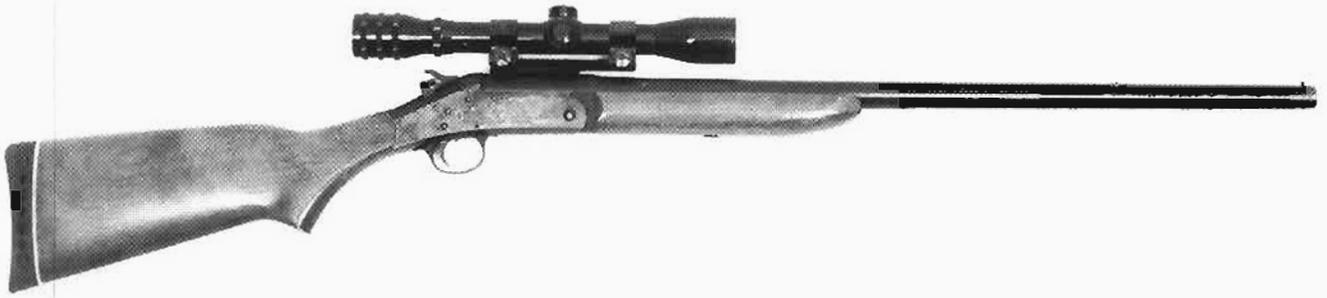


Figure 15. Amax Coal Company, Harrington and Richardson Powder Projector dart gun, Serial Number AM 356824, circa 1980s.



Figure 17. Anaconda Copper Mining Company, Winchester Model 97 takedown riot shotgun from the reduction plant at Anaconda, Montana, Serial Number 1022410, circa 1957.



Figure 18. Butte-Silverbow Law Enforcement Agency, Butte, Montana, Winchester Model 07SL Police rifle, Serial Number 47737, circa 1939.