



**Palaver Pete,  
SASS Life/Regulator #4375**

# COWBOY MEMORIAL CHAPEL GETS WILD BUNCH APPROVAL!

*By Palaver Pete, SASS Life/Regulator #4375*

simmering thought. He tried, but that nagging thought would simply not materialize.

Finally, it hit him. As he looked around the Founder's Ranch Town, he noticed one of the stereotypical icons of western towns—an icon used in virtually every western film made in the past century was missing. There was no white steepled church overlooking the town! That simmering, nagging thought in the back of his mind was beginning to materialize—he could now merge the two bothersome thoughts together to form the idea and the image. The Obituaries in *The Catubay Chronicle*—the white steepled iconic western town church—the two belonged together. The idea was now becoming a vision. The vision was now a chapel, and that chapel would contain an area designated to the display of memorial plaques dedicated to those who have gone before us. SASS clubs worldwide could send plaques in memory of those cherished club members whom had gone before. He could hardly contain his enthusiasm.

Long Jim Hancock, SASS #47369, better known on the Oregon Coast as Jim Faulkner is a retired Deputy Sheriff. He doesn't let ideas and/or visions slip by. His training and his career have taught him how to get things done. This is why he is the Range Master for the Oregon Old West Shooting Society and a SASS Regulator. He is a personable man who makes friends easily, and as such, is drawn to persons with similar personalities. One such friend he first met on the SASS Forum and later at a SASS Convention, is Don Nadler, AKA Maurice Lassés (his friends call him "Mo" Lassés), SASS #65309, who also worked for two different Sheriff's Departments. Now Mo is also an achiever. Mo is Long Jim Hancock turned inside out or vice-versa. In other words, you are reading about a formidable team sharing the same dream. Seems inconceivable these two should meet and even more incredible they were harboring the same idea and dream within. Mo shoots with the Circle K Regulators in Ballston Spa, New York. This places him on the right coast and Jim on the left coast, and to

A man and his idea ... Conceive it, believe it, achieve it, receive it ... That's exactly what Long Jim Hancock has done.

At first the idea was not a full-fledged idea—it was more like a simmering thought in the back of his mind—something that happens to all of us at times. The thought came to him while reading obituaries in the "Trail Marker" section of *The Catubay Chronicle*. Jim realized at the time, this is probably the only venue available to recognize the SASS folks that were gone, aside from each family and club paying their respects on a local level. The thought stayed with him. Having that in mind, and while shooting END of TRAIL 2007, Jim was looking at the newest mercantile buildings and other structures erected at the Founder's Ranch "town site." It was a beautiful Western Town setting, but something was bothering Jim about the general layout of the town site. Something was missing. That nagging feeling was there, along with that



**Mo Lassés—"A thorn in the side of procrastination!" Mo will be spearheading fund raising on the right coast. Like Long Jim Hancock he knows how to get things done.**



**A typical looking Western Town Chapel. A Cowboy Memorial Chapel similar to this will soon grace the Town at Founder's Ranch.**



**Long Jim Hancock:  
a man, his idea, and a vision.  
His determination will help see  
this project to completion.**

help bring their idea and vision to fruition, they needed someone directly in the middle, and what better someone than a lady by the name of Justice Lilly Kate? Hold on Reader, this is getting better by the minute!

So now to make a long story short, a team was formed and responsibilities assigned. Jim is the Spearhead and West Coast chair. Mo has been designated as East Coast co-chair and fund raiser for that part of the country, and Justice Lilly Kate as SASS Wild Bunch Liaison. To demonstrate

how effective this team is already (and the action has just started), they have contacted Bob Boze Bell about researching and providing to the Wild Bunch a depiction (drawing) of an "Iconic Western White Steepled Church." Now I ask you, "Who wants to argue with Bob Boze Bell?" And now, and this is a biggie—T-Bone Dooley and The DOOLEY GANG are DONATING to the CHAPEL an ORIGINAL church BELL from the BAR 3 ranch in English, TEXAS! I guess you might say, "The Church Bell is COMIN' AT 'CHA!"

Personally, I can already see the Cowboy Memorial Chapel, and if I can see it, I know every SASS member reading this article can also see it—we've seen enough of them on the Saturday Silver Screen. Hallelujah brother, let's pretend we are on the set of "High Noon" ... and let the project begin! Before we do, let me digress a bit ...

Some thirty odd years ago another man had an idea, and it also turned into a vision. He nurtured it, he massaged it, and he shared it with his  
*(Continued on next page)*

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friends. He and his friends formed a team. Fortunately for all us SASS members, the man we now call "The Judge" never let that vision get away—his idea not only became a reality, it became an institution. Since SASS became a worldwide sport, many of our members have had brilliant ideas and visions. Proving once again, Cowboy Action Shooting™ is not short of men and women with brilliant ideas and thoughts. All this is simply another step forward for our sport, our mutual visions, and our love of the game. Okay, back to "Team Chapel."

The Proposal submitted to the Wild Bunch by Jim and his team rationalized many shooters at END of TRAIL attend Cowboy Church services on Sunday morning. The proposed Cowboy Memorial Chapel would be an appropriate place to conduct those services in the future, as well as a permanent building where meetings could be held for various SASS-related groups and activities, including on-site weddings.

The funding and construction of the Cowboy/Cowgirl Memorial Chapel would come from a donation of an amount to be determined from each SASS club wishing to have deceased members memorialized in the chapel. The amount could be pro-rated based on the current number of SASS clubs in existence, with remembrances being provided for deceased club members initially, and subsequent additions being the responsibility of those

participating clubs. Additionally, anyone personally, or on a club level, that wishes to donate funds for its construction could also be honored in a like fashion at another area within the chapel. I'm guessing now, but I would make the assumption the Wild Bunch deliberated all of 30 seconds before making the decision this was good—this was in the spirit of the game! Again, let the project begin!

As envisioned, the Chapel will consist of a single 30 X 40 foot sanctuary capable of seating at least 40 people with remembrances appropriately displayed. Of course, if the fund raising is a successful as I believe it can be, the church could be much larger and consist of two rooms. Room #1 would be the "Memorial Area." The Entrance Foyer would be set aside strictly for memorial remembrances, candle station, and benches, and measure 40 x 16 feet. Room #2 would be the "Sanctuary," with bench/pew seating for 40+ people, and raised platform with altar/podium. Room #2 would measure 40 x 54 feet and allow seating for a large number of folks for alternate activities, such as church services, weddings, meetings, costume contests, and so forth. The Team has suggested to the Wild Bunch the Chapel be located at the opposite end of the "Town" main street, OR alternately on the Northeast hill area near the Bay 1 side of the main vendor area.

What's next for our team? There are always the dreaded administra-

tive requirements (read red tape). But, this does not intimidate Jim or Mo. Like I said, these guys and their team are achievers, so let the minutiae begin—in this case, minutiae stands to lose. They have already established the fact this proposal would be entirely under the oversight and control of the SASS board, and the project itself will be subject to any modifications the board would deem appropriate. Both Jim and Mo have already expressed to the Wild Bunch the willingness to organize and form a committee to direct the fund raising activities, under oversight from the SASS board, if the board would accept and ratify this proposal, and deem it an appropriate project. As stated above, the Wild Bunch probably took all of 30 seconds before a resounding and unanimous "aye" was heard.

Next will be the initial account set-up, and promotional events planning, and art work for posters at END of TRAIL and major matches, along with club flyers. Jim and his Team plan to make the initial announcement at END of TRAIL 2010, this coming June, so those of you who are present will get to meet Jim, Mo, and the team at this official announcement. I'm sure the Team will gladly accept all individual contributions right on the spot!

Well Pard, you got the drift now. SASS Affiliated Clubs need to talk about it—I'm sure the thought of loved ones and friends will be foremost in

the minds of club members, and I'm predicting a landslide of club participation—I've got my personal check ready, just tell me where to send it. Join me if ya will; you're a Daisy if ya do!

Footnote: A man and his idea ... Conceive it, believe it, achieve it, receive it ... Author, Dr. John F. DiStefano, AKA: Dr. I. Yankum, SASS #22529.

(The Wild Bunch was delighted when this idea first surfaced, and Palaver Pete is correct, it took all of 30 seconds to muster an approval vote! As can be imagined, this project is in its very early stages. All of the fine details have yet to be worked out—they all depend upon the amount of money the team has with which to work. By END of TRAIL the site for the church will be solidified. Periodic Cowboy Chronicle reports will make the evolving plan and success of the fund-raising efforts visible to everyone. The church, as well as the rest of the "town," are all part of the SASS Museum, a 501(c)3 corporation, making all contributions tax free donations. All money received will be set aside in a special building fund. Checks can be sent to:

SASS Museum  
Attn: Memorial Chapel  
215 Cowboy Way  
Edgewood, NM 87015

And, by the way, if anyone can acquire pews for the sanctuary, please do! ... Editor in Chief 🐾

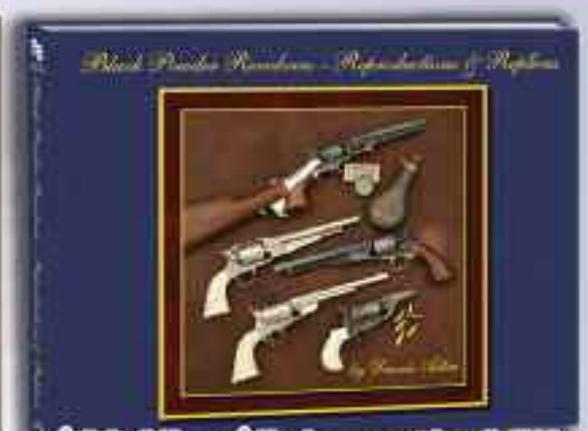
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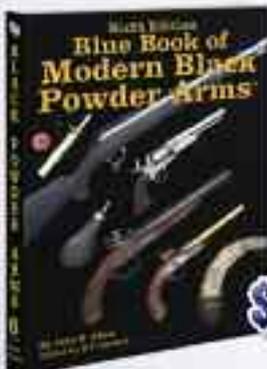
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