



The Cowboy Chronicle

The Monthly Journal of the Single Action Shooting Society®

Vol. 21 No. 12

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December 2008

See our
EXCITING
Mercantile section
(starting on page 94)

GUNS OF AUGUST 2008

The SASS Midwest Regional Championship

By Col. Fletch O'Dubois III, SASS #14224
Photos by Black Jack McGinnis, SASS #2041

Middletown, OH – The family story goes something like this. Back in the “good old days” Uncle Buford and his lady friend were out for a casual stroll one evening when a stranger, a passerby, was approaching from the opposite direction. This was no gentleman, however, for he failed to tip his hat to uncle Buford’s lady friend as they passed. Without a second thought, Uncle Buford drew his pocket pistol from his left breast pocket and shot the stranger dead. Of course, there was a hearing—of sorts. Ladies were treated with reverence then, and Uncle Buford was exonerated “for doing the right thing.” And let there be no doubt, ladies are still treated with reverence today. The Big Iron Rangers, our main match sponsor, Taylor’s & Company, the Middletown Sportsmen’s Club, and SASS shooters from around the globe have great reverence for the “fairer sex.” Last year enthusiastic shooters from over twenty states and Canada gathered to mark the historic Tenth Anniversary of the Guns of August. This year marks a historic presence



Black Jack Beeson had an awesome weekend, winning the Pale Rider Gunfighter category in both the main match and the Blackpowder Mini-match. Pale Rider competitors were shooting at least 30 gr. of smoky stuff in their rifle and revolvers capped with 200+ gr. bullets—manly stuff indeed!

HIGHLIGHTS on pages 72,73

time to visit the vendors, participate in local area events, and grab some grub or hob-knob with old friends and make new ones.

To say last summer’s “Tenth Anniversary” Guns of August was a roaring success would be an understatement ... so, how were we going to do it again? The Board of Directors and The Big Irons began planning each detail of the match, as well as the numerous social events months ago. From berm marshals to tractor drivers, from hospitality night to one of a kind door prizes, every detail was considered. To top it off, because of his rousing cowboy music, we invited Royal Wade Kimes to travel all the way back to Middletown, Ohio to be the special entertainment at the Saturday night banquet.

According to Cat Ballou, the lovely wife of Tex, SASS #4, who was in attendance, “The Guns of August, SASS Midwest Regional Championship, is one of the most prestigious and largest events in SASS.” Local news media and shows about SASS on ESPN help to draw attention to our sport, and there were many spectators who came to see real, live gun totin’ cowboys and cowgirls in action. We had lots of folks check out the shooting and visit the vendors. Many local trap and skeet shooters from the nearby range dropped in to see what SASS was all about. The

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of women on the national scene with women Senators and Governors running for the highest offices in the nation. And we, too, assembled to dedicate our program to our active lady competitors by featuring the Women of the Old West.

Shooters assembled under the sprawling tent for the traditional opening ceremonies. First, a Mounted Shooter in full Canadian Mountie attire brought forth the maple leaf flag for the playing of the Canadian National Anthem. Closely

following was the playing of the US National Anthem. The flag used was presented by Mounted Shooter Hot Headed Hussy. All in attendance held “Old Glory” in awe. Deadwood Stan, SASS #7275, President of The Big Irons welcomed everyone. Our astute Range Officer, Lassiter, SASS #2080, went over range and safety instructions, and the competition was on. This year we continued the arrangement of morning and afternoon posses. This afforded competitors and their families more free

SASS Cowboy Chronicle

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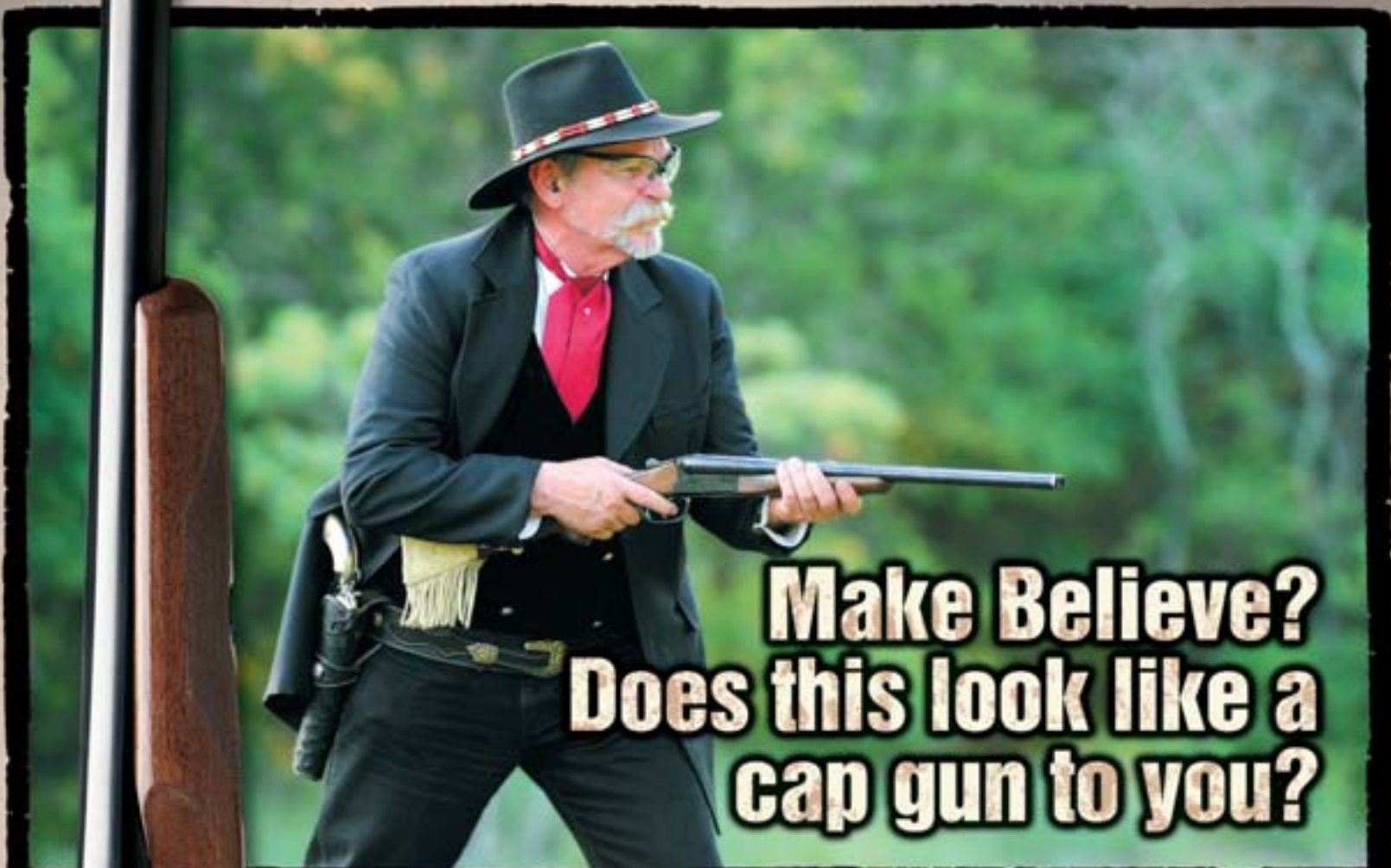
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The Cowboy Chronicle



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Tex, SASS #4
~SASS Hall of Fame Inductee~

END OF TRAIL

Time for a Face Lift

By Tex, SASS #4

General distributed his request for comments to last year's END of TRAIL participants (see the General's "Thank you" on page 21 in this issue). Event participation is down, as it is in almost every other event across the country in these difficult economic times. END of TRAIL is also removed from one of the largest metropolitan areas in the country, and, while being half way from virtually everywhere, is also a long way from the vast majority of our competitors. So, what to do?

First of all, everyone is worried about expenses, so END of TRAIL has opted to reduce its fees. Shooter's fees, camping fees, and vendor fees are now less than last

year. In recognition of the primitive camping conditions at the Ranch (no electricity ... yet), the fee is reduced ... we really do want as many folks to camp at the Ranch and stay on the Ranch for the duration of the event as possible. The vendors have been squeezed for some time, so hopefully the new fee structure will help make their experience more profitable. We are also exploring the idea of providing a few "seminar-sized" tents to allow several vendors to share a single larger tent, reducing their costs even more. The Wild Bunch match, the warm-up match, and the side event fees are either reduced or simplified, providing a more economic experience for our shooters without

sacrificing the quality or quantity of the shooting opportunities.

It has been determined END of TRAIL can no longer afford the luxury of dedicated Berm Marshals. These marshals have served us well, and their past service is greatly appreciated. They were an effective solution to ensuring a consistent, fair match for everyone. END of TRAIL will now hand-pick Posse Marshals and appropriately orient them so they can each ensure their posse shoots the stages the way they were intended.

Without the need for a large number of "shoot-through" Berm Marshals, END of TRAIL will forego
(Continued on page 104)

END of TRAIL developed its basic format many years ago, choosing to become a complete "cowboy festival" with significant public appeal in addition to hosting the World Championship of Cowboy Action Shooting™. And, it's been very successful. Although the event has evolved over the years, it is now time to begin rethinking at least some of the details.

Times have changed ... our members told us so when The

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But the single item that has been requested most often by Cowboy Action Shooters has been a reliable replacement mainspring for model '73 and '66 rifles. There have been lightened versions of the factory



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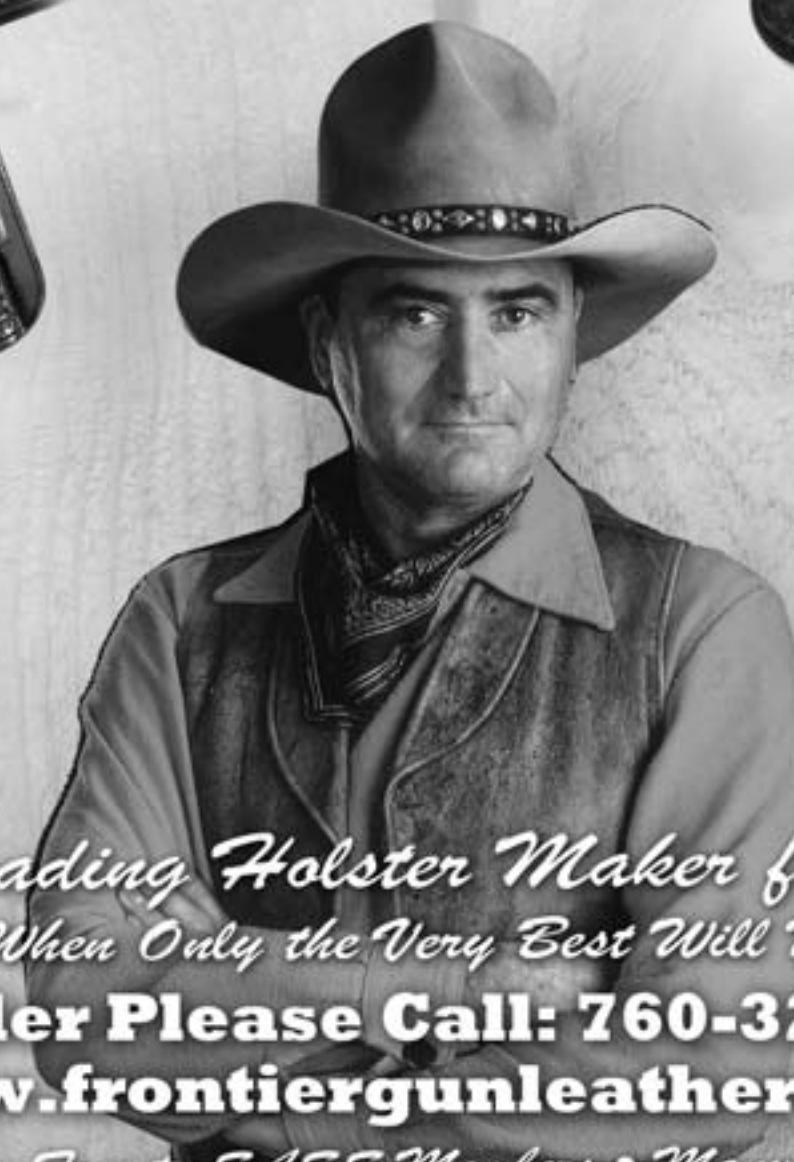
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There are only 100 targets, numbered 1/100-100/100, for this Museum fundraiser. Each one is mounted on a Mahogany base. The

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These are available at the SASS Convention for a minimum donation of \$100 each to the SASS Western Heritage Museum & Cowboy Action Shooting™ Hall of Fame and will qualify for a charitable donation under the Museum's 501(C3) non-profit status.

If you think you have everything you want, I'm sure you will want one of these (just because you don't already have one). Buy one for the friend that is so hard to find anything for. Or, you can get one just to help the Museum!

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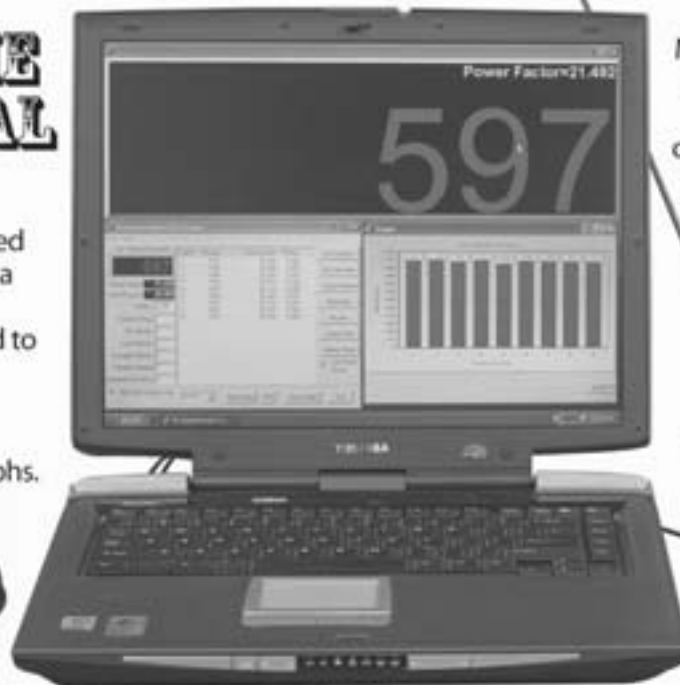
EVIL ROY

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OWLHOOT HARDIN RECEIVES HIS REGULATOR BADGE, CLASS OF '08

By Oracle, SASS Life #4854

Owlhoot Hardin, SASS #17546, began his odyssey into Cowboy Action Shooting™ in 1996. He obtained a table at the area gun shows, put on his cowboy duds, dragged his wife along, and began to demonstrate the Cowboy Way by showing off the guns, wearing the outfits, and answering questions. Between gun shows he scouted for a range and made contact with the owner of Hickory Glen.

With ten newly recruited members, Owlhoot identified a member who could and would write the club by-laws and associate the Smokey Mountain Shootist Society as a SASS affiliated club. With the paperwork completed in 1996, a slate of officers was formed with

Owlhoot as the President. Thus, SASS became a reality in the foothills of the Great Smokey Mountains. With Owlhoot's continuing leadership as Territorial Governor, the club sponsored the SASS Family Reunion at Gatlinburg, Tennessee. The Club continued to grow, and in 2005 had to move to the Oak Ridge Sportsman Association, Tennessee. There are other founding members, but Owlhoot was the driving force.

At the age of 73, Owlhoot still shoots with three clubs every month. I am proud just to walk on the same ranges with him. He normally outscores me using smokey powder and shooting Duelist. Owlhoot rarely misses. 🐉



Owlhoot Hardin, SASS #17546, receiving his Regulator's Badge, Class of 2008. Tennessee Tombstone, SASS #34743, Trail Boss of the Smokey Mountain Shootist Society makes the presentation.



El Paso Speed Rig

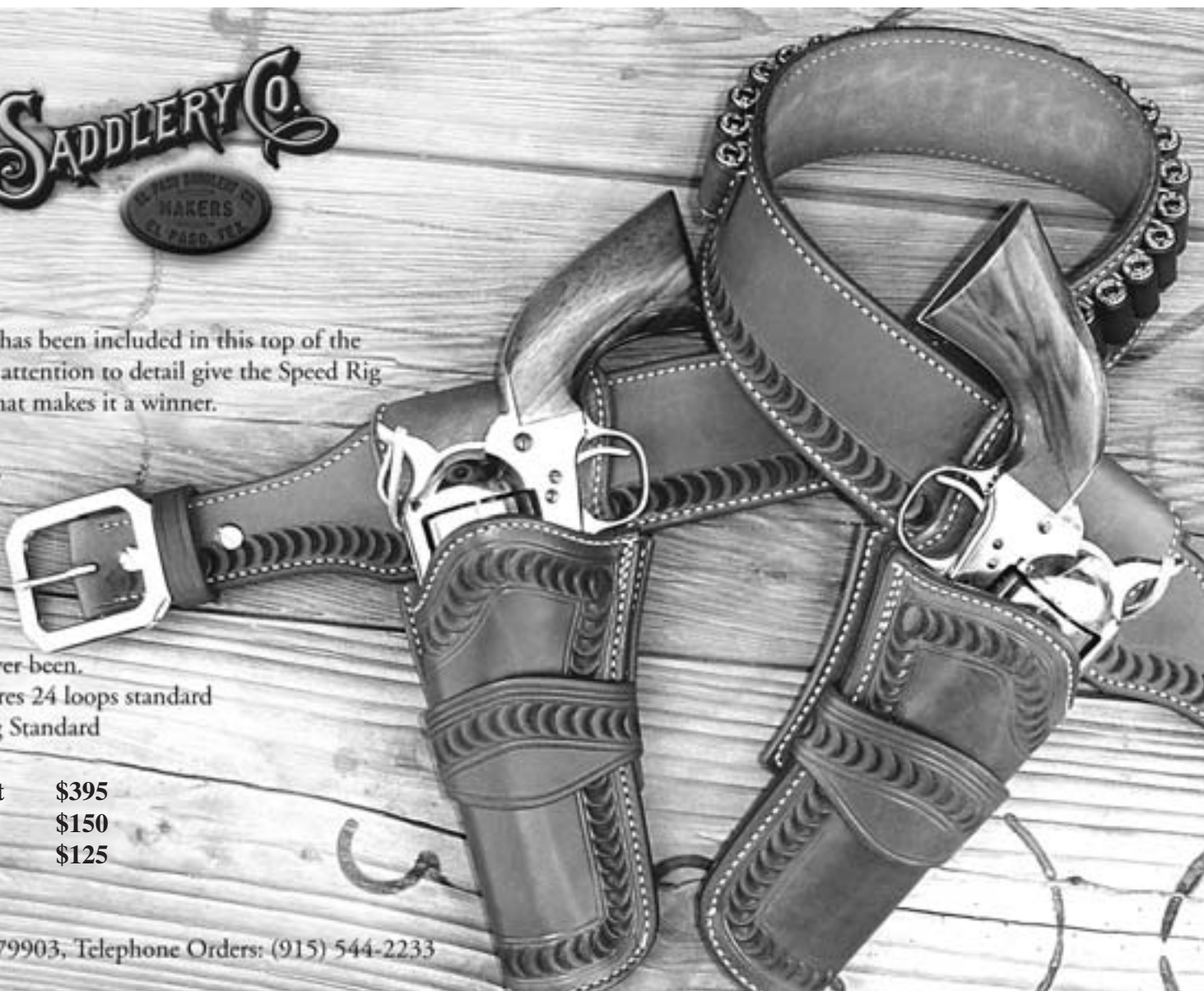
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- 2 1/2" wide tapered belt features 24 loops standard
- Full Speed Rig-Shell Stamping Standard
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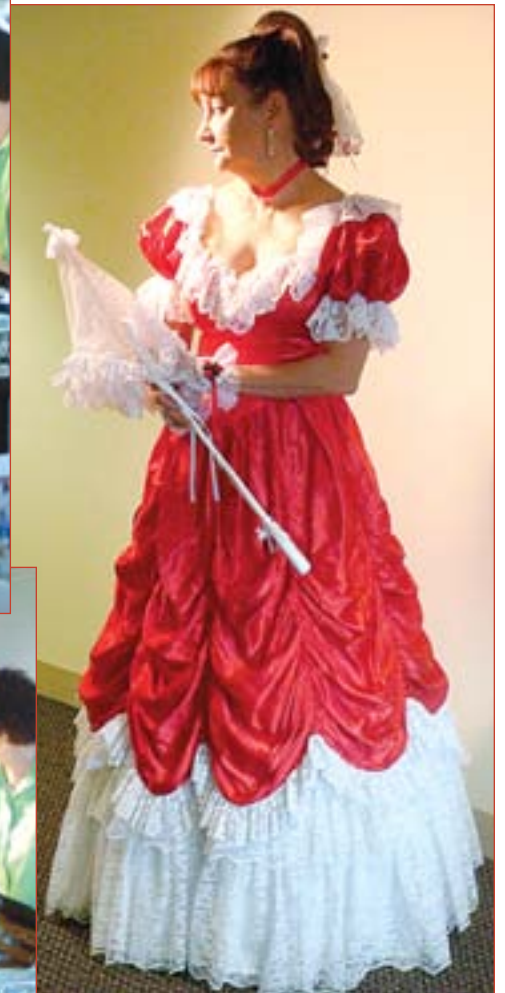
www.riverjunction.com



WHAT'S THE POINT IN BEING A COWGIRL IF YOU CAN'T SHOW OFF?

Besides being a member of SASS (#62913), I'm a member of CFWS (Central Florida Watercolor Society) and last Sunday I attended an art demonstration by Janet Rogers, a well-known Florida watercolorist. She was showing some of the techniques that she'd be highlighting in her week-long art workshop. When she talked about her love of costume depiction and movement in watercolor, I suggested she might be interested in coming to the hotel where our SASS Last Stand ball is held in January in order to get many snapshots of cowboy costumes. She asked me about the costumes I had, and she soon asked if I would come and model some of the costumes for the students in her workshop. On Wednesday, I went to the workshop and modeled several of my favorite outfits. What fun! The students and Janet loved the costumes and the whole emphasis on 19th century dress. It gave me a chance to tell the participants about SASS and to establish a connection between the sport and art. Janet asked me to consider to doing additional modeling in my SASS gowns for her future workshops.

Mary Christmas, SASS #62913
Chuluota, FL 🐾



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Custom Pistol Grips and More by Teepee Creeper, SASS #34829

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Teepee's Revenge! 6 Degree Cant Lawman Holster/ 2.5", No Cartridge Loops Roller Buckle Lawman Belt Combination, \$93.00, 2 holsters/belt comb., \$140.00. Meets Cowboy Fast Draw regulations. Holster only, \$55.00, belt only \$45.00. Slim Jim Holster/Lawman Belt Comb. Same as above. Belt Pouch, \$20.00, Cartridge Slides, \$30.00, 20 Round Staging Strips, \$20.00, black or brown.

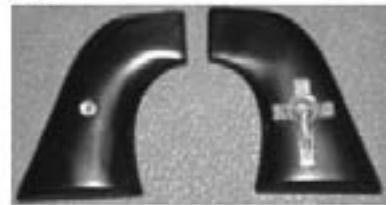


One skirted holster or the Western Holster, Trail or Ranger cartridge belt, \$110.00, Slim Jim \$105.00. Two double skirted holsters or Western holsters combination of your choice with either 2.75 Trail or Ranger cartridge belt, \$168.00, Slim Jim \$158.00. 3" Money Belt & John Wayne 2.5" money belt, \$22.00 extra.

Heavy vegetable tanned shotgun cartridge belt with speed strips, 18 shotgun singles (or 12 doubles) & 10 cartridge loops, \$80.00. Also shotgun belt slides with speed strips, \$30.00. Down Under Slide, (cartridge & shotgun) \$35.00.



Over 70 custom grip molds for Single Action percussion & cartridge revolvers. Smooth & checkered \$40.00 a pair, \$45.00 stag style, brass inlayed snake on one side panel, \$75.00 & solid silver inlayed, \$120.00 one panel. "3:10 To Yuma", Brass crucifix, one side, \$70.00, silver, \$115.00. Both sides available



Huckleberry Rig, right or left hand, \$100.00. Double Huckleberry Rig, \$180.00. Colors, brown or black. Tooled or Untooled Derringer Holsters, \$48.00 & \$60.00.



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True Grit unlined mustard w/brown suede trim coat, at home on the range or the dance floor, \$57.00. Size 40-54. Suspender Pants \$29.00, Gus Shirts \$27.00, Vests & Frocks.

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Cat Ballou, SASS #55
~SASS Hall of Fame Inductee~

A BIT OF HEAVEN IN OLD CHEYENNE – THE NAGLE/WARREN MANSION

By Cat Ballou, SASS #55

This past July Tex and I headed for Cheyenne, Wyoming to attend the SASS High Plains Regional after a four-year hiatus. Little did we know the treat Deputy Cuny, SASS #35793, and the Cheyenne Regulators had in store for us. They put us up in the most fabulous B & B ever – the Nagle/Warren Mansion, a unique Victorian property listed in the Smithsonian Guide to Historic America and the National Register of Historic Places.

Built in 1888 by Erasmus Nagle, a wealthy dry goods owner, the mansion was one of Cheyenne's most elegant residences. Construction began in 1886 and by its completion in 1888, the cost to build the mansion was \$50,000, an enormous sum in those days. Unfortunately, Erasmus Nagle died of peritonitis in 1890, and the mansion passed to his wife, Emma, and son, George. In 1910, Mrs. Nagle sold the mansion to Cheyenne Realty Company, and in 1915, F. E. Warren purchased the mansion.

F. E. Warren was a self-made man who rose to power as the first Governor of Wyoming, as well as becoming a US Senator and serving in that capacity for thirty-seven years. His daughter, Helen Frances Warren married Captain John J. "Black Jack" Pershing in 1905. In 1929, F. E. Warren died, and the mansion went through several hands until being purchased by Jim Osterfoss in 1997, and turned into this magnificent bed and breakfast. Jim has owned and managed properties in the Rocky Mountain area for more than 20 years.

Every room in the house has been decorated to recreate the elegance of the Victorian West, from the ornate wooden staircases to the authentic period wallpaper to the



The Nagle/Warren Mansion in Cheyenne is a thoroughly Victorian Bed and Breakfast facility, featuring Victorian elegance and modern conveniences.

antique furniture and the 19th century artwork. The rooms in the carriage house also reflect the opulent Victorian theme. Twelve rooms in all await the lucky guests.

However, the mansion boasts all the 21st Century amenities one could ask for—televisions, telephones, data-port lines, and wireless DSL in each room. There is also a conference room, an exercise center, and an enclosed outdoor hot tub. One day I played hooky from the match and lay in the most comfort-

able bed imaginable and began reading a book about the infamous Tom Horn. I had good intentions to spend that day working on *The Catwhog Chronicle*, but the "ease" of the mansion seduced me otherwise.

And, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the gourmet breakfasts every morning. They were truly "just to die for." Jim Osterfoss and his staff really know how to pamper their guests. Jim is a most gracious host and full of stories about Wyoming and Cheyenne's history.

The mansion is located on the edge of the downtown Cheyenne business district and is an easy walk to many shops, restaurants, the 1887 Capitol building, and the historic Cheyenne Depot and Museum. The address of the Nagle/Warren Mansion is 222 E. 17th St., Cheyenne, WY 82001. Telephone – 800-811-2610 or 307-637-3333. Their website is www.naglewarrenmansion.com.

If you're ever up Wyoming way, don't miss a stay at this bit of heaven in Old Cheyenne! 🐾

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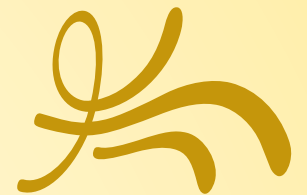
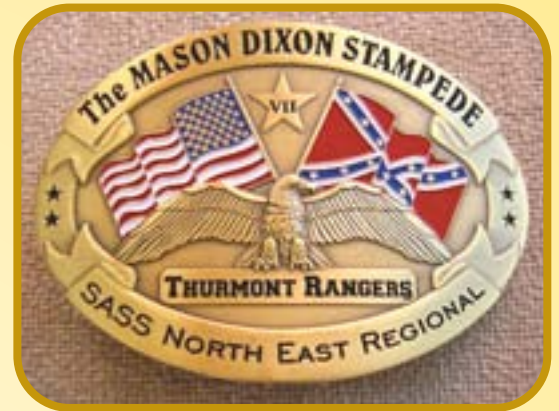
Coyote Droppings

With Coyote Calhoun



Coyote Calhoun, SASS #201

2008 SASS WOOLLY AWARDS



By Coyote Calhoun, SASS #201

The SASS Woolly Awards started “way back” in 2001 as a way to recognize the Best of the Year SASS Affiliated Club, Annual Match, Annual Mounted Match, New Product,



Serving on several committees and research panels, Snakebite was instrumental in creating a “level playing field” for blackpower shooters with his research on the SASS Blackpowder Standard.



What better place to hold a SASS Mounted Shooting match than in the Town Too Tough to Die where the Earps and Doc Holliday sent three cowboys to eternity in the blink of an eye!

Merchant, and Territorial Governor. Each year the Wild Bunch receives nominations and recommendations from SASS members all over the country, but the final decision rests with the Wild Bunch.



Although growing to a size of 400+ shooters, with its fun, safe, and challenging stages, the Mason Dixon Stampede continues to have a small match “friendly” feel.



With this grip and frame combination, the “Alchimista” points better and more naturally than revolvers with the standard 1873 grip.

This is not an easy task, or one that is taken lightly. It is very difficult to pick the one best for the year in the different categories because there are so many good, wonderful, and hard working people. In our SASS Family we have many volunteers, vendors, sponsors, and members whose contributions make SASS and SASS matches better.

This year we decided to announce the winners prior to the Convention. This way the winners can bring friends and family to help them celebrate their accomplishment. The 2008 Woolly Award Winners are:

Best Affiliated Club 2008 – The Cowboys, Norco, California

The Cowboys are one of the largest Cowboy Action Shooting™ clubs in the world, with over 350 active club members. Working

tirelessly, The Cowboys host not one, but two major shooting events during the year: The Ambush at Mill Creek, held in May, and the Gunfight Behind the Jersey Lilly in October. During the rest of the year, The Cowboys are busy hosting one of the largest monthly Cowboy Action Shooting™ matches in the world, with an average attendance of 150 shooters. At each of these monthly matches the club hosts a free New Shooter Class where folks unfamiliar with the sport can experience the thrill of Cowboy Action Shooting™, and new shooters are able to spend the day with a SASS RO-II

(Continued on page 40)



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6 Stage Warm-up Match
3 Stage Plainsman Match
Long Range Match

Friday

6 Action Stages - Main Match
6 Stage Wild Bunch Match
2 Stage Mounted Warm-Up

Saturday

6 Action Stages - Main Match
4 Mounted Stages - Main Match
Side Matches after Main Match

Sunday

2 Mounted Stages - Main Match
Top Gun Shoot-off after Awards

Thursday

SASS Chili Cook-Off
and Pot Luck
Movie Night at Sunset

Friday

Pot Luck / Community Grill
Campfire Sing-a-long

Saturday

Costume Contest Awards
Stretch Raffle and Auction
Square Dancing

Sunday

Dutch Oven Breakfast
And Awards Ceremony



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BUFFALO STAMPEDE

MUST BE A SASS MEMBER

One Application Per Shooter or Conventioneer. Copy Form For Additional Entries.

Alias _____ SASS# _____

Name _____ Phone# _____

Address: _____ State _____ Zip _____

SASS Affiliated Club _____

Possee With _____

- Traditional Ladies Traditional Modern Ladies Modern Duelist Ladies Duelist Senior Duelist Frontiersman
- Frontier Cartridge Ladies Frontier Cartridge Frontier Cartridge Duelist Ladies Frontier Cartridge Duelist
- Gunfighter Ladies Gunfighter Classic Cowboy Classic Cowgirl Junior Boy (12-16) Junior Girl (12-16)
- 49er Ladies 49er Senior (60+) Ladies Senior (60+) Silver Senior (65+) Ladies Silver Senior (65+)
- Elder Statesman (70+) Grand Dame (70+) *B*Western Ladies *B*Western Cart Shooter Cart Driver Pioneer Cart
- Mounted Div# _____ Ladies Mounted Div# _____ Junior Mounted Div# _____ Buckaroo Mounted _____
- Senior Limited Mounted _____ Ladies Senior Limited Mounted _____ Senior Open Mounted _____ Ladies Senior Open Mounted _____

Applications received after April 10th include a \$25 late fee per shooter. All refunds are subject to a \$25 processing fee.
No refunds after April 10th. You must be a SASS member to shoot. You will be sent a confirmation upon receipt of entry form.
All shooters must attend the mandatory safety meeting.

Payment Method Personal Check Money Order Visa Mastercard Amex Discover

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Cardholder's Signature _____

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Main Match	\$95
<i>(INCLUDES ALL ACTION MATCHES or MOUNTED MAIN MATCH)</i>	
Spouse	\$75
Young Adults(17-20)	\$55
Junior(16 & Under)	\$35
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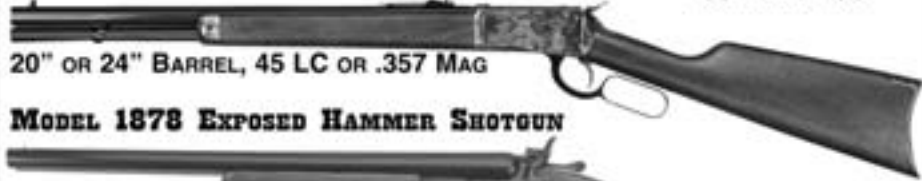
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END of TRAIL CHANGES SUGGESTED BY ITS PARTICIPANTS

By General US Grant, SASS #2



General US Grant, SASS #2

I wish to thank all of you folks that returned the questionnaire mailed to you with a series of questions about your experience at END of TRAIL 2008. The response was terrific, and a great deal of information came back. I received over 200 replies, and as I promised, I reviewed each and every one and categorized them all. I went over them in great detail with my partners in The Wild Bunch and our key staff. It may seem strange to some of you; however, we do try very hard to please everyone.

In the announcement in this issue you will note the pricing has been low-

ered in almost all areas. The length of the event has been reduced, and the evening schedules have been changed. The final day, Sunday, is pretty much a travel day for many. The formal opening will be on Wednesday evening, June 24th, 2009. I sent up a trial balloon as to the dates being changed without success. I realize the middle of June is a warm and dusty time of year in New Mexico, but all things considered, it seems to be the best time for the World Championship. Again, I appreciate your input, and we are doing everything possible to make END of TRAIL 2009 the best ever. 🤠

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GREAT PUBLICATION!

My name is Christopher Smith, and I am a student at Long Beach City College (CA) studying history. Recently I found out about Cowboy Action Shooting™ from an instructor of mine, who then gave me an issue of *The Cowboy Chronicle*. Having an avid interest in history and living history, but not much of a firearms enthusiast, I was curious to see what this magazine had to offer.

I don't know exactly what I expected, but I was floored to see the amount of diversity included in your publication.

The coverage of the Living History Event in Ohio was a fun read.

The piece about Chinese Immigration in the El Paso Area by Three Fingers Tequila was a fascinating, well-written historical piece that beautifully tied together the history of Chinese Immigration in the US with the local history of El Paso. This article got me very excited.

Then the piece about the wo-

man who makes knives, in the column written for women by Holy Terror was also very interesting and a pleasure to see included. I have a keen interest in blacksmithing and have been thinking of trying my hand at making knives, so not only did this story serve as a spotlight on the role of women in the SASS community, but it had actual hands on descriptions and techniques all in a very small article.

Even the "Dear Billy" section addressed issues about gender roles.

I was also thrilled at the pieces on fabricating wagon wheels and gunsmithing, as someone who appreciates the artistry of creating tools and everyday items by hand.

Who would have thought that a paper about Cowboy Action Shooting™ would have such a wide range of voices? I am very interested in attending one of your events, and to keep reading your publication.

My hat is off to you folks! Keep up the good work!

Christopher Smith
Long Beach, CA

OBSOLETE BRASS IS STILL AVAILABLE!

In the October '08 *Cowboy Chronicle*, on page 64, Blackhorse Billy wrote about prepping to shoot his new .45-75 1876 Winchester repro rifle. In his discussion he noted the lack of .45-75 brass and how he was attempting to locate Winchester .348 cases from which to reform. I have a .43 Spanish Rolling Block and initially I investigated using the .348 Win cases and reforming them until I heard of Bertram Brass, makers of obsolete brass in all sorts of calibers, and "basic brass" with specific base sizes intended for reforming. I performed a quick net search of my resources and located the following sources for .45-75 reloading components. These cases are already formed and require no additional forming, time, or expense to prepare. Also noted are bullet casters who do a darned good job for a real good price. No muss, no fuss, just

quality reloading time and shootin'.

BTW, been away from SASS shooting for several years due to career and family issues, but still enjoy *The Cowboy Chronicle* and maintaining my SASS membership. Hope to start shooting again real soon.

- <http://www.huntingtons.com/>
- .45-75 RCBS reloading dies \$45.
- Bertram Brass (Basic) x 20ea \$60.
- .45-75 case forming dies \$550.
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THANKS TO RUDY LOZANO OF BLACK HILLS LEATHER

Pards, this is a story of an outstanding individual. His name is Rudy Lozano, and he is the owner of Black Hills Leather and a fellow SASS member.

When shooting at SASS competitions, I originally heard talk of the quality of his workmanship, and attention given to each customer. Although I have never met this man in person, I have done business with him since 1999 and own several of his products.

Thus, when I started out this letter it was meant to tell all the SASS readers about the quality of his work and the personal care he gave to each of my orders. But I think every Pard will understand if I just say "thanks" to him.

"Rudy, thank you for the time given and the attention to detail, which shows in each and every item you make, thus, the pride I

have in your holsters. I am very proud to wear your products for I think their quality is the best and second to none.

Deputy King, SASS #22910
Stratford, WI

COSTUME CRISIS!

As for your recent editorial on costuming, I say SASS has already lost that one. I was just at a state championship match where one of the category winners (and a posse leader as well) shot barefoot. I had always thought leather boots or shoes were required for safety, if for nothing else. Another category winner (B-Western) shot bare headed with nylon deck shoes in clothes that you would find on the street in any town in America. You could not find anything Western about that outfit, except for the revolvers.

While I find costume categories in a shooting match to be just plain silly, if that is how someone wants to define their own approach to the sport, so be it. I will admit those who show up like they just came off the

trail drive warm my heart. If you look at the costumes of the Traditional Category and overall match winners, and those of my fellow Frontier Cartridge Duelists at that state championship match, you will see what I mean.

Far Country Traveler
NRA Life Member
SASS #19695

(I'm hoping you're dead wrong about losing the war. If we lose the will to stay in costume, we'll lose our sport. It would quickly become just another action shooting game ... something for the guys to do on weekends. Match Directors should put a statement in their Shooters Program reminding folks costumes are required for ALL match events ... including the banquet and the awards ceremony (if different). No one wants to be the "Costume Cop," but if the match officials won't do it, you may need new match officials. I can't tell you how many times I've gotten out of my chair and pulled folks out of the winner's line in front of everyone ... explaining in a quiet voice how inappropriate their clothing is. Anyone who chooses to shoot

in a major match dressed as they would on the street has a bad attitude and is spoiling the fantasy for the rest of the competitors. Why should any of us be hesitant to let the offender know? By the way ... shooting barefooted is perfectly fine. They did that a lot in the 1880's! ... Editor in Chief.)

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A GOOD 'RO'

By Ima Darlin,
SASS #56196

"Life doesn't have to be perfect to be darlin"

How many times have you had a Range Officer who was, well, not the best? Perhaps they stood in your way, or they didn't watch out for you during the stage, or maybe they could have prevented you from making a procedural, but didn't? I can say that's happened to me plenty of times. But, as many times as I've had that experience, I've also had some good RO's.

Having a good RO really helps you shoot a better stage. Recently while shooting at a Regional, on the last stage, I almost got a procedural. But, fortunately I had a good RO who actually told me "nuh-ha," so I then shot at the correct target, and not only did I not receive a procedural, I also shot a clean stage. Yay!

So, that's all it really takes. The next time you are an RO, watch out for your shooter! 🤠

SASS MISSED THE TARGET WITH B-WESTERN!

There is little doubt that many of our more mature shooters have joined Cowboy Action Shooting™ under the influence of a youth filled with B-WESTERNS. I have no objection to paying homage to the B-WESTERN, but I do have problems with the current implementation in terms of philosophy, logic, and consistency.

Philosophy: This category is called B-Western when it should more properly be named B-WESTERN HERO, as all of the costuming leads in that direction. B-Westerns would have been dull affairs, indeed, if the hero had ridden around the West with no bad guys to fight or sidekick for comic relief. The current definition is far too narrow.

Costuming: In the basic costuming section of the SASS Handbook it notes, "Contemporary cowboy shirts with snap fronts are okay, but not even very B-Western." Then the "B" Western

Category section says, "Shirts must be of B-Western style with snap buttons or —" Do I note a hint of inconsistency here? I have seen the kind of costuming the descriptions in this section has engendered and what we are mostly ending up with is an outlandish caricature of true "B" style. Roy and Gene were more than dressy enough, and keep in mind the outfits they wore on the Silver Screen were not usually as flashy as those they wore for personal appearances or on Comic Book covers! I find it amusing my favorite B-hero, Hopalong Cassidy, would not meet the costuming criteria were it not for the dispensation granted near the end of the section.

Guns: The requirement for post-1884 rifles makes sense as the Model '92 Winchester was ubiquitous to the B-Westerns, but I'm not sure where the Lightning fits in. Since the rifle requirement seemed to emulate the B-Westerns, I was surprised they appear to have been completely ignored when setting the standards for the handguns. "All SASS Legal revolvers?" I'm pretty sure I never saw a Ruger

Blackhawk in any of the old movies. Fixed sights should almost be a given for this section, as looks are very important to such a category. With shotguns, again, "All SASS Legal" when it should be limited to double barrel side by sides. If any Model '97's appeared in the B movies, they were few and far between.

Leather: The standard seems to want B-styled rigs, but most of what I see used are much closer to 1950's Arvo Ojala knock-offs.

Regarding Shooting Styles, SASS again dropped the ball. "Any SASS-Legal shooting style?" Now I could understand Duelist and Gunfighter as options, but two handed? What movies demonstrated that modern method of shooting?

So, it is my suggestion the B-Western category be revamped and the revisions be based on what actually appeared in the movies.

Bill Cassidy, SASS Life #3561
Gloverville, NY

(I've recently questioned the inappropriateness of not allowing Native Americans in the category ... Tonto doesn't qualify either! – Editor in Chief) 🤠

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**Colonel Dan,
SASS Life #24025**

MAJOR PAUL J. WEAVER - MIA

By Colonel Dan, SASS Life #24025

think those in our SASS family will also appreciate.

While engaged in the retirement ritual of cleaning out “stuff” accumulated in drawers over more years than I want to count, I came across an MIA bracelet I’ve had since coming home from Desert Storm. The name on the bracelet was Major Paul J Weaver. Major Weaver was a C-130 Gunship driver assigned to the 16th Special Operations Squadron stationed at Hurlburt Field, Florida. Although we both deployed to Desert Strom from Hurlburt, I never met Paul that I could recall anyway, but that wasn’t surprising—he was an Air Force pilot who hung out at the airfield, and I was an Army ground pounder who had no reason to hang out at the airfield.

Nonetheless, that bracelet brought back a flood of memories—

memories about the area around Al Kahfji, the fighting that went on there, and the lives that were lost there. Paul’s plane was shot down and ditched in the waters just off the coast of that little town in the Eastern Coalition sector from where I operated along with a contingent of Marines, Saudis, and Kuwaitis. Unfortunately, Paul’s body was never recovered.

As I looked at the bracelet, I decided it should be in the hands of Paul’s family to whom it would mean more than it ever did just sitting there in my dresser for the last 17 years. So, that day I began my search for his family. I scoured the Internet and found that Paul was from Alamosa, Colorado, but no mention was made of family members. I decided to search for any Paul Weavers from Alamosa and found the name of one who was currently living there along with a

phone number. I had no idea if this was a relative or just a coincidence. I called the number, but had to leave a voicemail. In my message I told this Paul Weaver who I was and my background, how I came to know of Major Weaver, and finally told him I didn’t know if he was related to the Paul Weaver whose family I was looking for or not, but if he was, I’d very much like to talk with him.

A few days went by with no return phone call, so I assumed the names were just coincidentally the same. On Sunday, my phone rang. The Caller ID indicated it was someone from Alamosa, Colorado! When I picked up the phone, I heard the voice of what was obviously an elderly gentleman who told me he had gotten my message and that he was Major Weaver’s father.

We talked for about 25 minutes.
(Continued on next page)

It’s that time of year again when I leave the political world behind and touch on more important things in life. This year, I’d like to relate a soldier’s story I found very meaningful on a personal level. You all probably know by now, I’ve retired from career #2 and have been experiencing some of those little amusing things everyone goes through when they, too, enter that phase of their lives. Here is another much more rewarding experience that I

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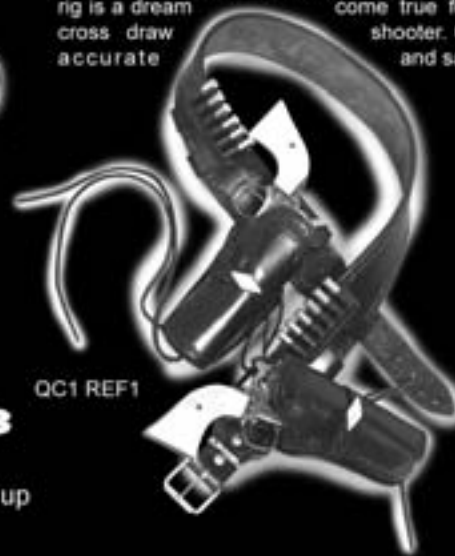


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The cowboys'

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(Continued from previous page)
He told me about Paul and all he knew about what happened the day Paul was shot down, and I told him what I knew of the area and the fighting that went on there. I felt the disappointment in his voice when he asked and I had to tell him that no, I hadn't seen Paul's plane get hit or go down.

In any event, I told him I had Paul's MIA bracelet and would be honored to send it to him. The gratitude in the old man's voice came through the telephone more clearly than anything I could have imagined.

I put Major Weaver's bracelet in the mail the next morning and felt extremely good about that most important outcome of my "stuff"

cleaning operation of the previous week. The small effort it took in tracking down his family and returning that bracelet to those who would appreciate it most was rewarded seven fold.

I'm sure had I been the one whose name was on that little bracelet some GI who had it would have done the same for my family.

In any case, this was just one of those many military stories with a happy ending that made both sides feel very good as they hung up their phones.

Merry Christmas my friends...

Contact Colonel Dan:

coloneldan@bellsouth.net

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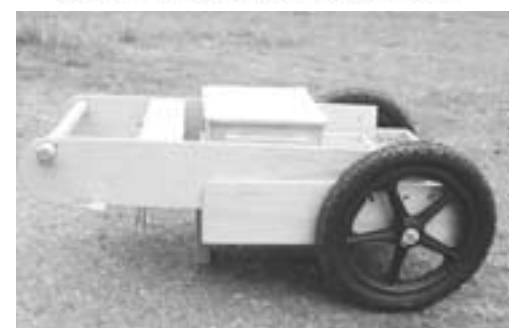
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KINCAID'S BAND OF BROTHERS RIDES AGAIN!

By Ivan Innaccurate AKA Trumpeter Voss, SASS #28522

Congratulations to Ellsworth T. Kincaid, SASS #6037, for organizing the best 2008 Little Bighorn Adventure yet. Many of the 2006 gang plus a couple of new recruits returned to escort General George Armstrong Custer at Fort Abraham Lincoln, North Dakota and Little Bighorn, Montana. We spent nine action packed days with unique experiences in a family reunion atmosphere. Our members traveled thousands of miles to get another once in a lifetime experience as 7th Cavalry soldiers for a week.

We had the pleasure of working with Steve Alexander, the world's finest Custer living historian. Steve knows the ill-fated general's story in remarkable detail. My adventures riding as his trumpeter gave me insights into the complex character that became the Civil War superstar by daring and audacious leadership.

Each day discriminating visitors beheld the rare sight of cavalry maneuvers carried out on trumpet signals. The Old West Association set up exhibits on the parade ground for the Fort Lincoln Summer Festival. Cavalry re-enactors from Minnesota joined us for drill before demonstrating Mounted Shooting



Kincaid's Irregulars crossing the Little Bighorn River. The river was "up" this year!

and saber exercises.

Our free time gave us a chance to ride the yellow, sweet clover-covered hills around Fort Abraham Lincoln. The high bluffs over looking the wide Missouri River provided a spectacular view. The Fort Abraham Lincoln staff welcomed us and made every

effort to ensure our stay remained memorable. Our horses stayed in the reconstructed 7th Cavalry stable near the river.

Other Fort Lincoln highlights included sleeping in the Granary building on period army bunks. To appreciate the bedding arrange-



Ivan Innaccurate sounds Taps for the 7th Cavalry Dead on Last Stand Hill.

ments, imagine a low carpenter's workbench with a sack of hay for a mattress and a couple of army blankets for cover. This experience gave me an entirely new respect for the hardships of the 7th Cavalry soldiers. I think maneuvers like the

(Continued on next page)



Kincaid's Irregulars on Little Bighorn Battle Ridge.



Kincaid's Irregulars with General George Armstrong Custer preparing to cross the Little Bighorn River.

(Continued from previous page)
1873 Yellowstone Expedition, the 1874 Black Hills exploration, and the 1876 Little Bighorn campaign must have brought the welcome relief of sleeping on the soft and yielding earth. A four-man tent must have afforded luxurious privacy after living in a room with 80 other men.

A cruise on the Missouri river with beer and pizza climaxed the weekend.

We traveled from Bismarck, ND to Little Bighorn and traced the 7th Cavalry's route, which parallels I-94. A detour led by General Custer included a convoy along dirt roads through the badlands. We visited a campsite where 7th Cavalrymen carved their names into the sandstone hillside. Traveling across the expansive rolling hills of North Dakota and Montana gave me a feeling for the extent of the march to Little Bighorn and the problems the army faced moving almost a thousand men and thousands of horses and mules through wilderness to reach their rendezvous on the Yellowstone River with the other army columns in 1876.

Ellsworth arranged a visit to Deer Medicine Rocks in the Rosebud Valley near Lame Deer, MT. Ernie LaPoint, great grandson of Chief Sitting Bull explained the Sun Dance ritual and vision quest, which produced the vision of soldiers falling from the sky. I found the rocks had a strong energy. Standing in their presence made me feel calm. An extended solo visit would surely produce the deep meditative state that lets the "spirit" world speak.

Open skies and rolling hills made our ride from Custer's Last Camp to the Little Bighorn challenging and memorable. Forging the rain swollen Little Bighorn River to get back to our camp provided another unexpected test. Our horse wrangler Kevin McNiven explained the river

crossing technique like this. "It's easy. Sometimes you do the dog paddle. Sometimes you do the backstroke. If you fall off, just hang onto your horse, and he'll pull you through." During the course of the reenactment we forded the river at least six times. My boots and tack took a day to dry out.

Ellsworth arranged a great chuck wagon crew to serve authentic period cowboy trail chow during our stay by the Little Bighorn River. Greg, Doug, and Linda made themselves part of the gang and kept our morale high with fine open-air meals.

Special thanks to Kevin McNiven (Wyoming Drifter) and Tiffany Wisner (Monahsetah) for transporting and handling our horses. Kevin stretched our horsemanship by leading us through places we would never have considered riding. If anything goes wrong, you want Kevin around to help you. Tiffany became our Indian scout and photographer. We gave her the alias Monahsetah for the Cheyenne squaw who purportedly had the General's baby. She gave this adventure an extra bounce and befriended all with her natural charm and grace. Put her on a horse bareback and you have a centaur.

The Real Bird Little Bighorn Reenactment has a way of falling together and working each year. This made my fourth time with Kincaid's Irregulars. We look better each year and several of us have taken up special roles such as Custer's flag bearer, staff members, and trumpeter.

This year we plunged into the reenactment with no practice. The swollen river did pose some problems crossing, but everybody came through. We improvised like good troopers and made a good show.

Ellsworth, thanks for all your work. You bring out the best in people. I hope we can do this again someday.

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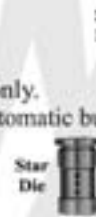


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SIDEKICKS & HEAVIES



Whooper Crane, SASS #52745

Honoring the Saddle Buddies and the Bad Guys who helped make Saturday Afternoon Matinees so goldurned FUN!!!

By Whooper Crane, SASS #52745

What makes a good Bad Guy?

First off, he's got to *look* the role. He wears a black hat, he has a two-day growth of whiskers (or maybe a pencil-thin moustache), he rides a scruffy-looking horse, and totes a dull-looking revolver. His boots are never shined, but always sport evil-looking, horse-grinding spurs.

He's good at bonking old geezers over the head, kidnapping heroines, and dirty fighting with the hero. He always knows the stagecoach schedule, when the mine payroll is being delivered, when the bank vault's unlocked, and when

the sheriff's out of town.

He's a card cheat and a sloppy drinker. He usually frames the hero for his own misdeeds and can change a cattle brand with a running iron in the blink of an eye.

So, this month we're going to explore the life of one of Hollywood's most notorious B-Western Heavies. His wicked sneer and his "evil eye" are known far and wide among us old cowboy movie junkies. He was a really good Bad Guy!!!

A true Son of the Southwest, William Scott Elam was born in Arizona in 1920. His mother died when he was just four years old,

and he went to live "in very unhappy circumstances" with relatives until he was about 10, when he went back to living with his dad, sister, and stepmother.

Like most western lads, he grew up working in the fields ... in his case, cotton fields ... to help support his family.

He liked the outdoor life, and he had a great time as a Boy Scout, that is until one of his scouting buddies threw a pencil at him, which cost him the sight of his left eye (the one that's rigidly fixed in his close-ups and gives him his unique "evil eye" glare).

After high school, he attended



Jack Elam

Santa Monica Junior College and then started a career as an accountant—with several Hollywood stars among his clientele. When all the number crunching started deteriorating
(Continued on page 41)



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“I HAVEN’T A THING TO WEAR!”

Joining in the Spirit of the 1876 Centennial Ball

By Joy Melcher aka “Queen Victoria”

Creating a new gown for the upcoming Ball can be both exciting and nerve wracking! What will you wear to the ball? If you miss the SASS Las Vegas Convention Ball, you miss a full evening of fun, fellowship, dining, dancing and getting to know other members.

From my customers, I hear the fears that some members have. Perhaps they don’t have the time to make a new gown, or they don’t want a specialty gown for a one-time event, or if they simply love their current gown, what can they do? Firstly dear friends, know that it is highly acceptable to wear a gown more than one season into the ballroom! If you have a favorite time period that you normally dress in, or have that lovely gown that compliments you up to 1876, then that is



The American Harvest Ballgown
(photo by Websterandsonsstudio.com)



The American Iris Ballgown



The American Rose Ballgown

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By: Lefty Dude - SASS #51223

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the gown to wear to the Centennial Ball. All gowns are welcomed at this festive event, and you will feel more at home in a gown you are comfortable in. There is no social faux pas to wear a gown more than one time!

If you have a precise idea of what you want to wear, the time to make it, or plan to buy a new ball gown at Convention, then you are in great shape. As the Las Vegas Ball Theme is to dress in costume in celebration of the 1876 Centennial, we are very much dressing similar to a 19th century "Fancy Dress" Ball. That is - being in a costume. [The difference being, a true historical 'Fancy Dress Ball' included wearing a mask.] However, we can follow many of the precepts of a Fancy Dress Ball in choosing our costume for the evening, my gentle readers. Here are ideas on how you can incorporate a historical character or nuance into your apparel without blowing your budget or scrambling at the last moment and by joining in the spirit of the evening.

A choice for ladies that became more popular in the late 18th century is the emblematic or allegorical costume. According to A. Jarvis, P. Raine in 'Fancy Dress' by Shire Publications, "Ideas for costumes for the fancy dress balls of the 1860's seem to have been gleaned from a

wide variety of sources and any book or collection of prints was eagerly utilized. Women's magazines such as "Godeys Ladies Book"* regularly published illustrations of fancy costumes, with descriptions of materials and accessories. Prints of actors and actresses in 'period' or peasant costume from popular plays or ballets were another source of inspiration, as were illustrations of native costumes. The epithet 'very correct' was used as a term of high praise in descriptions of fancy dress of this period, and complete authenticity was aimed at by people wearing various types of native dress, which began to return to fashion for fancy dress balls in the 1870s.⁴¹

With the many characters mentioned by Mad Mountain Mike in the October issue of *The Cowboy Chronicle* in Cat's Corner, you may have seen one that interests you. If not, "Fancy Dress" offers practical advice; "Allegorical costume can be easily done by carefully assessing your evening clothes and deciding what embellishments would be needed to alter them to fit the chosen theme. For example, a lady with a deep blue gown could, by the attachment of some silver paper stars, declare herself 'The Evening Sky' [For the SASS Ball, perhaps 'America's Glorious Sky']. Or, if she prefers the piscine,

could fashion a tiara of seashells and declare herself 'A Sea Nymph' [and for our SASS Ball 'A Salute to America's Mighty Oceans'].⁴²

Please know that many of the dressmakers, costumers, and vendors at the Convention have lovely gowns, costumes, accessories, and props to adorn you for the evening. You may wish to bring your own embellishment, and then purchase a gown at the convention and have the best of both worlds! If you need advice, call or email your favorite vendor in advance.

Whatever your interpretation of 'fancy dress' or 'costumed ball,' by making a small gesture of compliance in your selection for the ball - your participation will heighten everyone's enjoyment of the ball. "In the past, ladies were probably encouraged to choose costumes like these by their dressmakers, as they could be based upon the most fashionable evening dress and the resulting creation could easily be altered once the ball was over for the wearer's regular wardrobe"⁴³ - and you can do this too!

*In Lady's magazines of the period, the fashions were extravagant and generally intended literally for those who were leisurely ladies. This was not a magazine for pioneering women

(Continued on page 85)



**Three Fingers Tequila,
SASS #61260**

BUTTERFIELD OVERLAND MAIL COMPANY

By Three Fingers Tequila, SASS #61260

flocked towards imagined fortunes, and newly populous California became a state in 1850. Soon after, in 1853, the southern portions of Arizona and New Mexico became US territory with the Gadsden Purchase, which was signed on the Mesilla Plaza right outside what is today Las Cruces, New Mexico.

The people who migrated west during this frenzy eventually missed family and friends and desired a way to communicate with them. At that time, the only mail service available to California involved a grueling trip for the letter or package by wagon over rough trails, down across the Cape of Panama by wagon, then up the west coast of California to San Diego and San Francisco. It was a perilous trip at best, taking three to



Map of the Butterfield Overland Mail Company route across Texas and routes of various expeditions of the period.

(From Conkling and Conkling, Courtesy, The Arthur H. Clark Company.)

four months at least. People demanded that the federal government “do something.”

In response to the outcry and demands of people on both coasts, the United States Post Office Department advertised for bids on a new, overland mail route to California. On first thought, this enterprise seemed pretty straightforward. Upon closer inspection, however, the daunting requirements would spin close to impossible: Whoever won the bid needed to have operations up and running within 12 months, along a route that would span 2,800 miles, which had to be traversed in 25 days. The winning company would need to hire 1,000 men, build 250 wagons, purchase 1,200 horses and 600

(Continued on next page)

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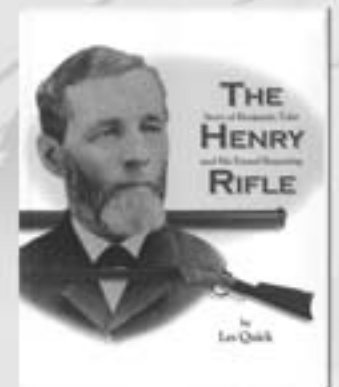
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(Continued from previous page)

mules, buy 800 sets of harnesses, build 200 way stations, and dig 100 wells—all for \$600,000 a year.

Word went out and several people vied for the contract. John Butterfield—former mayor of Utica, NY, owner/driver of several freight companies, and good friends with President James Buchanan—was awarded the contract and challenge of stitching together the growing nation.

Born in 1801, John Butterfield had little formal education, but his early years growing up in a hard-working Dutch farm family served him well. At 19, he moved to Albany, where he worked driving a hack between taverns and canal boat landings. He married and bought a two-seat carriage, then added a second job driving it as his own boss. Always willing to jump into new enterprises, Butterfield erected the first telegraph line between New York City and Buffalo. He also constructed the first steam railroad and first street horse railway system in Utica. He and a few partners formed what would become the American Express Co.

Upon being awarded the contract to carry the mail to and from California, Butterfield rolled up his sleeves and, with the help of his sons, set to work. They hired frontiersmen who knew the woods and Indian tribes, surveyors, conductors, drivers, stationmasters, veterinarians, blacksmiths, and wranglers. They drew up specs and oversaw the ordering of 250 Concord and Celerity wagons and water tank wagons. Surveyors plotted the 2,800 miles, grading fording sites, opening new roads, or improving old ones. Butterfield and his crew established supply bases and repair shops. With the promise of so many hungry animals, they also procured several thousand tons of hay and feed. Every 20 miles, a way station was built using locally available materials. Wells were dug where no natural water could be found. Butterfield's son, Daniel made up the delivery schedule.

All of this was done on time; most of it, at least. There are reports that a few way stations were still being built as the first stagecoaches rumbled through. But by and large, things were ready by September 15, 1858. The Butterfield Overland Mail service was ready to launch itself into history.

At 2,800 miles, the Butterfield Trail would be the longest stage line in the world. For 1,100 miles in the middle, it crossed the Chihuahuan, Sonoran, and Colorado Deserts. It entered the Chihuahuan Desert at Horsehead Crossing on the Pecos River and proceeded west across Texas, passing the Guadalupe Mountains en route to Franklin (now El Paso). The trip across Texas alone took eight days. The trail then

turned north to the Mesilla Valley, then west across the desert, passing beneath the shadow of Cooke's Peak, near Deming. It entered Arizona near Stein's Peak and the Sonoran Desert around Apache Pass, and then crossed through Tucson to Yuma. As it turned northwest into California's Colorado Desert, the trail headed for Los Angeles and finally San Francisco.

John Butterfield himself would carry the mail on the first leg of the westbound trip, although he had never before been west of Buffalo, NY. Wearing "a yellow linen duster, a flat-brimmed hat, and pants tucked into high boots," according to one account, he picked up two bags of mail at the St. Louis post office. Accompanied by a correspondent for the *New York Herald* newspaper, Waterman L. Ormsby, Butterfield set off for Tipton, Mo., where his son, John Butterfield Jr., waited with a Concord stagecoach and a team of fast horses. Leaving his father at Fort Smith, Arkansas, the younger Butterfield and Ormsby drove off into history. Simultaneously, an eastbound stage set off from San Francisco.

The primary purpose of the Butterfield Overland Mail was to deliver mail coast to coast as quickly as possible. Passengers were deemed more a nuisance than a pleasure, but it became clear early on that paying passengers were a necessity to keep the company operational. The stagecoaches were initially designed to carry four passengers, but as many as nine sat inside and many more on top. Initially, the fare was \$100 in gold if you were traveling east from San Francisco, but \$200 if you were heading west from St. Louis. After a few months of confused and grumbling passengers, the compromise price of \$150 in gold was established, regardless of which way you traveled.

The stage ran day and night, stopping every 20 miles to change horses or mules, but not enough time for much of a leg stretch for cramped passengers. They were afforded two longer stops a day (still no more than 40 minutes) for meals, which cost upwards of \$1. Breakfast, as reported by the first eastbound passenger, was jerked beef (cooked on buffalo chips), raw onions, slightly wormy crackers, and a bit of bacon. Dinner was bread, tea, and fried steaks of bacon, venison, antelope, or mule flesh.

The Concord and Celerity coaches, crafted in New Hampshire, were painted either bright red or green with the running gear a bright yellow. They were inscribed with "O.M.C." above the doors, for the "Overland Mail Co." The Concord wagons weighed 3,000 pounds and had a load capacity of two tons.

(Continued on page 86)



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Lori Dani Dixie, SASS Life #1695
Photo by Major Photography

KID'S KORRAL

By Lori Dani Dixie, SASS Life #1695

starts with the Gold Rush of 1849 and ends with the San Francisco fire of 1905. In Virginia history seems to start with Washington's election (1789) and stretches through the Virginian presidents until Jefferson (1809). I'm betting that Tennessee only really existed in the 1930's with TVA and that Missouri only existed from Lewis & Clark until the wagon trains (1803-1870's). While all of these are important, it builds a frustratingly fractured portrait of America. I bet your kid is suffering from the same fragmented picture.

THE ESSENTIAL QUESTION -
how is Western history important?

Your offspring is thinking not only how does all this stuff fit together, but why is all this history so important? Yeah, he/she's heard the

whole "learn your lesson" stuff. But what does that have to do with a bunch of old people pretending to be cowboys? Why should he/she waste his/her precious time (which could be spent playing Xbox or magic cards) watching and listening to these weird people in costume? Well, besides the straight up good time everyone is having at the SASS shoot, there are some solid academic reasons for hanging out with all these history buffs (read "experts").

THE LESSON -
the Old West shapes our modern America

Our sport requires that we "play" 1870 to 1900 - a "Golden Age" of American firearms. Most of us think of this as the "cowboy" period (hence *Cowboy Action Shooting*), which naturally leads to the Old

West. Could this 1870-1900, this Old West, be a "Golden Age" on other terms? This late Victorian period (that would be the end of the 19th century) is also called "The Gilded Age." I would argue the Old West is an important element of the golden veneer of America's crusty inner workings, that it is actually the most pivotal period of American History for our national identity. Not only that, the trappings of our "modern life" find their inception during this period (and I don't just mean flush toilets—those were popularized by Thomas Crapper in the 1880's—even the King wanted several!). That cell phone your kids could not live without was invented because of and with the resources of the West.

This is the beginning in a series of articles looking at the degrees of
(Continued on next page)

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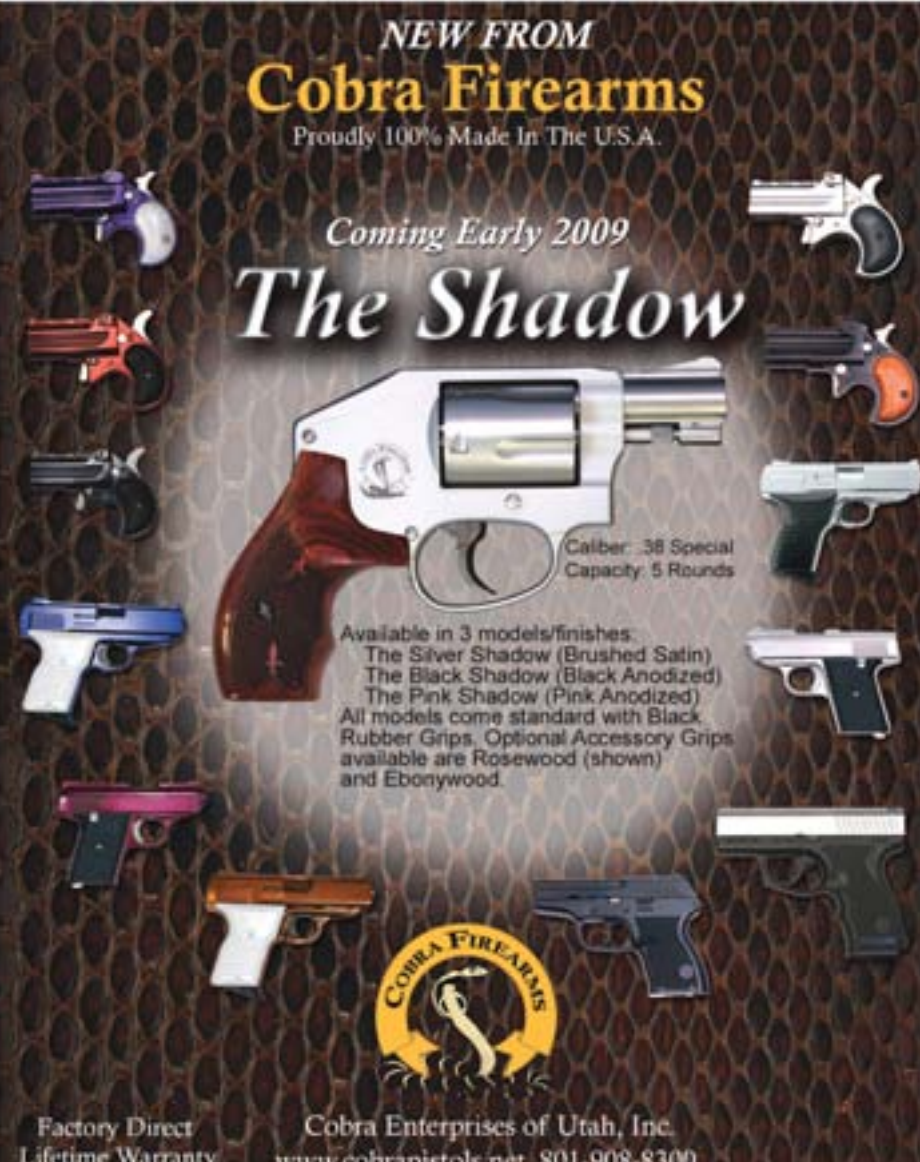
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(Continued from previous page)
 separation between the “then” we recreate in our game and the “now” we recreate it in. Let’s look at the big ideas. 1) The idea of an expanding America is present from the very beginning—a place for new beginnings even today. 2) The rest of the world sees the “cowboy” as the expression of the American essence. 3) Our modern global, industrial economy started in the late Victorian period, and study of it clearly shows the tie between resources, scientific growth, and economic strength. 4) The vast geography of the West still defines who we are as Americans.

**INDEPENDENT PRACTICE –
 be your SASS self**

You are already an ambassador for the past by portraying your “persona”/character. Be clear about why your passion is important to all the youth (and their folks) watching us—and why you need to get them to watch us! Get out there and talk up what you know about your character.

Contact local libraries or organizations to present historical programs. You’ll be surprised how many will be willing to listen. Passion often makes things interesting. Most importantly: READ. The more you know about your persona, the more confident you’ll be and an inspiration to others. Let me know how you do!

*(Kid’s Korral Disclaimer
 I am using a modified lesson plan format that helps teachers clarify their process. Some of these articles will be philosophical and others more practical. Oddly enough, both are needed in education because a student must know why they do something as well as how to do it. I re-assert my call to all SASS members to use me and this column as a funnel for discussion about the role of Cowboy Action Shooting™ in education and the role of education in Cowboy Action Shooting™. You can contact me by email at ldgd@comcast.net or snail mail at Lorilei Dreibelbis, 12 Quann Lane, Chester Gap, VA 22623. Thank you.)*

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MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS!!

By Granny Annie, SASS #37063

Little York and Milan, IL – Our story begins in 2006 when Shasta and Linn County Ranger said, “You two really should come to the St. Jude Charity Shoot. It’s been happening since 2000, and it’s just tons of fun!” We had heard about the shoot, but had never gone due to work schedules and spring work on the farm. However, they insisted it was “so much fun” we decided we should go. After all, it was for a good cause.

We had no idea where the Shady Creek Shootists range was so we made arrangements with Linn County Ranger to follow them and set up our travel trailer next to their motor home. We got there and were immediately greeted by T. A. Spurs, Shamrock Sis, Dapper Dan, Muleskinner Mary, and Ole #7 with a huge “WELCOME FOLKS!!” I think that was



Left to Right—Ranger Edison Carter, SASS #14859, Shamrock Sis, SASS #23095, Granny Annie, SASS #37063, and Blacksmith Hoss, SASS #36977. Ranger Edison Carter really didn't have anything to do with the quilt. He was just handy and tall enough to hold it up for the picture!

the only time all weekend I heard T. A. Spurs say something that didn't include the phrase, “Remember, it's all about the kids!”

The Shady Creek Shootists put on a great match, and on Saturday evening we learned what the “auction” was all about. There were wonderful donated items up for sale, and I bought a few raffle tickets, but we just didn't seem to have the high bid or winning ticket on anything. On Sunday we traveled to Milan for the second day of the shoot hosted by the Illowa Irregulars, and it was just as much fun as the first day. That year



Shamrock Sis, SASS #23095, and T. A. Spur, SASS #5419. Proud owners of my quilt!

163 cowboys and cowgirls raised \$24,050 for St. Jude Children's Hospital. I was amazed!

On the way home I got to thinking, how can we go to this match in 2007 and give them more? The answer was to make a quilt for the auction! I immediately set out look-
(Continued on next page)

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(Continued from previous page)
 ing for appropriate fabric and started sewing. My daughter-in-law helped out, and we ended up with a colorful little quilt that included some machine embroideries of kids in B-Western costumes and a special block quoting T. A. Spurs that read, "It's All About The Kids!"



This is the label on the back of the quilt.

I gave Shasta the money and registration information so she could sign us up for the 2007 match, as we would be enjoying Arizona when the sign-up began, and we didn't want to miss this shoot. It fills up fast, and, yes, we were hooked!! Shasta took care of everything, and in May 2007, we again arrived at the Shady Creek Shootists range where I presented Shamrock Sis and Muleskinner Mary with my little quilt. The auction started and soon they were holding up my quilt, and to my amazement it sold for over \$300 with Shamrock Sis having the winning bid. That year 162 cowboys and cowgirls raised \$28,930 for St. Jude Children's Hospital. I was amazed—again!!

On the way home I again started thinking, only this time it was, "how can I make an even nicer quilt that will bring even more money for the Kids?" I started searching for fabric and couldn't find anything I liked. I looked for quilt designs, but didn't find any I liked for the project. I even told Muleskinner Mary and Shamrock Sis I didn't think I would

be able to do a quilt in 2008. Then, just as I had about given up hope, my daughter-in-law again came to my aid and showed me a quilt design in a magazine. It was perfect! I immediately went shopping for fabric and started sewing. I got all the blocks done, but was still faced with the question of what to do with a large open area in the center of the quilt.

Well, that year Moonpie and RC Lakota (T.A. Spurs' sister and brother-in-law) came for a shoot at our range. Moonpie, Hissyfit, and I started talking, and Moonpie said, "You should put the SASS Marshal in the middle of that quilt." Well this sounded like a great idea except for two very important considerations. #1 – how would I do that, and #2 – Copyright Law. The SASS Cowboy is a registered trademark, and this quilt would be sold.

The more I thought about it the better the idea sounded, so I sent

Coyote Calhoun an e-mail explaining what the St. Jude Charity Shoot was all about and asking permission to use the SASS logo for this purpose. He immediately replied giving me permission and also included a .jpg of the design to help create the appliqué. What a guy! I finished the quilt top before we left for Arizona in January 2008, and while I was at Winter Range, I visited with Coyote Calhoun and thanked him again for allowing me to use the SASS Marshal for this project. After we returned home in the spring, my daughter-in-law did the machine quilting to complete the quilt.

Then, I started thinking—again!! How can I encourage even more folks to bid on this quilt? The answer was to send a picture to Dapper Dan to put on the St. Jude Charity Shoot website and also send one to Coyote Calhoun suggesting how nice this would look hanging in the SASS office. It was, after all, all about the kids! The next thing you know, I received an e-mail from Dapper Dan saying he had been contacted by Coyote Calhoun authorizing him to bid on his behalf on my quilt. WAY COOL!!

The weekend of the match finally arrived, and once again I proudly pre-

sented Shamrock Sis and Muleskinner Mary with my quilt for the auction. Saturday was a great shoot, but I just kept thinking about the auction. I had so many butterflies in my stomach I could hardly concentrate on the match. Finally, the auction began ... they held up my quilt, and the bidding began. The price went up and up and up until finally Shamrock Sis again had the winning bid. I was almost speechless, as my quilt had just raised \$650 for the Kids! 163 cowboys and cowgirls this year raised \$36,783.50 for St Jude Children's Hospital! For the third time, I was amazed!!! Even with the fuel prices and the high cost of everything else, the cowboys and cowgirls had once again come through with a huge increase in dollars for the Kids!

The 2009 quilt is already started. I think T. A. Spurs is already saving his \$\$, as Shamrock Sis purchased a quilt rack that holds three quilts, and she still has one empty space!! 2009 will be the 10th anniversary of this magnificent event. It's ALL ABOUT THE KIDS, and I'm looking forward to the match, or should I say the auction, again next year.

Thanks again to Coyote Calhoun for his help. Thanks also to my daughter-in-law for her help, and also The Shady Creek Shootists and Illowa Irregulars for making such a difference in the lives of so many children.

THIS IS THE COWBOY WAY!! 🤠



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COSTUME COLLEGE IN CALIFORNIA RATES HIGH WITH SASS MEMBERS

By Alpine Lil, SASS #56935

Add a contingent of SASS members to a group of over 300 costume designers from throughout the United States, house them together at the Airtel Plaza Hotel in Van Nuys, California for four days, and what do you get but a group who love to make and wear historical costumes!

Each year these delightful costumers gather in early August for the great Costume College put on by the Costumer's Guild West, Inc. They meet new and old friends, go to events such as the glorious Time Traveler's Gala, and best of all, attend fabulous costuming classes



Diamond Terri Annie spent four hours in a limited enrollment class learning how to construct and cover a tall hatbox. This was Terri's fourth Costume College. Here she showcases the beautiful hatbox she completed in class.



Lady Fleur provided all the necessary foundation bases and decorative items, feathers and trim, to make a fun and beautiful feather headpiece for all occasions. She was a great instructor, and it's obvious her students were focused on designing their own headdresses.



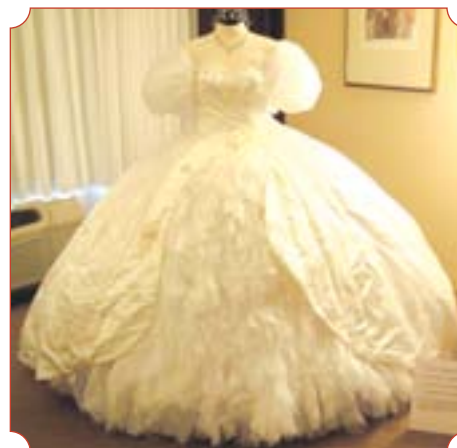
*Students gather around instructor Mela Hoyt-Heydon as she demonstrates the attachment of silk to straw braid when creating a bonnet similar to those worn in the film *Sense & Sensibility*.*

taught by extremely talented and widely-known guest teachers.

Over 120 educational classes are offered over three days, including basic sewing classes, corsetry, tailoring methods, millinery, pattern drafting, embellishments, and much, much more.

The following are just a few of the wonderful classes:

- Glove Making
- Victorian Corsets
- Godey's Plates to Reality
- 1860 Average American Women's Dress
- Poofing Your Bustle
- History of Textiles: The Way We Weave
- Ideas and Inspiration for New Costumers
- Basic Heirloom Hand Sewing
- Getting a Great Photo of You in Your Costume
- Victorian Embroidery
- Fabric Embellishment for Victorian Gowns
- Meet the Pleat, Plait, or Gauge
- Make a Metal-Frame Purse
- Victorian Millinery Salons
- Timeline of Costuming: A Silhouette Review



*This beautiful gown was displayed in the Historical and Fantasy Costume Exhibit at Costume College. It is a reproduction of *Giselle's Wedding Dress*. Source: Disney's film "*Enchanted*"*

Tours are organized to locations such as the Los Angeles Garment District, the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising, and the J. P. Getty Museum to view a collection of period portraits.

A costumer's Marketplace is set up in one of the ballrooms for vendors, providing a tremendous mixture of costuming supplies and refer-

(Continued on next page)



This young lady was standing in the hotel lobby next to the sign that greeted Costume College participants. Her outfit and smile charmed us all!



*Two women, dressed in very different fashion periods, enjoy the Time Travelers' Gala and dancing to "*The Time Warp*" from the *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, a 1975 musical comedy film.*



Students and instructors enjoyed the Costume College Marketplace where a tremendous mixture of costuming supplies and reference materials were available for sale.

(Continued from previous page)
ence materials. The market is open to College members and the general public for three days.

Four of us from San Diego County attended Costume College this year. Buckskin Katie, SASS #18989, and I waved goodbye to our cowboys, Cast Iron Mike and Lightning Will, and headed from Alpine, CA to northern San Diego County where we picked up two more SASS buddies, Diamond Terri Annie, SASS #50858, and Nannie Annie. We loaded our “stage

coach” with all the comforts of home that we’d need in our hotel rooms, along with our SASS costumes for the various events. It felt like a trip to Las Vegas for the SASS Convention except for one major difference. Our cowboys stayed home to mind the pets and homesteads and most assuredly, to attend the Escondido Banditos’ local shooting match without us!

This was our “Girls Weekend,” and we needed it desperately to kick off our preparation for the SASS

Convention! It was also an opportunity for our group to spend time with new SASS friends—Weaver Gal, SASS #71821, from Chandler, Arizona and Lady Fleur, SASS #73656, from Oceanside, California.

Weaver Gal learned about Costume College from our discussions on the Belle Alley Internet Forum. The two of us met in person several months earlier at Winter Range 2008, and we knew we would be perfect roommates at college. She purchased a ticket from someone who couldn’t make the trip this year, loaded her car with needed attire, and took off on Thursday for a six-hour drive from the Phoenix area.

Lady Fleur has been an active supporter of Costume College for well over ten years, and she was not only a vendor in the college’s Marketplace, but also one of the outstanding instructors, known by many for her talents with head pieces and wigs.

After settling into our hotel rooms, we registered with the college and explored all the class offerings. 35 to 50 classes are scheduled each day. Most of the classes have open enrollment, but some instructors set a limit on the number of participants, requiring pre-registration and a fee. For example, an all-day corset class might have a limited enrollment of 15 with a \$55 fee for materials. Students bring their own sewing machines and actually begin the con-



SASS and Belle Alley Forum members Alpine Lil, Woodstock Byrdee, Lady Fleur, and Weaver Gal take time away from the Gala dance floor to pose for a picture. This was Weaver Gal’s first Costume College experience. They all agree, this event is too much fun to miss. They plan to return next year.

struction of their own corset.

Three of us chose a limited class that provided extensive instruction on how to make tall hat boxes and after four hours, we returned to our hotel rooms with beautiful creations in hand. The oval, tall boxes were made from scratch with acid-free white mounting board, and they were covered with beautiful fabrics we brought from home. These boxes are difficult to find and are useful for tall hats, as well as nesting a number of

(Continued on page 85)

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Best Annual Mounted Shooting Match 2008 – Gunfight in Tombstone, SASS Western National Mounted Championship, Tombstone, Arizona

One of the most well known historical shootouts in American frontier history was the infamous Gunfight at the OK Corral, where the Earps and Doc Holliday sent three cowboys to eternity in the blink of an eye! This year's Gunfight In Tombstone took place just outside of town at the Tombstone Livery.

This was the first time SASS has split the Mounted National Championship into Eastern and Western events, and what a great and historical site for the Western Championship! The facility, built for Cowboy Action and Mounted Shooting, boasts permanent shooting bays for Action Shooting, a Mounted Shooting arena, and plenty of room for camping, with options for RV hook-ups.

This year's competition was fierce and fun. Just like the SASS Mounted Shooting banner claims, "Fast Horses and Blazing Six-guns" were the order of the day for this fast paced, smooth running Western National Championship. Match Directors, Cowboy Doug and his wife, Tequila Terry, along with their dedicated group of volunteers deserve all the credit for a well-organized match.

Best Product 2008 – F.LLi Pietta's The Alchemista

F.LLi Pietta has created an excellent 1873 Peacemaker clone in collaboration with Boyd Davis at EMF. It is dubbed "The Alchemista Model" after its designer, Alessandro Pietta, otherwise known by his SASS alias, Alchimista. Alchimista has been involved in Cowboy Action Shooting™ for quite some time, and is a driving force for Cowboy Action Shooting™ in Europe.

What sets the Great Western II "Alchimista" Model apart is the long, slender, brass frame grip of the 1860 Army Colt mated to the 1873 Colt frame. The 1860 grip frame is longer and slimmer than the traditional 1873 Army grip frame and boasts a one piece chequered walnut grip. With this grip and frame combination, the "Alchimista" points better and more naturally than revolvers with the standard 1873 grip. The trigger on this model is also different. It is wider and set back more, allowing for a larger finger in the not overly large SAA trigger guard. The action is light and smooth, enabling quick cycling of the hammer. The front sight is robust, and the rear sight notch is ample, giving it a great sight picture, which allows for quick target acquisition.

(Continued on next page)

2008 SASS WOOLY AWARDS . . .

(Continued from page 18)

Instructor and NRA certified Range Safety Officer. Normal attendance for the class is 20 people or more each month. The Cowboys also encourage parents to bring their children, ages 10 and up, for the free instruction. The intent is to make the new shooters more familiar and comfortable when participating on a real Posse at a match.

The Cowboys' ongoing efforts to introduce Cowboy Action Shooting™ to the general public have greatly benefited the membership of SASS and shooting sports in general. Their continued support of the NRA and the California Rifle and Pistol Association has helped to preserve our right to own guns and participate in shooting sports of all types.

Best Annual Match 2008 – Mason Dixon Stampede, SASS Northeast Regional Championship, Thurmont, Maryland

The SASS Northeast Regional was born in 1998 and was initially held in New Cumberland, PA. The host club was the Westshore Posse, and the match was called the Susquehanna Roundup. The popularity of the match grew very rapidly, and in a few years the range was unable to accommodate all the shooters.

At the conclusion of the 2001

Roundup, Chuckaroo took US Grant and Coyote Calhoun 65 miles south to the town of Thurmont, MD and showed them a range at the Thurmont Conservation and Sportsman's Club, the home of the Thurmont Rangers. At the time, the cowboy club had been in operation only a year, but its board members were all experienced members of the Westshore Posse and other clubs in the area. The facility was perfect for Cowboy Action Shooting™ as it was level, individual berms were in the works, and they had on-site camping with hook ups.

The transition from Pennsylvania to Maryland was seamless. Cody Conagher and Chuckaroo spearheaded the operation, and in 2002, the Mason Dixon Stampede was born. Using the philosophy bigger is not always better has kept the match shooter friendly.

The Mason Dixon Stampede continues to be one of the best Regional Matches going. Although growing to a size of 400+ shooters, with its fun, safe, and challenging stages, the Mason Dixon Stampede continues to have a small match "friendly" feel. The Mason Dixon Stampede is also a staunch supporter of the SASS Scholarship fund since its inception, raising over \$5000 for the fund this year.

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SIDEKICKS & HEAVIES . . .

(Continued from page 30)

rating his good eye, a couple of these actors suggested he try out for the movies.

It wasn't long before his nasty looks, and his new name, *Jack Elam*, landed him bad guy roles in some rather forgettable films. But, like many Hollywood newbies, Jack was eventually "discovered" by a couple directors who liked his menacing sneer, and added him to their cadre of villains for their better gangster and western films.

Jack's list of better-known western movies reads like a compendium of "Oaters I Must See": *High Lonesome, The Gunfighter, High Noon, Vera Cruz, The Man From Laramie, Gunfight at the OK Corral, The Comancheros, The Rare Breed, The Sacketts, Once Upon a Time in the West*, and *Rio Lobo*, along with scores of others where his evil manners came in so handy.

Jack's practiced cruelty was heralded as one of the most vicious in filmdom ... and many later heavies like Bruce Dern and Claude Aikens said they patterned several of their roles after his techniques.

As luck would have it, Jack's nasty looks eventually became a cliché for "Bad Guy," and new filmmakers signed him up in comedy roles to play off of his unique fea-

tures. He joined the casts of *Support Your Local Sheriff* and *Support Your Local Gunfighter* with James Garner, *Cannon Ball I* and *Cannonball II* with Burt Reynolds, and a host of other films as comedic characters. In later years, Jack also starred in several TV series, Made for TV movies, and Documentaries.

Hollywood recognized Jack as one of the true Antiheroes of the cowboy-movie heyday. In 1993 he was proudly inducted into the Cowboy Hall of Fame and in 1994, the Hall of Great Western Performers.

After over 50 years of thrilling (and chilling) moviegoers, Jack rode off to the Great Hideout in the Sky on October 20, 2003 at age 82. His wicked visage stays with us still, as so many of his fine films continue to be shown on TV ... and are available on DVD. Pick one up today and relive those exciting times when good guys and bad guys fought it out for Saturday Matinee supremacy.

That's A Wrap for *Sidekicks & Heavies* this month. Next month we'll go south of the border for one of our era's favorite saddle buddies, Leo "Pancho" Carillo. Until then, ride hard and shoot fast, buckaroos.

Sources: Answers.com; Wikipedia;

Internet Movie Database

Photos: Whooper - Deadeye Al;

Jack Elam - The Movie Market

(Continued from previous page)

Best Merchant 2008 - Redwing Trading Co., Kimball, Nebraska

Redwing Trading Company is the "Home of the Original Screwknife." It was started 18 years ago quite by accident. Tom Hewitt was tired of the corporate "dog-eat-dog" world and through much anguish and a lot of prayer, he quit his job and discovered he was an artist.

Basing the Redwing Trading Company on honesty, integrity, and fairness to their customers, Tom and his wife, Karen, who joined him in the business seven years ago, have made and sold approximately 7000 knives, numerous sculptures, and oil paintings. They also carry a complete line of men's and women's clothing, along with accessories and accoutrements. Karen says, "We try to have something for everyone."

Redwing Trading Company specializes in custom knives and, of course, the "Screwknife." Tom originally came up with the idea of the "Screwknife" in 1991, but it did not take off until Evil Roy, Wicked Felina, and Holy Terror ordered the first three.

Tom and Linda say the best part of their business is the customers and friends they have made.

Territorial Governor of the Year 2008 - Snakebite SASS #4767

Snakebite has been a staunch

supporter of Cowboy Action Shooting™ since first beginning to shoot in 1992. Joining SASS shortly afterwards, he founded the King River Regulators club in Fresno, California, and is also a founding member of the 5-Dogs Creek Posse in Bakersfield, California. He has been a Territorial Governor since the creation of the Territorial Governors by SASS and has attended every SASS Territorial Governors' Summit meeting since its inception in 1999.

He has been recognized as a SASS Regulator and is qualified as a SASS RO-II Instructor. Serving on several committees and research panels, he was instrumental in helping to create a "Level Playing Field" for blackpowder shooters with his research on the SASS Blackpowder Standard. Snakebite now serves as a member of the SASS RO Rules Committee.

Being a long time blackpowder shooter, Snakebite is an avid competitor. He has promoted Cowboy Action Shooting™ and SASS on local television shows and newspapers and has been a guest speaker on the topic at various organizational gatherings in central California. He believes SASS offers its members much more than any other shooting sport, the game belongs to the membership, and as long as they continue to play the game, SASS will be there to support them.

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Holy Terror, SASS #15362

WOMEN, GUNS, AND GEAR

SASS Wild Bunch Matches

By Holy Terror, SASS #15362

One of the great things about SASS is all the events that go on at a match. At most major matches you have the Action Shooting, the Mounted Shooting, the entertainment, the side events, and usually a pretty good party going on. This year at many matches there is a new event to add to the fun. The Wild Bunch event was started several years ago, but has now grown into something completely new.

The Wild Bunch Event was started many years ago at Winter Range

where it was a four-person team event. The event was based on the movie *The Wild Bunch* made in 1969, directed by Sam Peckinpah, starring William Holden, Ernest Borgnine, and many other talented actors. The side event was originally based on the ending scene where all the characters have a giant shoot-out with the bad guys. I won't tell you how it ends, so I don't spoil it for those of you who haven't seen this classic film.

In the original side event, participants used a variety of firearms including cowboy revolvers, cowboy rifles, 1897 Winchester shotguns, 1911 .45s, and some type of high power machine gun, such as a Browning Automatic Rifle. The first time I shot the Wild Bunch event I was 12 years old, and that BAR

walked me back about a foot by the time I fired five rounds! It was the most fun of my life to that time. For the past several years two awards for the Wild Bunch event were given, a shooting award and a costume award. The costume award has been based on what the characters in the movie were wearing during the ending scene. I am proud to say I have worn a beard on more than one occasion in order to fill the costume bill!

Since that team event started many years ago, people have always enjoyed The Wild Bunch Events. Recently, the event has been changed to something even more fun. At the 2008 END of TRAIL the first ever Wild Bunch World Championship was held. The 2008 Wild Bunch World Championship was a 12-stage

match based loosely on the original Wild Bunch Side Match. Ask anyone who was in it, and they will tell you it was loads of fun. It was so enjoyable the idea has spread to other matches, and the world championship will probably continue.

Now that you understand the background behind The Wild Bunch, I will share with you how it was shot this year. The rules for the Wild Bunch match are very similar to the same rules we use for Cowboy Action Shooting™, however, there are differences. In the Wild Bunch match each shooter is required to use a 1911 style automatic in .45 ACP, and there are a few safety rules specific for the 1911. When you start a stage, the 1911 is holstered, loaded with a mag-

(Continued on next page)

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(Continued from previous page)

azine, and the hammer down on an empty chamber. Each magazine used during the course of fire is loaded with five rounds. Because the hammer on the 1911 is down on an empty chamber at the start of a stage, the shooter must rack the slide in order to chamber the first round. When you are finished shooting the 1911, you cannot reholster it. The shooter must place the 1911 down on a prop with the slide locked back, an empty chamber, and either an empty magazine or no magazine in the gun. When moving from position to position with the 1911 after it is drawn, the shooter must move with an empty gun with the slide locked back, and either an empty magazine or no magazine in the gun. The last rule with the 1911 is your finger cannot be on the trigger until you are ready to shoot.

The other major rule difference dealt with the use of a Winchester 1897 and the loading procedure for that gun. In the Wild Bunch the shooter must use a Winchester 1897 shotgun or the slightly newer "trench" style gun. While shooting the 1897 in a Wild Bunch stage, the shotgun is staged with the required number of rounds loaded in the magazine tube and the hammer down on an empty chamber. This means when the shooter starts shooting the 1897, they have to pump the shotgun to load their first round. Also, because

the shotgun has shells loaded in the tube, if the shooter must change positions during a shotgun string, the action of the shotgun must be open while moving.

After you understand the rules and are ready to compete, it is time to get all of your gear together. Each shooter needs a 1911 .45 ACP pistol, a main match rifle in .40 caliber or higher, and an 1897 Winchester shotgun. Each shooter will also need a leather set up. The excitement of the Wild Bunch event has led to many leather makers creating Wild Bunch style rigs. I use the Mernickle Evil Roy Wild Bunch Rig and find it fits my needs perfectly. While there is some discussion about the use of a large caliber rifle, I found it very enjoyable to shoot a large caliber rifle since I had never shot one before. For more details and requirements on the equipment used in the Wild Bunch matches, see the complete rules on the Single Action Shooting Society website.

At END of TRAIL 2008 there were 12 Wild Bunch stages. This was the first-ever full-length Wild Bunch match. Each stage had 5-20 pistol shots, 8-10 rifle shots, and 2-4 shotgun shots. The stages were shot in a three-day format the weekend before END of TRAIL. Each posse shot four stages a day, exactly the same as the regular END of TRAIL format. If you speak to anyone who shot the match, you will find the stages were a blast. It was a great warm-up because the stages were similar to the set up SASS used for END of TRAIL's main match. It was fun shooting the match with the 1911 and the 1897 Winchester all stoked up! Everyone shot a great match, and everyone is looking forward to shooting it next year.

Because the Wild Bunch event was so popular at END of TRAIL and has been talked about by so many people, many other annual matches have been holding Wild Bunch side matches as well. Since the Wild Bunch event is a side event, each club has the option to shoot the side event as they so choose. This leads to inconsistency, so you will want to check with the host club about local rules and equipment requirements.

The Wild Bunch match is a great addition to shooting in the Single Action Shooting Society. The different guns and shooting styles combined with the atmosphere and the people we have all grown to love has really led to a new and exciting dimension within our sport. While the Wild Bunch match may not be perfect for all women, women who learn to use the different guns will be able to have just as much fun as they do in regular Cowboy Action Shooting™.

If you have questions about this article, or if you have an idea or product you think should be brought to the attention of women shooters, or anyone else, please email me at holyterror15362@hotmail.com.

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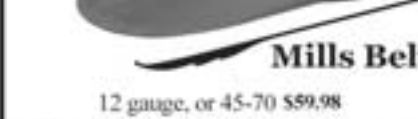
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RANGING SHOT

By Dogie Jones, SASS #47652
 (WWW.CowboyPreacher.com)

I met Buford kinda sudden. He was in a dead run across a pasture with an old bull buffalo on his heels. He jumped a five-strand barbed-wire fence and landed smack in the middle of the bed of my pickup. He started beating on the roof of the cab shouting, "Go, Go!" That old buffalo just kept on coming like that barbed wire wasn't even there.

Buford was one of the good ole boys. Kinda narrow between the ears, he stood 6' 6", broad at the shoulders and narrow at the hips, and occasionally his knuckles would drag the ground. He didn't know his own strength and had never known fear until that day that buffalo ran him out of the pasture.

After I managed to put some distance between us and that mad shaggy creature, we stopped at a truck stop. It was time for a cup of coffee and an opportunity to let Buford's heart rate calm down. Besides, I wanted to meet this sudden passenger I had acquired. He explained he was new in this part of Texas, and he was a Cowboy Action Shooter. I guess it was only natural for the topic of conversation to go to a little daydreaming. Yeah, you guessed it! We were wondering what it would be like to be looking down the sights of an ole Sharps at Mr. Bad Temper. Were the Buffalo

hunters of the by-gone era better shots than we are, or were they just a little more patient? I suspect these boys knew what they were doing when they backed up from a buffalo herd and shot at them from "way back thar." I strongly suspect the buffalo of the time didn't have much more of a sense of humor than the ole bull Buford ran from.

How did they do that? How was it they were able to kill so many of the buffalo and not get chased off that



You gotta be able to see it.

hill? It must have been that ranging shot. You know, that first two or three shots where you shoot up amongst them just to see where this thing is shootin'. They were probably far enough away that the sound of the gun didn't excite them, and they certainly didn't recognize that puff of dirt from the bullet hitting the ground, or the zing as the bullet ricocheted into the wild blue as presenting any danger. All the hunter had to do was adjust his sight up a little and shoot again. Once he was on target, the harvest could begin. This was the harvest that brought an end to the great buffalo herds.

A couple weeks ago we indulged our fantasy and participated in a blackpowder cartridge "Long Range Buffalo Match." The target was a metallic silhouette of a full sized buffalo. There was only one problem. That thing was 821 long yards from the firing line! The shooters were given five ranging shots before



Even close ones can be missed!

shooting for score. Now as if the distance itself wasn't enough there was an unexpected anxiety problem. Between the firing of the rifle and obtaining some feedback from the bullet was a very long 3 1/2 seconds. In that length of time your mind goes into hyper drive. Did I miss the whole world? Was my shot long, was it short, or was it on target? That has to be the longest 3 1/2 seconds in the world!

The shooter's sanity and composure depended upon his spotter. This was the cowboy looking through the scope. Buford and I spotted for each other. The spotter could see the bullet strike before the shooter could hear the sound. If the spotter called the ranging shot either short or long, then you knew you had some more work to do to get on target. If he called it a hit, and shortly afterward you heard the clang of lead striking steel, then you knew you were finished with ranging and could start competing in earnest. It was the ranging shot that helped alleviate the stress and make the competition meaningful.

On the way home from the match Buford asked me a question that stopped me in my tracks. He



The grin says it all!

asked, "Why do the clubs in this part of Texas refuse to follow the rules when they are SASS affiliated?" He went on to explain that in the part of the country he came from when a club was SASS affiliated, the affiliation established the expectation for the shooter. It was only reasonable for the shooter to expect target size and placement to meet the recommendations and for the scenarios to be straightforward and free of procedural traps. In return, the shooter was expected to acknowledge the common courtesies of being a posse member, be considerate of your fellow shooters, and doing their part in
(Continued on next page)



A long target!

(Continued from previous page)
the managing of posse choirs.

Buford may have been narrow between the eyes, but he had this part of the program right. The affiliation does set the expectation for the shooter. A lot of folks have dedicated a lot of time and effort to promulgate the rules of this game we play. If you identify ethics as what is right or wrong, and morality as what we do, then it is a violation of ethics for an affiliated club to refuse to follow the established rules. It is also morally wrong for a club to advertise itself as SASS affiliated, and then conduct its matches in a manner contrary to SASS recommendations. Buford had just fired a ranging shot.

If you consider the pursuit of fun as the root motive for participating in this game, you have to put the enjoyable experience in the position of that far away buffalo target. There are many decisions made before the first shot is fired. Each decision is a ranging shot. It is the enjoyment of the game that every cowboy seeks. A good shoot is one where participating was fun. When that enjoyment is threatened, we become concerned for our game. It really doesn't matter what took the fun from the game; we only know our joy is gone. When we voice a concern about the diminishing fun and the increasing conflicts, we are firing

ranging shots. The Cowboy Chronicle bears witness to the ranging shots being fired (i.e. March 2008, Letters, Doc Shapiro, SASS #31526). There are a few who are firing ranging shots, but no one is spotting for the shooter. We simply do not know where the shot landed.

Many of our clubs refuse to hear the ranging shots fired in their direction. They either don't recognize or don't care about the danger to our sport that is presented when the verbal shot merely hits the ground and ricochets off into never-never land. Every cowboy who has gone to the trouble and expense of playing this game deserves to be heard. A cowboy makes a personal decision for which club he chooses to support and he votes with his feet. All he has to do to have an impact – is nothing. A shooter may simply stop shooting at that particular club. That is the least that can happen, and that is bad enough. The worst is that we stand the chance of completely losing him from the game of cowboy. That is when doing nothing becomes a tragedy.

The Scriptures record that all the stories recorded in the Old Testament was given to us to serve as examples. The purpose of the Book of Judges is to show that Israel's spiritual condition determined its political and material condition. In the book of Judges is the record of various lead-

ers, called judges. Some did a good job of leading and the people prospered. Some did a poor job of leading with disastrous results. In the last verse of the last chapter of the Book of Judges, it is recorded, "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes." (Judges 21:25 NKJ) I believe when we read this we are hearing the sound of a ranging shot being fired over the heads of our sport.

If our clubs do not cease in their "kingdom building" and make an ethical commitment to enjoy our game for the sake of the game, then we are seeing the beginning of the end for our

game. There can be only one set of rules for the game. If we all follow the rules and return the enjoyment of the game to its priority position, there is little doubt that our game will continue to prosper. When individual clubs insist on creating their own rules, only tyranny and division can result. The individual cowboy and his lady are the life-blood of our sport. If you lose these, you will lose the sport. When we see the rules and recommendations being pushed aside for the sake of individual preference, and we witness the pursuit of profit replacing the enjoyment of the shooters, we become witnesses to our own demise. 🐮

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Doc Nelson,
SASS #19958

WANTED: GUNFIGHTERS!

Part 4 – Draw!

By Doc Nelson SASS #19958

Draw! You got to be kidding me right? Everybody draws revolvers already, how can Gunfighter be any different? Well, the short answer is ... it is. Whether you alternate or shoot pairs, drawing and re-holstering revolvers is a crucial skill to master for Gunfighter. Why is Gunfighter any different from other categories? Both guns come out and both guns go back at, or nearly at, the same time.

As I watch top shooters perform their magic on the line, I noticed a trend; nearly all of them “look” their guns back to leather. This is sound advice and works very well, but now put on your holsters and “look” both your revolvers back to leather. Hmmm ... can you see both at the same time? Which one goes first? A Gunfighter has double the difficulty drawing and re-holstering revolvers as the other categories, and we don’t want to give up any transition time. So, what do we do about that?

First, the belt and holsters have to fit you and your revolvers. The

revolvers have to ride snug enough that quick movement won’t dislodge them and yet come out cleanly and smoothly. Your rig also has to keep your revolvers in the same place as you move about, the more consistently placed your grips are as you move around, the better. If your rig doesn’t do this, and you want to be competitive, find a rig that will meet the requirements. Otherwise your revolver transition times won’t improve.

I prefer not to “look” to draw or re-holster. My revolvers are almost always drawn and holstered simultaneously, and I can’t see both at the

same time. So, how do I get away with that? I practiced drawing and finding the sight picture for each revolver and then holstering. Practice the same safety rules and starting positions you would for any match. If you start with your revolvers on a stage, hold both grips while you get ready to start, and then at the last moment, put your hands in the stage starting position. This gives you some muscle memory for gun placement and will decrease your time from buzzer to first shot. I also look toward the first target and

(Continued on next page)

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(Continued from previous page)
concentrate on getting that first sight picture and hit.

If your revolvers are not shot first, then you will normally have a few steps to make a transition from a long gun to your revolvers. Get your hands on the grips as soon as you can. You may not draw, pending the movement you are making, but as soon as you reach your shooting position, your grip is formed and the revolvers are ready for action. My goal is to have the revolvers out and moving to the first target as my feet come to rest. That way my first shot can come the instant I have a firm foundation.

Just as importantly, you have to be able to leather those irons. If all your practice is done in a static standing position, you will have trouble re-holstering the reolvers because during a stage you are moving toward the next position. Just as I like to have my revolvers out and ready by the time my feet are planted, I also like to holster before I have completed my first step away from that position. Again, follow the 170° rule and only move if you won't break it.

The only way I can do this with confidence is with positive feedback from my holsters. I have to feel the revolvers are secure or I don't go on. In my case, as I holster the revolvers, the holsters "take" the revolvers from my hands as I move my hands down-

ward. It only takes an instant for the feedback, but minus that instant of feedback I know I have a problem. Never let go of the revolver grip before you have confirmation of revolver placement in the holster. Let me repeat that, NEVER let go of the revolver grip before getting confirmation of it being securely in the holster. This is why top shooters look their guns home—positive feedback the gun is secured. I do it by feel rather than sight. I have practiced it until it is second nature and automatic. When I get a new rig, I will have to do the same thing over again because any variation requires new learning.

Summing it up then, you have to have confidence in your leather. You have to practice getting the positive feedback you need for both drawing and holstering. You have to practice various starting positions/stances, and you have to practice making transitions from point to point. There is a certain amount of satisfaction in having that confidence in your ability to draw and re-holster safely and efficiently.

Now, go put your favorite western on the 'tube and then leather up to practice your draw.

Next time for Part 5—It's All In Your Head!

I'm Doc Nelson, Gunfighter. I can be reached at doc19958@yahoo.com, and I welcome your comments and suggestions.

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BUMP AND RUN TARGET

*By Cree Vicar Dave, SASS Life #49907
TG Sucker Creek, Michigan*

attached to it. It is engaged first. When it is hit, it falls back against a stop to disengage a latch holding the second target in place. The spring-loaded chain then activates the latch. When the latch is opened, it allows this second target to roll down the incline on the barn door track. There are two trolleys with a steel plate around three eights inches by four inches by sixteen inches attached to and hanging from the trolleys. Then, another steel plate of the same type joins this to the target by bolts. The bolts



**finished
front view
of target**

use jam nuts and are connected loosely to allow the target to swing. The more angle on the barn door track, the faster the target moves. Length of travel and slope is to one's own discretion. There is a device at the end to absorb the kinetic force. A coil spring was installed in the latch system to get the second target moving consistently.

Rope and pulleys were used to reset target for convenience. Wood was installed over the critical parts to minimize damage to operating parts. The second target hangs down as
(Continued on next page)

Challenging and unique Cowboy Action Shooting™ targets fascinate me. When I imagine a target or come across one that arouses interest, my mind runs the numbers to see if it would be plausible to build. It says in Proverbs 17:24 "A discerning man keeps wisdom in view, but a fool's eyes wander to the ends of the earth." I enjoy the allure of new types of action targets, but one must practice circumspect. An old adage suggests there is a fine line between a genius and an idiot. One must be on guard so as not to be spellbound to the point of foolishness.

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**back view
of target**



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STAGE WRITING

By Doc J. H. Hucklebury, SASS #14373

There are two basic ways to write scenarios for stages. The easiest way is to write stories based on your stage design. Okeechobee Marshals range is a good example. There is the Train. You might write something like this: Returning by train, after delivering cattle to market, train robbers attack the train.

Next to the train, we have the Jail. You could continue: One of the robbers, presumed to be the leader, was wounded and you are bringing him to be locked up by the sheriff. He must have friends because a group of men are waiting to take the prisoner off your hands.

Next we have an open stage, then the Assay Office. You write: You didn't feel safe carrying all that gold from the cattle sale so you stop at the Assay Office to exchange it for currency. The Assay Office is being robbed by two crooks, etc.

The next stage is Hawks Landing so you might write: You are still carrying the gold, and it is slowing you down. You decide to cross the river on the ferry to distance yourself from the trailing crooks. Now you must defend the ferry.

The next stage is the Livery. You could write: Your horse is about to throw a shoe so you stop at the Livery to have the blacksmith replace it. No sooner than he's finished, the robbers show up.

Now, see how easy that was? What I've written so far took about a half hour. I have the guidelines for five stages. The open stage is easy; you can fit anything in there. We also have an Outhouse, a Saloon, and a Covered Wagon. The Outhouse could be any building, and the Saloon, there's always a saloon in a cowboy story. The Covered Wagon should be fairly easy to write

into the story.

Story lines for this type of scenarios should be short, just enough for everyone to see the picture in their mind.

The second type of scenario writing is more difficult. Writing scenarios based on a book or movie, you have to fit the existing stages into the story. When I wrote the scenarios for this year's annual Top Gun, I had to fit ten scenarios to our ten stages. It's based on a book written by Lee Gramling. If you follow the story in the book, stage ten was first, then stage six, stage one, stage seven, stage two, stage three, stage four, stage nine, (which wasn't in the book, but could have been), stage five, and then eight. It doesn't matter because each posse starts at a different stage.

Some books don't have enough shooting action to make into shoot-

ing scenarios. In this case, you improvise. A knife fight or fistfight could easily be changed into a gunfight. You could hold a prop knife, or punch a stuffed dummy to start. Remember, you came to shoot.

Storylines for a book or movie tend to be longer than the made up ones. I try to get across what the original story is about and keeping it short enough it keeps everyone's interest without taking attention away from the stage procedure. Often, the number of targets has significance in a scenario and at times, a particular gun starts the scenario.

All scenarios must be explained so everyone's understanding of the stage is the same. It is amazing how a poorly described scenario will be interpreted.

Now that you know how to write scenarios for stages, get to it. I'm ready to shoot!

BUMP AND RUN TARGET ...

(Continued from previous page)
far as possible to keep the line of fire away from the track.

This type of target could have the barn door track set level and utilize some type of power device to operate the second target. But this would require additional headwork, expense, and maintenance.

Remember to always be prudent when building and using targets, and follow all safety and health rules. Keep the "Action" in Cowboy Action Shooting™. If you have an idea about a project for Cowboy Action, send me a line.

Hope to see ya on the trail
creevicardave@hotmail.com

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1. Hot running water is the best cleaning medium for blackpowder. Stick the barrel under hot running water (with some sort of hand protection), and soon the snakeskin will come out the bottom. If this is your wife's bathtub, you're in deep, deep trouble.
2. Lacking hot running water, cold running water will clean the barrels almost as quickly. If, on the other hand, you are living at an RV park, and your nosy neighbors see you spraying water into what looks like a gun barrel, and soon something black and shiny comes out, you're about to have a visit from someone. It might possibly be the local SWAT team, a HAZMAT team, or possibly just the park operator. Your nice neighbors have just told him you're dumping toxic wastes, or perhaps you're an alien from Roswell and here to steal their souls.
3. So, lacking convenient running water out of the view of prying neighbors, just spray the inside of the barrels with Windex with Vinegar or equivalent. Lay them on the pan in which you're cleaning guns. Clean your pistols. Turn the barrels over and spray them again. Clean your rifle. Now run a Bore Snake through the barrels. The snakeskin of plastic and Bblackpowder residue will usually come out. If you've sprayed the aft end of the Bore Snake with a good lubricant (Break Free CLP, Rem Oil, even Ballistol), you're probably finished. Reassemble, put a light coat of oil on the outside, and put away until the next battle.

Sometimes, if you've shot a lot, maybe blackpowder Cowboy Trap, blackpowder Cowboy Skeet, and nine stages with 6+ shotgun targets each in one day, you might need to stuff in a rolled up paper towel and spray the barrels heavily with Windex and push the towel through after

DISPATCHES FROM CAMP BAYLOR

By Captain George Baylor, SASS Life #24287

the Windex has had time to soak through.

If you can clean them at the match, it's even easier. Spray the barrels with Windex and run the Bore Snake through the barrels. The residue hasn't hardened and comes off easily. I've started cleaning all the guns at the range at the end of the match with excellent results.

Defective Powder

Edward R. S. Canby shot a stage at Gunfight at Battle Rock, the Colorado State Championship, and a lady shooting her first big match saw him shoot and ran to the first official she could find, Stumble Leena. The lady explained that something was wrong with his loads. They were incredibly loud. They were very smoky. Fire came out of the barrels. The timer operator and spotters were coughing and choking. Could Stumble Leena make this stop and get him some ammunition that wasn't defective?

You've probably figured out Mr. Canby was shooting wholly black. There was nothing wrong with his powder. Everyone else on the posse, however, had defective powder.

Skill and Luck

No one doubts the skill of Shalako Joe and his brother, Badlands Ben. Joe has won END of TRAIL overall twice, putting him in a very small club. Ben shoots Gunfighter and has won major events overall, a rare feat, too. The Texas State Rifle Association Cowboy Action Shooting Championship this year gave entries to Winter Range for first overall, Shalako Joe, and first lady, More Ammo, his mother. I don't remember ever hearing of a mother-son team winning an event. Congratulations are definitely in order. Three other entries were drawn from the category winners. Badlands Ben won Gunfighter. Then he won one of the free entries. Talley Book, More Ammo's husband and father to the Texas Wonder Brothers, commented that he was the big winner. Probably so. He has to write those entry fee checks.

There's a saying, "I'd rather be lucky than good." These guys are both!

Agarita Ranch

Agarita Ranch is near the mega metropolis, Lockhart, Texas. Don't blink when you drive through. It has an exceptional Cowboy Action Shooting™ range. Lots of ranges have storefronts and building shells as part of their stages. Agarita Ranch has real buildings. The stables are working stables. The blacksmith shop looks pretty complete. There's a bathhouse that houses bathrooms with flush toilets, no port-a-potties. The Shamrock Hotel is a complete building, complete with a saloon



Delta Raider tends bar at the Agarita Ranch Saloon while the cat is in command. The plaque on the wall reads, "No dancin' on bar with your spurs on." The trophies on the wall are the elusive Jackalopes, the second most dangerous game in Texas.

downstairs and rooms upstairs. Walk into the saloon, and you'll wonder where the time machine was hidden. This is a *saloon!* Behind the bar, when I walked in was owner, Delta Raider. He and his wife spent their children's inheritance building this ranch. The ceiling is fancy tin plate. The chairs and poker tables are substantial. The bar is big enough to handle a herd of thirsty cowboys. A brindle cat was holding court on one of the pool tables. The far corner has an upright piano, needing only a derby-clad, vest wearing piano player with sleeve garters playing something appropriate, preferably with a good looking soiled dove leaning against the piano and singing along.

On the other extreme, the chapel in the trees was also ready to be a movie set. Inside were oak pews from a Catholic church in New Jersey. The church "upgraded" to padded pews and sold these on eBay. Delta Raider was the only bidder. It cost more to ship them here than to buy them. The antique oak was worth more than the total cost.

There's a fort, a general store, and more. A pavilion for parties and awards, with food service, can handle a pretty good-sized match.

The Texas State Rifle Association State Cowboy Action Shooting™ Championship was there, probably the biggest event there yet. The ranch deserves more big matches. It's in Texas, though, and Texas is very big, with several really nice Cowboy Action Shooting™ facilities, and only one SASS State Championship and one Regional. Annual events that aren't one or the other have a hard time in Texas. Remember, it's a big state.

Old Fort Parker

Old Fort Parker is a sacred place in Texas history. This idyllic spot in the middle of deep forest in 1836 was the spot where 500-700 Comanche and Kiowa warriors attacked, killing the men, and taking five women and children as captives, including Cynthia Ann Parker, who later gave birth to Quanah Parker, the last great Comanche war chief. The Texas Legislature, in its infinite wisdom, stopped funding the restored fort, limiting funding to the Fort Parker State Park next door. Thus, only county and city funds keep the place going, that and Cowboy Action Shooters. The Fort Parker Patriots have built a really nice, improved 10 stage facility, where you shoot in the shadow of the restored fort, and, no doubt, the ghosts of the Parkers commenting on these strange people, especially the ones shooting buffalo rifles from the block house on long range day.

Defend Old Fort Parker

Every year the Fort Parker Patriots put on a well-attended annual charity match, Defend Old Fort Parker. Despite the fact it isn't the state championship or regional, DOFP always has a good turn out, close to 200 this year. They know how to write stages. The targets are BIG and CLOSE, and the scenarios are pretty simple, not procedural proof, but pretty simple. 42 people shot the match clean this year.

The Parker ghosts, no doubt, figured such a crowd of armed cowboys and cowgirls shooting so well were the reason no Comanche warriors have attacked in years and years. 🐾



SHOOTING PARTNER

By Cree Vicar Dave, SASS Life #49907
TG Sucker Creek, Michigan

I have many shooting partners. But, the prettiest one by far is Indian Paint Brush, SASS #78921, who just happens to be my granddaughter. She lives next door, so since she was knee high to a grasshopper, the Vicar's Wife and I have seen her on a daily basis.

I gave her the name "Indian Paint Brush" years ago partly because we have several types of wildflowers appear in our yard every year, not least of them is the Indian Paintbrush, and partly because we are part American Indian.

Paint Brush has an older brother and two older cousins who live nearby I have tried to talk into Cowboy Action Shooting™ to no avail. So I'm quite proud of her for being brave enough to be the first to strap on leather. She started shooting with me this spring. The neat thing about

her is her willingness to try a new cowboy gun, or style of shooting, or help out at our club. It says in Proverbs 13:22 "A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children." She is already amassing a treasure toward her inheritance, enjoying the sport with grandpa. It's a good thing since Cowboy Action is so addictive it wouldn't be difficult to deplete one's assets on guns and duds.

May the LORD see fit to give us grandpas and grammas a few more years to give our grandchildren the inheritance of treasured time together,

er, encourage them toward moral stability, while guiding them to be a "Straight Shooter."

*Hope to see ya on the trail
God Bless*

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THE AMERICAN MUSTANG

By Wild Horse Hans, SASS #76932

Remember the old Westerns where we saw herds of Wild Horses running free on the range? Remember how many of our cowboy heroes would rope a Wild Horse and break him?

Well the Wild Horses are still out there today and are available for adoption! Yup, about 27,000 Mustangs still roam the West in 10 states, plus about 30,000 are in government holding facilities waiting for homes. They are protected as a "Living symbol" of the Old West and fall under the care of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). With few natural predators, they multiply rapidly and when there are too many in a given herd, the BLM gathers some and offers them up for adoption. These Mustangs are some great horses. They are smart, and they are tough. They learn things fast and are not all that hard to



train. In fact, many famous clinicians say Mustangs are easier to train than domestic horses due to the fact they are smarter and are a clean sheet. They have not had

human contact before and have no preconceived notions about humans.

Mustangs excel in many equine sports. Anything that requires endurance, strength, and smarts, they

will do well at. Many Mounted Shooters are finding that Mustangs make fantastic shooting horses, and trail riders have known for a long time

(Continued on next page)

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(Continued from previous page)
that Mustangs are hard to beat for trail riding.

For many years Mustangs were rounded up and sold for dog food. Since 1971, the government has protected them, and since the adoption program started, they have placed over 230,000 Mustangs into private care.

In the last few years more and more people are discovering the Mustang. Not just private citizens,

but government agencies as well. The U.S. Border Patrol began using Mustangs last year as a test on the Northern border. The sure-footed Mustangs performed so well word is the Border Patrol is planning on replacing all their horses with Mustangs. They found the Mustang was better suited for the tough conditions in the mountains of the Northern border than the Quarter horses they had been using. Plus, being wild horses, they were much

more in tune to what was going on around them. The Mustangs alerted the officers to things out of place long before they got to them.

The USMC also has fallen for the Mustang. The USMC mounted color guard is an all Mustang outfit. They travel around the country as a color guard for equine events. The Army also has a few Mustangs working at Arlington National Cemetery. They are used for the mounted guard as well as to pull caissons.

Not only do they serve their country as workhorses, they serve to give others a second chance at life. The Mustangs used by the Border Patrol and the USMC were trained

in prisons by prisoners. This program takes prisoners and teaches them to train wild horses. The horses learn from the prisoners, but the prisoners also learn from the Mustangs. The program is so successful for the Mustangs and the prisoners that other prisons out West are starting similar programs. After training, the Mustangs are offered for adoption.

The Mustangs are a large part of our history. The Mustangs of today are descendants of the horses that crossed the country to settle the West. They were Cavalry mounts and Pony Express horses. They were even the

(Continued on page 66)

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Zip Zapped!

By Bob Boze Bell, SASS #55,556



Near Cainville, Oklahoma, Marion Hildreth and five other lawmen surround a cabin. After eating supper, Ike Black and Dick Yeager (a.k.a. Zip Wyatt) exit the cabin, arguing over a last chaw of tobacco. Deputy Hildreth shouts, "Throw up your hands!" The outlaws do, "but each hand contains a Winchester or Colt's revolver." Hildreth shoots Black in the head, killing him instantly.

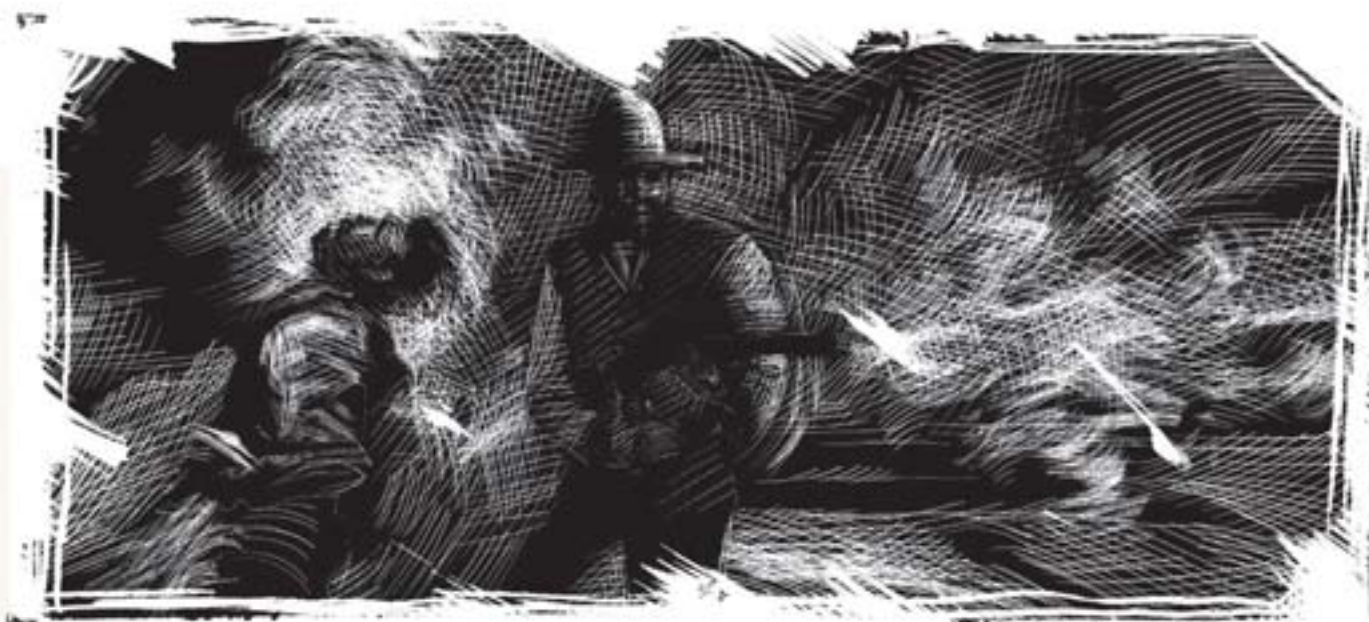
While the posse shoots at Wyatt, the outlaw fires his Winchester "as fast as he [can] lever and pull the trigger," an eyewitness later says. A bullet strikes Wyatt close to the "nipple of the right breast ... plowing a bad furrow half way around his body." Wyatt drops his Winchester but quickly retrieves it. He then shouts, "Marion Hildreth, you have killed the best man in Oklahoma!" before sprinting into a cornfield.

Seriously wounded, Wyatt tramples a path through the tall stalks, while the posse sends "rifle balls after him as rapidly as possible." Running east over a sand hill, Wyatt is in plain view for nearly a half mile. No one follows, however, because of the posse's "respect for his demonstration."

Two miles away, Wyatt encounters the young Dr. Edington. The doctor bluntly tells him, "You are not able to travel with that wound." Yet Wyatt replies, "I have to travel. Fix me up." After being treated, Wyatt commandeers the doctor's little buckskin horse and heads east.

Wyatt's wound is so bad that he can't ride anymore. He persuades a farmer in a lumber wagon to haul him to the Cimarron River. While wading across the river, he spots a 14-year-old boy driving a one-horse cart. Wyatt demands a ride. "Frightened nearly out of his senses," the boy drives Wyatt "at top speed 25 miles east into southwestern Garfield County." He releases the boy and drives on in the cart.

The next day, a 40-man posse tracks Wyatt to Turkey Creek and then detours into Hennessey to get fresh mounts. At 2



Zip Wyatt (at right) returns fire at the Hildreth posse as Ike Black is shot in the head.

— ALL ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB BOZE BELL —



Ike Black's body is left where he fell until a local justice of the peace can be summoned. Nothing is found on his person but a "photograph of the woman who has been his mistress, and \$1.50 in money." The body is taken to Alva, where it is photographed (above) and buried at county expense.



Zip Wyatt in the Garfield County jail, wounded and dying, following his capture near Sheridan.

p.m., the posse learns that Wyatt has crossed the Rock Island Railroad tracks about five miles south of Enid. At Waukomis, the lawmen telegraph the Garfield County sheriff for assistance. In Skeleton Creek Valley, 14 miles to the east, the posse discovers an abandoned cart and horse. They have no idea how close they are to the outlaw.

At Skeleton Creek, Wyatt stops by a cabin, demanding food and a horse. John Daily notes the dry blood on the front of the outlaw's brown shirt and his three weeks' growth of beard. Daily tells Wyatt he can't help him. Stumbling on, Wyatt finally finds a horse; when that one tires, he finds another and then another.

By August 4, multiple posses have dogged Wyatt's trail southeast of Sheridan. Five miles south of Marshall, Wyatt's last horse is found grazing. The fugitive's tracks lead to a cornfield on Alvin Ross' farm. An exhausted Wyatt lies there, on a sandy mound where the corn won't grow.

The posse surrounds the field, while three volunteers wade in (one eventually turns back). They track Wyatt's faltering footprints through the corn rows until they

discover the sleeping outlaw, lying with his Winchester in his right hand and a cedar-handled Colt revolver near the other.

Leveling their Winchesters, the two men call out: "Up with your hands Dick—we've got you!"

Wyatt's eyes pop open, and he instinctively grabs his weapons. Both posse members fire simultaneously, "the balls taking effect two inches apart in the outlaw's right hip and abdomen."

After being tracked by 1,000 men and eluding capture for 125 days, Zip Wyatt lies mortally wounded. His long flight and fight are finally over.

Wyatt becomes a "distinguished guest" at the Garfield County jail, living in pain and "a bunch of suffering humanity," as one of the newspapers puts it, until 6:30 p.m. on September 6.

Before Wyatt's death, a doctor asks him, "This is your last day on earth. Is there anyone you wish to see or anything you wish to say?"

A grinning Wyatt replies, "Nobody to see, Doc, an' nothin' to say."



Belle Black (at left) and Jennie Freeman ride with the outlaws until they are captured on June 4, 1895. No known photos of the two have surfaced.

Bob Boze Bell is the executive editor of *True West* magazine and the author of six illustrated books about the Old West. He writes a daily blog at twmag.com



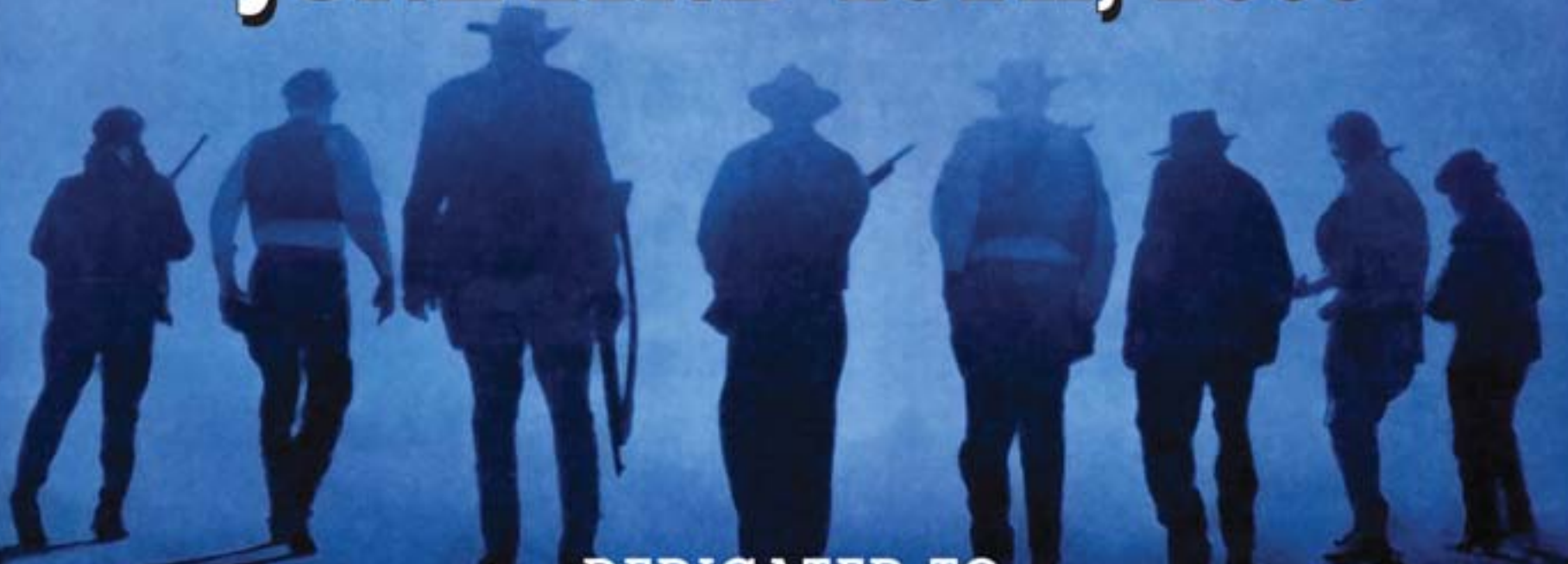
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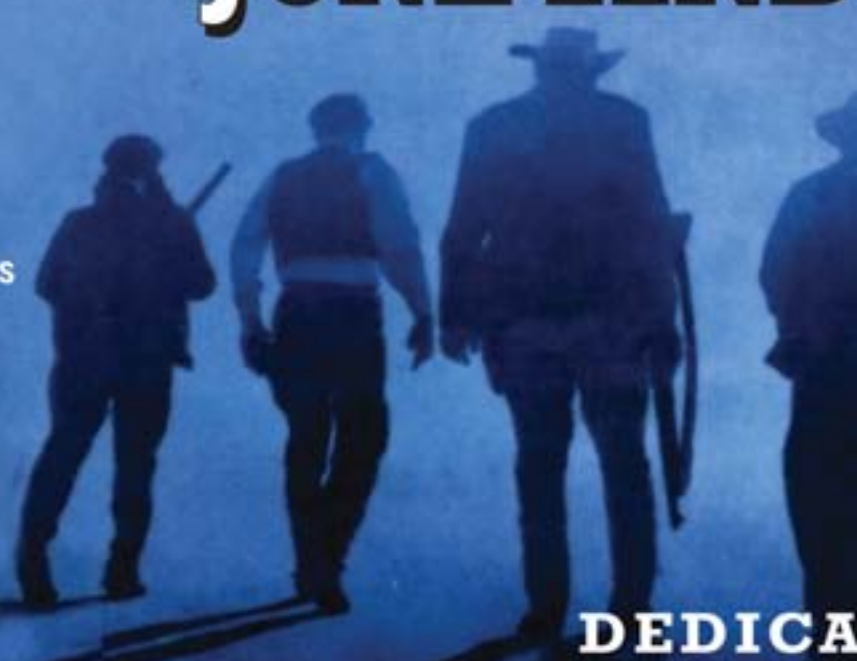
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Mail entry payment and other fees with completed Entry Form. END of TRAIL will be held rain or shine June 22nd-28th, 2009. Entry Deadline is May 29th, 2009. Refund requests must be received prior to May 29th, 2009 and are subject to a \$25.00 processing fee. No refunds will be made for requests after May 29th. A warm-up match is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, June 22nd and 23rd. Shooter's packets must be picked up prior to the shooter's meeting on Thursday, June 25th. END of TRAIL is an Invitational event, SASS reserves the right to refuse entry to anyone.

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SASS NUMBER (Required) _____

- TRADITIONAL LADIES TRADITIONAL MODERN LADIES MODERN DUELIST LADIES DUELIST
- SENIOR DUELIST FRONTIERSMAN FRONTIER CARTRIDGE LADIES FRONTIER CARTRIDGE
- FRONTIER CARTRIDGE DUELIST 49ER LADIES 49ER LADIES FRONTIER CARTRIDGE DUELIST
- GUNFIGHTER LADIES GUNFIGHTER CLASSIC COWBOY CLASSIC COWGIRL JR BOY(12-16)
- JR GIRL(12-16) SENIOR(60+) LADIES SR(60+) ELDER STATESMAN(70+) GRAND DAME(70+)
- SILVER SR (65+) LADIES SILVER SR (65+) "B" WSTRN LADIES "B" WSTRN MNTD DIV# _____
- LADIES MNTD DIV# _____ JR MNTD DIV# _____ PIONEER CART COMBINED CART SR LIMITED MNTD LADIES SR LIMITED MNTD SR OPEN MNTD LADIES SR OPEN MNTD

FIRST FAMILY ENTRANT:

ALIAS _____

REAL NAME _____

SASS NUMBER (Required) _____

- TRADITIONAL LADIES TRADITIONAL MODERN LADIES MODERN DUELIST LADIES DUELIST
- SENIOR DUELIST FRONTIERSMAN FRONTIER CARTRIDGE LADIES FRONTIER CARTRIDGE
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- GUNFIGHTER LADIES GUNFIGHTER CLASSIC COWBOY CLASSIC COWGIRL JR BOY(12-16)
- JR GIRL(12-16) SENIOR(60+) LADIES SR(60+) ELDER STATESMAN(70+) GRAND DAME(70+)
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- LADIES MNTD DIV# _____ JR MNTD DIV# _____ PIONEER CART COMBINED CART SR LIMITED MNTD LADIES SR LIMITED MNTD SR OPEN MNTD LADIES SR OPEN MNTD

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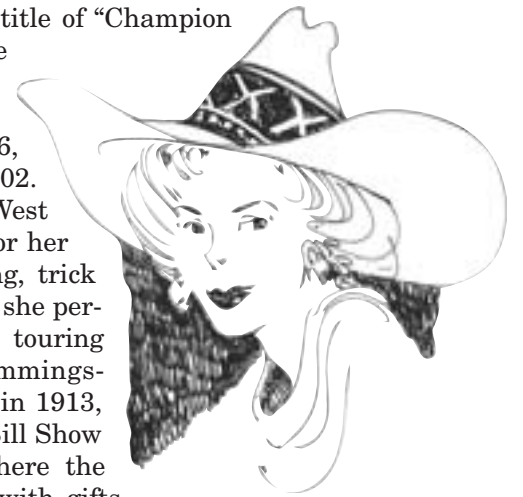
Joe Fasthorse Harrill, SASS #48769

LITTLE KNOWN FAMOUS PEOPLE WAY OUT WEST -

LULU BELL PARR

By Joe Fasthorse Harrill, SASS #48769

LLULU BELL PARR earned the title of "Champion Lady Bucking Horse Rider of the World" by riding in some of the world's most famous Wild West Shows. Lulu Bell was born in 1876, married in 1896, and divorced in 1902. She joined the Pawnee Bill Wild West Show in 1903 and became famous for her skills in bronc riding, buffalo riding, trick riding, and sharp shooting. In 1908, she performed for King Edward VII while touring Europe with the Col. F.T. Cummings-Brighten Troupe. Back in America in 1913, she joined the Pawnee Bill/Buffalo Bill Show and traveled to South America where the Argentine President showered her with gifts in recognition for her outstanding debut. Lulu Belle Parr died in 1955. She was inducted into the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame in 2005.



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SASS CALIFORNIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP 2008

Blazing Saddles VII

By Scarlet Angel, SASS Life # 41860

Rio Linda, CA – The skies were unusually gray for Rio Linda, CA when our trailer pulled into the parking area of the Central Park Arena. The California Range Riders were hosting the SASS California State Mounted Championship match, and I, along with many others, didn't want to miss it. I unloaded my horse, tied him to the trailer, and joined the group of cowboys and cowgirls huddled around the fire. I could see the breath of my friends as we spoke, wondering if the threatening clouds were going to rain on us or clear and let the sun shine through.

Visiting with the people sharing the fire, some of them from out of state, I recalled what Kactus Joe once said, "Horse people and Cowboy Action Shooters are a dedicated bunch of folks, but to be a Mounted Shooter takes a special kind of dedication." Being a horse person who frequents the trails in all kinds of weather, a Cowboy

Action Shooter, and a Mounted Shooter, I felt Joe's statement was very true, and standing in the cold damp morning air with the rest of the group just proved it again. I don't know many people who would travel as far as some of these folks did, bringing their horses, guns, and gear with them when the weather is threatening. Not one of them seemed to mind as we enjoyed the camaraderie while we waited.

Old Buckaroo, the President of the California Range Riders, yelled out the awaited "Saddle up!" followed by hoots and hollers of excitement as the group broke up to get ready for the shoot.

Six stages were drawn for the main match, and one for the optional Jackpot stage. A stage for Mounted Shooting consists of shooting a pistol at five balloons set in a pattern with a barrel turn or two, and then shooting a second pistol at five more balloons typically in a straight line referred to as the run down. The balloons are shot with blackpowder blanks from a .45 caliber single action pistol. It is a test of horsemanship, speed, and accuracy.

The gray clouds spit a few rain drops, but did not discourage a crowd from showing up to enjoy a day watching time turn back to the days of cowboys and cowgirls dressed in attire from the Civil War through the B-Western era, gunsmoke, and the sound of pounding hooves. The news media even

showed up to cover what was happening at the normally quiet arena.

Following the first day of shooting was a costume contest organized by Wildcat Kate. This was a lot of fun and interesting as the contestants talked about their personas as well as the clothing they wore. Kate managed to round up cigar smokin' cowgirls, saloon girls, soldiers, cowboys, and even a shot-up Pony Express rider to show their costumes.

Day two treated us to a beautiful day, two more stages for the main match and then the side

matches. Most of the spectators had never seen a shotgun stage. If you've never seen a mounted shotgun stage, you've been missing some fun. The rider has only one shot each to hit a group of two balloons set on a pole and another group of three balloons.

Just as the spectators thought they had seen SASS Mounted Shooting at its best, the California Range Riders announced an Extreme Cowboy stage. This course had many obstacles for the cowboys
(Continued on next page)

Winners

<i>Division 1</i>	Dutch, SASS #455
<i>Division 2</i>	Doc on Holiday, SASS #77051
<i>Division 3</i>	Copper Pony, SASS #72649
<i>Division 4</i>	Rootin Tootin Cowboy, SASS #51838
<i>Division 5</i>	Expressman, SASS #41513
<i>L Division 1</i>	Matty Fireball, SASS #68441
<i>L Division 3</i>	Wruthless Belle, SASS #72650
<i>L Division 4</i>	Wildcat Kate, SASS #7873
<i>L Division 5</i>	Star of July, SASS #47177
<i>Senior 1</i>	Old Buckaroo, SASS #29117
<i>Senior 2</i>	Rawhide Rich, SASS #54711
<i>Senior 3</i>	Frisco Bob, SASS #45153
<i>L Senior 1</i>	Dragonfly West, SASS #80969
<i>L Senior 2</i>	Tenacious Tiffany, SASS #54481
<i>L Senior 3</i>	JD Cowgirl, SASS #56218
<i>Rifle Stage</i>	Expressman
<i>Shotgun Stage</i>	Doc on Holiday
<i>Extreme Cowboy Stage</i>	Star of July





(Continued from previous page) and cowgirls to negotiate while riding and shooting. If running a different course than what we normally see and backing into a "box" to shoot at a balloon directly behind you while on the clock

wasn't exciting enough, the riders also had to jump a hay bale and get the two balloons staged at either side of the bale. We had four extreme cowboys compete that day, but it was the one cowgirl, Star of July, who showed the audi-

ence cowgirls are a force with which to be reckoned. If you are ever near a match hosted by the California Range Riders, make a point to drop by. They always put on a great shoot and someone is always happy

to take a minute to answer any questions. The California Range Riders home page is <http://californiarangeriders.com/index.html> From there, you can navigate to the events link to find out where they'll be next.

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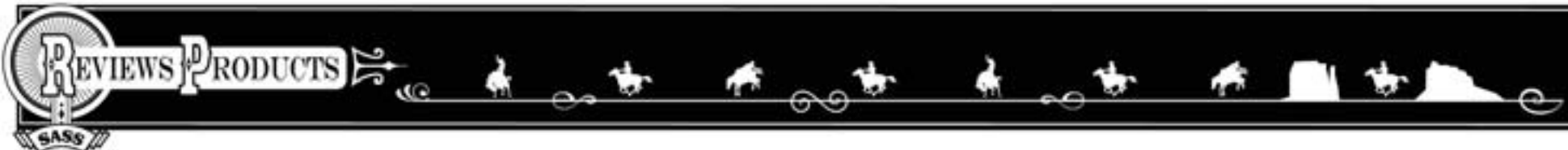
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Tuolumne Lawman,
SASS Life #6127

CIVIL WAR FIREARMS GO WEST

Part One: Revolvers

By Tuolumne Lawman, SASS Life #6127

California Gold Rush in 1849. More often than not, though, it is thought to be from the end of the War of Succession in 1865, continuing until about 1900 when the last of the gangs like the Wild Bunch disbanded.

Vast number of discharged and displaced soldiers from both sides of the Mason Dixon line drifted west, carrying their wartime sidearm with them. Huge quantities of weapons, including percussion revolvers, were surplus after the cessation of hostilities

For most of the first 30 years of this westward expansion, the percussion revolvers or Smith and Wesson rim-fire were the only sidearm around. Even after the advent of powerful cartridge revolvers with the

S&W No. 3 American Model in 1869, the Colt Cartridge conversions in 1871, and the 1873 Colt Single Action Army, the percussion revolvers were the rule, rather than the exception. These Civil War vintage revolvers dominated until the late 1870's, and were still very common even through the 1880's! Almost two-thirds of the "Old West" was dominated by the percussion revolvers of Remington and Colt.

The Colt Revolvers

Colt was the first to introduce percussion revolvers with its 1836 Patterson. The .36 caliber, seven and one half inch barreled Patterson revolver was exceptionally popular with Captain Jack Hays and the Texas Rangers for Comanche fight-

ing in the 1840's. They were generally issued to the Rangers by 1844. In 1847 Colt collaborated with another Texas Ranger, Captain Samuel H. Walker, and created the massive and powerful "Walker model" .44 Colt revolver. With its nine-inch barrel, it was so large it was generally carried inommel holsters on horseback. It was the most powerful revolver until the advent of the .44 Magnum in the mid-twentieth Century! I fired one once, and it rattled my teeth!

In 1849, Colt introduced a scaled down .44 Walker horse pistol, called the Dragoon model. While smaller than the Walker with a seven and a half inch barrel, it was still designed

(Continued on next page)

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(Continued from previous page)

to be carried in the pommel holsters on the saddle. In 1851, at the height of the Gold Rush in California, Colt introduced the slim, sleek, six-shot, 7-1/2" barreled, .36 caliber 1851 Navy Model. It was an instant marketing success.

At the beginning of the Civil War, both the Colt 1851 Navy and Dragoons were very common. At



The massive 4-1/2 pound .44 caliber "Walker" was Colt's second revolver offering. It was the most powerful handgun in production until the advent of the .44 Magnum in the 20th Century!

about the time war was breaking out, Colt introduced a new Army model revolver, in the same .44 caliber of the Dragoon, though it used a smaller powder charge. It had an eight-inch barrel, but was smaller overall than the Dragoon. It was a little larger in size and caliber than the 1851 Navy model. The Colt Army model of 1860 was tremendously popular and the most issued revolver of the Civil War. All in all, a total of over 500,000 1860 and 1851 Colts revolvers were made.

It was only natural the 1851 Navy and 1860 Army were the favorites of cowboys, lawmen, and



The only cartridge revolvers until 1872 were produced by (or licensed by) S&W because they held the rights to the Rollin White Patent for "bored through cylinders." The S&W No. 1 (shown here) is an early .22 caliber cartridge revolver. Its weak design make it a non-shooter for today, but in its time it was a very handy, multi-shot pocket pistol.

badmen alike after the war. Most of these men were discharged (or deserted) veterans of the war, and would use the firearms with which they were familiar. Outlaws Sam Bass and John Wesley Hardin favored the 1860 Colt Army for shootist work. The sleek and reliable .36 caliber 1851 Navy Model was Wild Bill Hickok's favorite revolver.

During the majority of the pre-Custer era Indian and Cavalry conflicts, the .44 Colt 1860 Army model was the revolver issued and used by the Frontier Army. Until 1878 when Colt introduced their 1873 "Peacemaker" in .44 WCF (.44-40), the term "Colt's .44 revolver" meant a .44 1860 Army percussion revolver.

The Remington Revolver

While Colt was the first to introduce percussion revolvers with its 1836 Patterson, other manufacturers like Remington soon joined in. The first widely successful Remington revolver was the New Model Army in .44 caliber with its eight-inch barrel. While we generally (and erroneously) refer to it as a "Model 1858," it was actually introduced in 1861 after the beginning of the War of Northern Aggression. The "1858" actually refers to the patent date. The New Model Army was arguably the most popular revolver with the troops during the war. Part of its popularity was due to its reputation for reliability and its one-piece frame being sturdier than the inherently weaker two-piece frame of the 1851 and 1860 Colts. In fact, Colt later adopted the Remington style one-piece frame for its 1873 Single Action Army.



The Colt Dragoon series quickly followed the Walker in production. Slightly smaller and lighter, the Dragoons incrementally introduced refinements that became "standard" in later handguns.

Remington also introduced a scaled down .36 caliber Navy Model that generally resembled their .44 caliber New Model Army revolver. As with the Colts, the Navy model was slightly smaller and lighter than the Army model. The Navy Model Remington had a seven and one half inch barrel.

Besides the sturdier one-piece frame of the Remingtons, another popular feature of the Remington Army and Navy revolvers was the "safety notches" for the hammer between the chambers on the cylinder. This made the Remington percussions the ONLY major 19th century revolver I am aware of that was safe to carry with all six chambers loaded. Rather than resting precariously in a safety notch or on a live percussion cap, the Remington's hammer nestled safely in notches between percussion caps.

Both during the Civil War, and the subsequent westward migration of displaced and disenchanting souls, the Remington Army and Navy revolvers remained a favorite. It was also one of the first percussion revolvers to be converted to metallic cartridges. A .46 caliber rim-fire conversion was contracted by the US Army in 1869, after paying a royalty to Smith & Wesson for using the bored through cylinder of their Rollin White patent.

Smith & Wesson "Tip-up" Rim-fires

During and just after the Civil War the Smith and Wesson revolvers were the only commonly available

revolvers using self-contained metallic cartridges. Smith and Wesson held the rights to Rollin White's patent on "bored through revolver cylinders." Just prior to, during, and after the Civil War, S&W produced their No. 1, No. 1 1/2, and No. 2 revolvers. They were .22 and .32 caliber rim fires that loaded by tipping the barrel up. Though popular, they were rather anemic in the "fight



The 1851 "New Belt Model" was a much more comfortable revolver to handle and carry. In appreciation for the Texas Navy's order for Colt's Patterson Revolver in 1836, which allowed Colt to initiate firearms manufacturing operations, the 1851 featured a Texas Naval Battle scene on the cylinder—hence it's popular name, 1851 Navy.

stopping" power department. Their lack of stopping power caused the .36 and .44 caliber percussion revolvers to remain popular.

Back before the Civil War, the partnership of Smith and Wesson was fortunate enough to hold the Rollin White Patent for the bored through cylinder. This was a necessity to produce revolvers using the newly developed self-contained metallic cartridges. After selling off the rights to the Volcanic repeating firearms to Oliver Winchester (later to evolve into the Henry Rifle), S&W developed their top hinged No.1 .22 caliber rim fire revolver. It was a seven shot revolver that loaded and unloaded by releasing the barrel/cylinder assembly, and removing the cylinder. You then used a protruding rod under the barrel to push out the empty cartridges, one at a time. It was a fairly weak design, though, and the black-



The big improvement over the popular Navy Model was the reintroduction of .44 caliber firepower. The 1860 Army was "the" issued handgun of the Civil War.

powder loaded .22 short rim-fire round lacked anything even resembling fight-stopping power.

When the Great Conflagration broke out in 1861, the No. 1, however, was popular with Union Officers, even though it was a small seven shot pocket pistol. Realizing the need for a more powerful pistol, but still hampered by the weak top hinge design, S&W introduced the No. 2, or "Model 2 Army." It was a larger version of the No. 1 in a somewhat more potent (though still somewhat anemic) .32 caliber black-powder rim-fire cartridge. The No. 2 had a five-inch barrel, held six shots, and was considered a "belt model" by Smith & Wesson. Later, Smith & Wesson added the "No. 1 1/2 Pocket Model" a five shot .32 tip up revolver with a three and a half inch barrel. Throughout the Civil War, the No. 1, No. 1 1/2, and No. 2 were the only metallic cartridge revolvers in general use.

Conclusion

Many men took their firearms with them when they mustered out or deserted. Most firearms were turned in, however, then determined to be excess to the military's needs and sold to surplus firearms dealers like the famous Bannerman's of New York. These were sold to various wholesalers at unbelievable cheap prices. A cowhand or settler could buy a used Colt or Remington

(Continued on page 84)



The "other" revolver in widespread use during the Civil War was an innovative, strong .44 caliber firearm from Remington, generally known as the 1858 Model.



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT BIO

Foxy Faith, SASS #74123 aka Rebecca Cooper

By Justice Lily Kate, SASS #1000

Smyrna, DE – Foxy Faith is currently attending the University of Delaware working towards a Bachelor's of Science Degree in the College of Business and Economics, pursuing a major in Finance and a Minor in Economics. She works 25 to 40 hours a week at Barclay's Bank in Wilmington as a Credit/Special Operations Analyst. When she graduates, she hopes to "obtain a position in the Finance Department of Barclay's while furthering my educations with a Master's Degree in Business."

According to Foxy Faith, "the most influential people in my life are those who are successful and lead by example; those who have struggled through difficult times and have prevailed, making the best of their situation." She is most proud of her family: Dad, Delaware Coop, SASS #69691, her Mom, Anita Cooper, and sisters Delaware Dixie, SASS #74124, and Ally Oop Anne, SASS #74125.

In addition to being proud of her family, she is proud of her upbringing. "My parents have devoted themselves and selflessly given so much of their lives to ensure my sisters and I have everything we need and more. They have equipped us with the necessary tools to be successful and have raised us to be self-sufficient and knowledgeable in many areas of life."



Foxy Faith's home club is the Eas'dern Shore Renegades in Suddersville, DE. She says, "Cowboy Action Shooting™ has provided time for me, my dad, and my sisters to spend time together doing something we all enjoy. The competitions allow us time to be supportive, yet competitive with each other at the same time." 🐾

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT BIO

Even Steven, SASS #45882 aka Stephen F. Gendler

By Justice Lily Kate, SASS #1000

East Brunswick, NJ – Even Steven has many influences in his life. "My mother, Pamela Gendlek, has given me help and guidance in my academic studies. My Godmother, Judith Bufis, has been my second mother and is always there to help me with my problems. My sister, Francis, helps me with my clothes and gives me advice about life. My dad, Franklin Justice Grant, SASS #31219, taught me how to shoot and how to be polite and respectful. My SASS



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT BIO

Dakota Bronc, SASS #47931 aka Andrew Snyder

By Justice Lily Kate, SASS #1000

Piedmont, SD – Dakota Bronc is the son of Ken and Ronda Snyder, and he has two younger brothers, Daniel and Michael. He shoots with the Black Hills Shootists in Rapid City, South Dakota. "I am the fourth generation to live and work on our family ranch near Sturgis, South Dakota. I plan on returning to our family ranch upon graduation." He will be attending South Dakota State University in Brookings, South Dakota to pursue a degree in Animal Science and Agriculture Business.

Bronc's parents, grandparents, family, teachers, and friends have been influential in his life. "They have given me strong encouragement and support to help me develop into a responsible young adult. I must also recognize everyone who helped to get me involved in Cowboy Action Shooting™; in particular, Dakota Curly, aka Greg Iverson, SASS #29221, who introduced me to SASS when I was in the seventh grade. That same year Curly also started taking me to NRA shoots, in which I still participate. I must also acknowledge and thank everyone who wrote recommendations letters for me so I could apply for the SASS Scholarship."

Furthermore, "My parents, family, teachers, and friends have encouraged me to work hard and to be successful in everything I do. Because of this, I have developed a strong work ethic that has definitely helped me. Without a strong



work ethic, I would never have been able to accomplish the goals, tasks, and projects I have so far in my life. I hope my support system continues this encouragement so I can remain successful now and in the future."

Dakota Bronc has met many wonderful people through SASS. "I enjoy visiting with people, and the individuals in my SASS group are very knowledgeable in many areas. I enjoy learning from them both about shooting and non-shooting topics. My family enjoys attending my shoots as well as other SASS events. My SASS involvement has broadened my family's knowledge about the organization."

Good luck in school, on the ranch, and keep up the great work! 🐾

friends, Lester Moore, SASS #9736, Tequila, SASS #7073, Mustang, SASS #194, and others helped me as a competitor and encouraged me to follow the "Spirit of the Game" ... both on the off the range.

The Jackson Hole Gang in Jackson, NJ is proud to claim Even Steven as a member. He says, "Cowboy Action Shooting™ has instilled in me a respect for guns, and has taught me how to participate as a member of a group. As a result of my involvement in SASS, I have had the opportunity to travel with my dad and family to many interesting places, and I feel my participation in SASS has helped

me develop a better relationship with my dad." He is proud to be the New Jersey State Junior Cowboy Action Shooting™ Champion, as well as his many accomplishments and trophies won in Taekwondo, in which he has been involved for the last ten years.

Even Steven will be attending Rutgers University School of Engineering in New Brunswick NJ, pursuing a degree in Chemical Engineering and Mathematics. Since this is just the beginning of his college studies, he does not have any definite future plans. His personal goal "is to do well in college and to graduate with honors." 🐾



APPALOOSA

Reviewed by Nubbins Colt,
SASS Life #7802



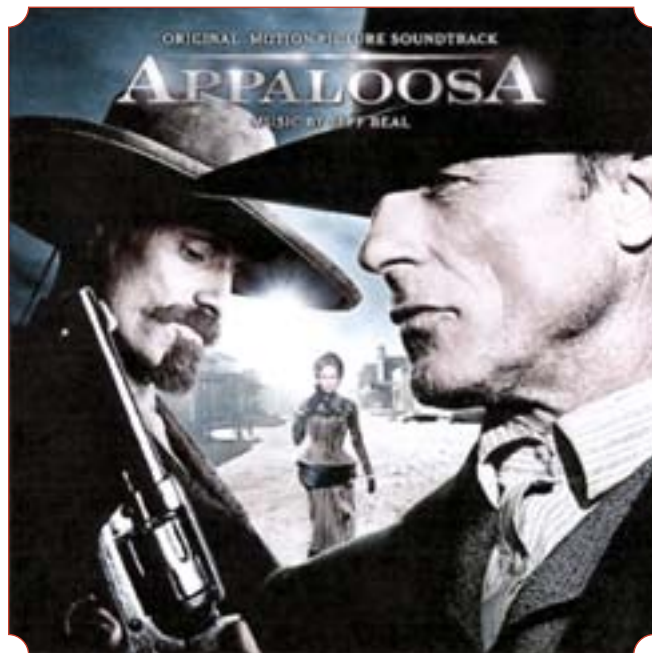
Nubbins Colt,
SASS Life #7802

Directed by Ed Harris; written by Robert Knott and Mr. Harris, based on the novel by Robert B. Parker; director of photography, Dean Semler; edited by Kathryn Himoff; music by Jeff Beal; production designer, Waldemar Kalinowski; produced by Mr. Harris, Mr. Knott and Ginger Sledge; released by Warner Brother Pictures and New Line Cinema.

Cast: Viggo Mortenson, Ed Harris, Renee Zellweger, Jeremy Irons, Timothy Spall, and Lance Henriksen

The Internet overview of this 2008 movie, which has been a major topic of conversation on the SASS Wire is this:

When two gunmen, Virgil Cole and Everett Hitch, arrive in Appaloosa they find a small, dusty and lawless town suffering at the hands of renegade rancher Randall Bragg. Bragg has not only taken supplies, horses, and women for his own, but also has left the city marshal and a deputy for dead. In Bragg they find



an unusually wily adversary who raises the stakes by playing with emotions. It is now up to Cole and Hitch to stand against the actions of the renegade rancher, which have already taken their toll on the town.

I guess that is as good a summary as any. What it doesn't say, however, is the entire story is just different. The gunfights are different, the love interest is different, the bad guy is definitely different, and the good guys are entirely outside the stereo-

type we have all grown to love over the years. It is a fine movie, an engrossing and absorbing story, with likeable characters, great scenery, excellent cinematography, a delightful secondary plot, and a top-notch musical score—I am headed out immediately to buy the CD!

If you skim the Internet, you'll find an excellent review in the New York Times (I hate to recommend you read anything in that leftist rag, but on the Net it's hard to miss this: <http://movies.nytimes.com/2008/09/19/movies/19appa.html?ei=5070&>

The Times' review really catches the flavor of the movie, hard bitten with soft edges, with people unsure, exactly, of their place in an expanding America. Seriously, read that review. But see the movie—if you like westerns (and if you are reading this I know you do), this film will grab your cotton' pickin' Old West heart, I promise you.

I would write more about it, but it is impossible to beat the NYT review, for one thing, and I am afraid I will give something

away for another. So I'm just telling you, it's a western worth watching. It has no silly gunplay, no fanning of revolvers, no guns that never run out of ammo, the guns are period correct, as are the clothes, it's set just right for Cowboy Action Shooters, and I recommend it highly. I will not tell you it's the best western ever made, but that is not the point—it's the best you will see this year, that I can tell you!

Nubbins Colt (c) 2008 🐾

JOY OF THE BIRDS

A novel by Gale Cooper

"A Milestone in the literature of Billy the Kid"

"Joy of the Birds" is arguably the definitive revisionist telling of the saga of Billy the Kid, the Lincoln County War, and the Santa Fe Ring. The Santa Fe Ring cover up is over. Its expurgation of records has blocked historians, but forensic and psychological extrapolation finally reveals the actual Billy Bonney, the freedom fight for which he gave his life, and the scandal that could have brought down President Hayes's administration.

"Joy of the Birds" gives answers to many questions. Why did Billy Bonney switch allegiance from the outlaw, Jessie Evans, to law-abiding John Tunstall? Why did Governor Lew Wallace not give Billy the promised pardon? Why did the Secret Service track Billy down? What caused the Lincoln County War? What brought Billy into a star-crossed romance with Paulita Maxwell, the richest heiress in New Mexico Territory? Did Commander N.A.M. Dudley deserve a court martial for Lincoln County War intervention? Was President Rutherford B. Hayes part of the Santa Fe Ring?

Brought vividly to life are Billy Bonney, called Billy the Kid only by his enemies, the adversaries in the Lincoln County War, and the Santa Fe Ring robber barons involved in the country's largest land grab scheme. All trajectories come together at Paulita Maxwell's Fort Sumner mansion in the bedroom of her brother, Pete, when Pat Garrett's bullet killed the Kid and the truth ... until now.

This virtual world in a big book was achieved by research using 40,000 pages of archival documents and books, over 300 consultants, and the author's background as an M.D. psychiatrist specializing in murder case consultation.

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of fiction and history, Billy the Kid is vividly brought to life with unmatched attention to psychological detail and historical truth. Authentic, convincing and impeccably researched, told with uncanny realism and understanding, here is the story of the boy who danced fearlessly with death every day of his life and became the most lasting legend of his time. Powerfully and relentlessly, Joy of the Birds will transport you into the life and the world of Billy the Kid and make you see it and feel it as you never have before."

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(Gale Cooper will be at the SASS Convention in Las Vegas, December 4-7th, selling and autographing her book. Don't miss a chance to visit with her while you are attending the Convention ... Editor) 🐾

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THE AMERICAN MUSTANG . . .

(Continued from page 53)

first horses to return to this country with the Spanish explorers in the 1500's. Many of the Mustangs today have been DNA tested and show markers for Spanish Barb, the first horses to return to this country. The English used nothing but American Mustangs during the Boer wars, and during WWI over one million Mustangs went "Over there" to serve our country and never returned. Their legacy knows no bounds.

Getting a Mustang of your own is not that hard to do. There are adoptions going on all over the country. The BLM brings Mustangs and Burros to satellite adoptions sponsored by local equine facilities. They have online adoptions, and the prisons that have the training programs hold adoptions as well. Just go to the BLM site listed at the end of this article and go to the adoption schedule. There you will find the places and dates of all adoptions for the year.

There are a few rules, of course. In order to adopt, you must be

approved. You must show that your facilities meet the requirements and that you are able to care for the animal. Until the animal is gentled, meaning you are able to catch, halter, and pick up all four feet, they must stay in at least 20X20 foot six-foot tall pen with an attached shelter that they can get into and out of the weather. The size of the pen was designed for several reasons. If it were much bigger, it would be hard to catch your Mustang for training, and if it were shorter, the Mustang could jump it and be gone. There have been cases of Mustangs clearing even the six-foot pen from a stand still!

Once facilities are ready, and you are approved for a Mustang or two, you have to pick it up. Again, there are rules. You must have a trailer with a swing gate. Ramp back trailers will not be loaded, for the safety of the Mustangs, as well as of the crew. To close a ramp back trailer, one of the crew would have to get into the chute to lift the ramp. If the

Mustang decided he did not want to be in the trailer, there is nothing the crew could do to stop him, and someone would get injured. Also, once you got home you would have to do the same thing to unload. Well, when the top doors were opened and the outside light got inside, the Mustang may not even wait for the ramp to drop to try to get out over the closed gate. He'll see the opening, and he will take advantage of it.

Stock type trailers are preferred, but swing gate slant loads can be used if the dividers are removed or can be tied back in a safe manner. If you don't own a stock trailer, there are normally volunteers at the adoptions that will transport for you.

Your Mustang will have a freeze brand on his neck. It is on the left side and is sort of his Social Security Number. It starts with a rather large U. This stands for United States. The next two symbols will be one above the other, and the angles represent the year of birth. The next set of symbols is in a line and tells you where he came from and his individual number. Many Mustang owners are so proud of that brand they say they are "riding the brand," an old cowboy saying meaning you are loyal to the ranch you were riding for.

As an example, it would look like this - U 93 548807. These would not be branded numbers, but rather angles such as this < > =, each angle representing a number. The = sign stands for 0, and if it is vertical, it represents 1, and the other 8 numbers are like the "less than" and "more than" symbols. They represent 2 through 9 and run clockwise. The angle of the symbol changes 45 degrees for each number.

Once gentled, you will find the Mustang to be a fast learner. The entire key is trust. Once a Mustang trusts you, they will do most anything you want them to. You are the herd leader, and they will want to be with you and do what you tell them to do. Most horse training systems will work with Mustangs, but you must remember a Mustang's mind works different than a domestic horse's brain. You will get nowhere with a Mustang until that trust has been established. One of the reasons Mustangs learn fast is in the wild they have to use the thinking side of the brain. They are on their own with no humans to take care of them. They have to think before they act many times and this develops the left-brain. Domestic horses tend to be reaction brained or right brained. From the time they are born, humans are involved and tell them what to do and when to do it. They don't have to think about getting food and water or where a predator may jump them. So, they don't spend much time thinking; they just react to what is going on around them.


A well-trained Mustang is really

something. They have a noble look about them, almost like royalty. People always come up and ask you about them and are stunned that a once wild animal could be such a good riding horse.

If you are a horse lover, Old West lover, and have the room for another horse, adopt a Mustang. You will be amazed at just how good they really are. And if you are into the Cowboy lifestyle, well what better horse for a cowboy than a wild Mustang—the original cowboy's mount?

How do I know all of this? I have a 15-year-old Mustang, and my wife, Avenging Annie, SASS #76933, has a 7-year-old Mustang. My boy is named Vinny and came from Nevada. Sadie is wifey's mount and is a half Mustang, half Paint. Vinny is a bay, and Sadie is about the prettiest Pinto you could ever hope to find.

Both of us are also BLM volunteers. We help at adoptions, help new adopters with their Mustangs, and promote the Mustang to the horse loving public. With education about Mustangs we have shown many who either thought Mustangs were not usable horses, or didn't know wild horses were still out there, the Mustang is not only usable, but can be the best horse you have ever worked with.

I invite you all to give a Mustang a try. I have no doubt after spending time with Mustangs, you to will be proud to ride the brand. 



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LIL JOHN DALES, SASS #36293

By Oatsville Slim, SASS #26340

The Ohio SASS community lost a giant of a man on October 3rd, 2008. Lil John Dales passed away at his home following a blessedly short bout of pancreatic cancer. Lil John was a member of the Scioto Territory Desperados and the founder of the Wilmington Rough Riders. He had been involved in Cowboy Action Shooting™ for about ten years. Prior to becoming involved in Cowboy Action, John was a French & Indian Wars era re-enactor and was also a highly skilled fencing instructor. He was retired from General Motors.

Who was Lil John Dales? He was a loving husband, a proud father, and a loveable grandfather. He was a knowledgeable historian, an avid sportsman, and a friend to those many, many hundreds of Cowboy Action Shooters throughout Ohio who knew him. He loved a good joke, especially if it was on himself. He was always first to congratulate a shooter on a job well done and the last to seek recognition for himself if he did the same thing.

Lil John loved the youngsters. He delighted in spending time at the local church camp teaching the kids how to fence. The Clinton County Farmers and Sportsmen's Association hosted a week-long day camp for kids each summer where they received instruction in all phases of gun sports as well as archery. Lil John was always on hand to help the kids learn how to shoot cowboy guns and to give them fencing instruction. I went to the range with him one day to help him set up for a weekend match while the day camp was in its last day. When we walked into the clubhouse, he was literally mobbed by the kids. Had I not known him, I would have thought a rock-star had walked into the building. In the kids' eyes, I guess one did.

Everyone who knew him will miss him terribly, but at the same time will realize how much richer they are for the experience of just knowing him.

His funeral was held in Lebanon, Ohio on Wednesday October 8th. Hundreds of his friends called to pay their last respects,



and the vast majority of the cowboys were dressed in their cowboy clothes.

The SASS wire carried many comments from his friends, many of whom were simply overwhelmed at the sudden loss of such a fine spirit. Perhaps Paragon Pete put it best, "John Dales was only 5 feet 3 inches tall, yet when he was in the room, he filled it with his enthusiasm for life, his sense of humor, and his love for the people he cared for. He made newcomers feel welcome and old friends feel appreciated." 🐾

VISIT THE SASS
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WWW.SASSNET.COM

HANK T. BULLWHACKER, SASS #70489

~ 1951 to 2008 ~

By Juaquin Malone, SASS Life #44677

Peoria, IL – As one rides along this trail called life, you meet folks and ride with them for awhile. Sometimes you run across an individual who stands and has your back. One who is good, but doesn't feel the need to prove it. A cowboy, who seems to live the cowboy way and to follow the ranger's command ... you know, "Come all of you cowboys and don't ever run, as long as there are bullets in both of your guns."

Hank T. Bullwhacker was that kind of cowboy. The cowboy community has lost a stalwart supporter and enthusiast of this sport of ours. On August 28 he was called to ride the final trail much too soon, and all of us who knew him and had the good fortune to ride with him will miss his smiling face, his willingness to help, and his good-natured ways.

So, from all of us at the Shady Creek Shootists, the Mclean County Peace Makers, Vermilion River Long Riders, and



the River City Regulators, we wish and hope maybe on some trail someday, somewhere in the land beyond the sky, we will ride with old Hank one more time. Vaya con Dios, Mi Amigo. 🐾

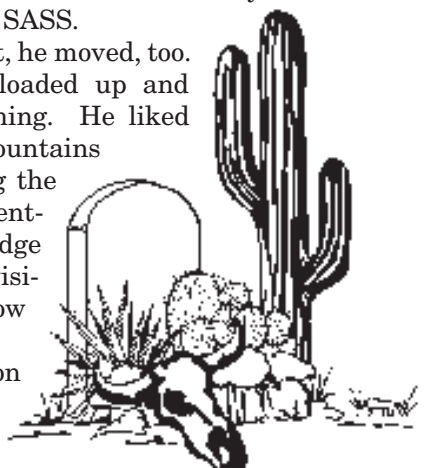
PAYMASTER, SASS #38481

By Sgt. O'Hara, SASS Life #61

Paymaster, aka George Ahern, was born July 4, 1943 and passed away on August 31, 2008. Born in Canby, Minnesota, he spent most of his life in Southern California. After serving in the Army, he found time to raise a family, become a member of several cavalry re-enactment groups, and participate in several annual Pony Express rides. It was only natural for him to become a member of SASS.

After the kids moved out, he moved, too. He and his wife, Sherry, loaded up and moved to Evansville, Wyoming. He liked the open plains and the mountains there, but he loved learning the western history they represented. He shared his knowledge talking to school groups, visitors of the Trail Center, fellow re-enactors, and shooters.

Paymaster has ridden on ahead to start the campfire and get the coffee going. 🐾





THE SASS TEXAS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

✻ Jail Break '08 ✻

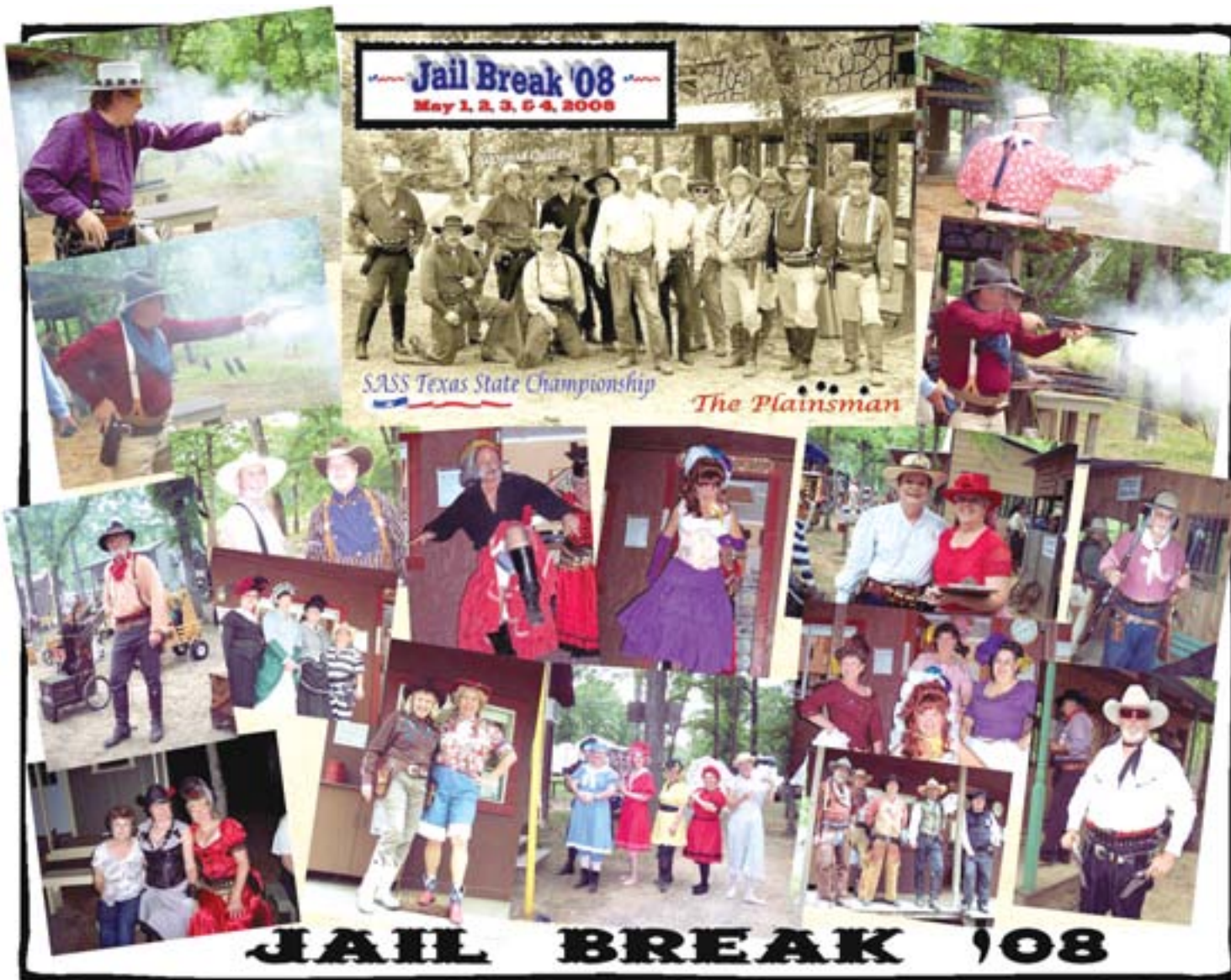
By Justa Hand, SASS #23892

Oakwood, TX – On the first weekend of May 2008, the Oakwood Outlaws and friends did it again. By friends I mean all the help provided by shooters from other clubs in the area. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to making this match the success it was. This was the best SASS Texas State Championship ever. Two hundred seventy-six cowboys and cowgirls signed up for the match. That was a little over the optimum number, but the stages were fast and easy and the shooting was finished on time each day, thanks to the stage expeditors. There were no procedural traps and no physically challenging antics to perform that could cause a back up on any stage. Everything flowed smoothly.

Campers started coming in the weekend before the match, and by match time there were over sixty-five campers parked in the camping area with lots of room to spare, so no one was crowded. Tent campers had their choice of a large area to camp as well. Some may have wished they had not chosen a spot so close to the campers with generators! All of the twenty-two electrical spots were in use and water was easily accessible to all.

Wednesday started with RO classes conducted by Texas Gunslinger, SASS #10706. Both classes were full and lasted most of the day.

(Continued on next page)



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(Continued from previous page) Gunslinger does a thorough job conducting these classes.

Thursday was side match day. With the exception of two charity

side matches, there were twenty side matches included in the price of the match. You could shoot every side match as many times as you wanted, but only the first time was for score.

The charity side matches were for bragging rights only. Everything went smoothly. The long-range shooters had most of the day to practice, as the long-range side match was

held after the main match on Friday. Long range was precision shooting at 200 yards at some pretty small targets. After a prior day of sight in, I was really surprised at how well the shooters did. Any shooting position was permitted, even bench rest. We had so many wanting to shoot this way, that some may not have had a chance to do so. Next year we will set up eight shooting positions so eight shooters can shoot at the same time. All side matches were awarded trophies for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. The evening was capped off with a cook your own steak supper and a great get together.

Friday, main match day, started with a shower. Just a little one, and it did not last long. The safety meeting was held, the posse assignments were posted, and everyone went to their stages. The stages were well written by Boss Spearman, SASS #32884, and Texas Gunslinger. Everyone finished in plenty of time for a delicious lunch. With full bellies, everyone had lots of time to shop the vendors and shoot the long-range side match.

Then it was time for the evening festivities. For those who went to their motels and did not stay, they missed one heck of a good time. It started off with a Chile cook-off, a ladies 1800's swim suit competition, then a Can Can contest for both men and women that was beyond belief. It was so much fun, we had people sign up for next year's contest right

(Continued on page 84)

WINNERS

Texas State Champion & Overall	
<i>Lady</i>	Hay You, SASS #64946
<i>Man</i>	Texas Rick O'Shay, SASS #70305
Category Winners	
<i>L Modern</i>	Rosie Rash, SASS #42709
<i>Modern</i>	Bear Gunz, SASS #47477
<i>L Traditional</i>	Hey You
<i>Traditional</i>	Texas Rick O'Shay
<i>L 49'er</i>	Kiamichi Queen, SASS #26033
<i>49'er</i>	Jake Cutter, SASS #41344
<i>C Cowgirl</i>	Shotglass, SASS #17153
<i>C Cowboy</i>	Cowhand, SASS #63559
<i>L B-Western</i>	Biggest Heart, SASS #46035
<i>B-Western</i>	Ringo Fire, SASS #46037
<i>L Gunfighter</i>	Curl E. Kay, SASS #40996
<i>Gunfighter</i>	Nueces Outlaw, SASS #21794
<i>L Duelist</i>	Buffy Lo Gal, SASS #46039
<i>Duelist</i>	Nuttin'Graceful, SASS #39117
<i>L S Duelist</i>	Miz Annie Ross, SASS #60919
<i>S Duelist</i>	Texas Paladin, SASS #8982

<i>L F Cartridge</i>	Honey B. Graceful, SASS #51369
<i>F Cartridge</i>	Spur Roberts, SASS #14625
<i>S F Cartridge</i>	Irish Fitz, SASS #52798
<i>F C Duelist</i>	Billy Boots, SASS #20282
<i>Frontiersman</i>	Quigley Sharps, SASS #38651
<i>L Senior</i>	Kow Katcher, SASS #53134
<i>Senior</i>	Nonstop, SASS #17670
<i>L S Senior</i>	Stage Coach Sally, SASS #26400
<i>S Senior</i>	Texas Gunslinger, SASS #10706
<i>Grand Dame</i>	Badlands Cactus Lil, SASS #53136
<i>E Statesman</i>	Ed Sieker Tx Ranger, SASS #15960
<i>E Statesman Gold</i>	Hardly Able, SASS #13863
<i>Buckaroo</i>	Whattheday, SASS #67927
<i>Young Guns</i>	Justin Parker, SASS #55217
<i>L Young F C</i>	Little Star, SASS #53411

SIDE MATCHES

<i>Fastest Duelist Pistol</i>	
<i>Lady</i>	Shot Glass, SASS #17153
<i>Man</i>	Cowhand
<i>Long Range Pistol</i>	
<i>Lady</i>	Kow Katcher
<i>Man</i>	Billy Boots

<i>Fastest Rim Fire Pistol</i>	
<i>Lady</i>	Idaho Sue, SASS #38585
<i>Man</i>	Saddle Rash, SASS #41524
<i>Fastest Pocket Pistol</i>	
<i>Lady</i>	Rosie Rash, SASS #41524
<i>Fastest Pistol</i>	
<i>Lady</i>	Irish Gypsy, SASS #36887
<i>Man</i>	Joe Darter, SASS #38268
<i>Fastest Gunfighter Pistol</i>	
<i>Lady</i>	Chula Cat, SASS #62057
<i>Man</i>	Texas Jack Daniels, SASS #8587
<i>L R Pistol Caliber Rifle</i>	
<i>Lady</i>	Ms. Laurie Darlin, SASS #41345
<i>Man</i>	Jake Cutter
<i>Big Bore Lever Rifle</i>	
<i>Lady</i>	Little Doc, SASS #21939
<i>Fastest Rim Fire Rifle</i>	
<i>Lady</i>	Irish Gypsy, SASS #36887
<i>Man</i>	Walter Durbin, SASS #11447
<i>Fastest Rifle</i>	
<i>Lady</i>	Honey B. Graceful
<i>Man</i>	Shalako Joe, SASS #24746
<i>Fastest Double Barrel Shotgun</i>	
<i>Lady</i>	Kow Katcher,
<i>Man</i>	Shalako Joe

<i>Fastest Pump Shotgun</i>	
<i>Lady</i>	Lady Wolf Rambo, SASS #36713
<i>Man</i>	Texas Rick O'Shay
<i>Fastest Lever Shotgun</i>	
	Dutch Van Horn, SASS #51153
<i>Buffalo Single Shot</i>	
<i>Lady</i>	Irish Gypsy
<i>Man</i>	Quigley Sharps, SASS #38651
<i>Big Bore Single Shot</i>	
<i>Lady</i>	Chula Kat, SASS #62057
<i>Man</i>	Walter Durbin
<i>Fastest .45 Cal Auto Pistol</i>	
<i>Lady</i>	Ms. Laurie Darlin
<i>Man</i>	Texas Rick O'Shay
<i>Fastest Three Gun</i>	
<i>Lady</i>	Kow Katcher
<i>Man</i>	Picosa Kid, SASS #55762
<i>Fastest Derringer</i>	
<i>Lady</i>	Idaho Sue, SASS #38585
<i>Man</i>	Texas Slim, SASS #43510
<i>Texas Star</i>	
<i>Lady</i>	Idaho Sue
<i>Man</i>	Falling Block, SASS #56464
<i>Plainsman</i>	Quigley Sharps





APPALACHIAN SHOWDOWN XVII

2008 West Virginia State Championship

By Sunshine Marcie, SASS #64900

Great Cacapon, WV – Over the hills and through the woods to The Singing Hills Ranch we go! Over six inches of rain didn't dampen the spirits of the cowboys and cowgirls. Friday kicked off Side Match Day. The side matches included Stellar Madness on the Texas Star, speed, and long-range events. The opening ceremony on Saturday began with the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance. Will Kilya, SASS #9568, and Miss Shir Dar, SASS #52388, were promoted by the club to be the newest C.A.S.S. Territorial Rangers. Ten States were well represented. They included Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia.

(Continued on next page)



West Virginia Men's State Champion,
Geronimo Jim, SASS #21775



West Virginia Ladies
State Champion & Overall Lady,
Sunshine Marcie, SASS #64900



Overall Match Winner—
Dig'em Deep, SASS #12251

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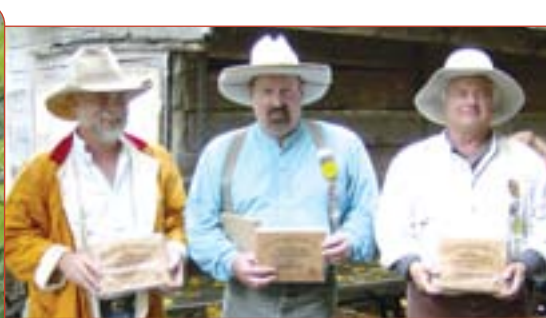
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(Continued from previous page)

The warm rain brought out the vivid colors of the environment that surrounded us, from the green leaves to the weathered fort where the first shots were fired down range on stage

one. 2 - 1 - 2 was how it all began. Fun, fast, and with lots of action! They put the "action" in Cowboy Action. You talk about "cowboy spirit." The club members submitted their own stages and as a group they decid-

ed on a variety for the Showdown. That makes up a winning match. Fun for everyone! They had everything from a stagecoach robbery, to a jail-break, and even a wedding waiting to happen. Some of the cowboys and cow-girls found that bean counting wasn't the only thing they were good at.

Saturday evening during the Bar-B-Q everyone enjoyed telling their tales in the company of their fellow shooters. Hits, misses ... it all makes for a good story! Everyone enjoyed a nice buffet and the fastest guns were given their side match awards.

The heavens opened up Saturday night and left behind a wet range for Sunday. So with six main stages completed, the award ceremony began. As the rain parted and the sun came out, Geronimo Jim, SASS #21775, became the Men's West Virginia State Champion and Dig'em Deep, SASS #12251, took home the gold. If you ask Geronimo Jim for some shooting advice, he'll tell ya, "Smooth and Consistent." Sunshine Marcie became the Ladies West Virginia State Champion and the Top Overall Lady.

So, for all you folks who would like to see the hills of West Virginia, we'll see ya next year! September 25-27, 2009. Don't forget the Mason Dixon Stampede is right around the corner to make for a nice long vacation!



Winners	
WV State Champions	
Man	Geronimo Jim, SASS #21775
Lady	Sunshine Marcie, SASS #64900
Top Overall	
Lady	Sunshine Marcie
Man	Dig'em Deep, SASS #12251
Categories	
Buckaroo	Lost Rider, SASS #77567
Gunfighter	Walker Colt, SASS #3035
L Gunfighter	Sagebrush Sal, SASS #7357
Traditional	Twin, SASS #9553
L Traditional	Kiddo Caldwell, SASS #55504
49er	Dig'em Deep
L 49er	Avocatessa, SASS #67818
B-Western	Sam Hades, SASS #56008
F Cartridge	Yankee, SASS #266
L F Cartridge	Boston Lady, SASS #3662
F C Duelist	Dead Head, SASS #29768

Senior	Geronimo Jim
L Senior	Ruby Red Jo, SASS #71481
S Senior	Trail Bandit, SASS #52426
L S Senior	Cactus Kay, SASS #15157
Senior Duelist	Cash Caldwell, SASS #5505
E Statesmen	Will Kilya, SASS #9568
Grand Dame	Bonnie Dee, SASS #28413
Modern	No One, SASS #52804
L Modern	Sunshine Marcie
C Cowboy	Bull Shoals, SASS #25400
Duelist	Big Fred, SASS #28338
Dusty D. Weems Memorial Award,	27th place overall finish
Coon Richardson, SASS #71203	
Hardrode Memorial Award, 34th place overall finish	
Digger McHemp, SASS #1257	
Three Barb Benson Memorial Award, 64th place overall finish	
Jack U. Mist, SASS #65183	



GRAND ARMY OF THE FRONTIER'S GRAND MUSTER

7, October 1876 (+132)
 To: General U. S. Scout
 Headquarters, Grand Army of the Frontier
 Near Washington City
 Copies to: (Bvt.) Col. Major Matt Lewis,
 Chief of Staff,
 (Acting) MAA Sgt. Drydock,
 Marshall Hallaway, and
 The ladies and gentlemen of the
 GAF and SASS at large

Sir:

I have the honor to submit my report following the 2008 Grand Muster of the Grand Army of the Frontier.

Preparations for the Muster being mostly complete by Tuesday, 30 September, I returned to my home barracks and occupied my time with other projects on Wednesday and finished preparations on Thursday, 2 October. I moved into my temporary quarters at Fort Hartsuff Thursday afternoon only to have my presence required at my permanent quarters on Thursday evening. I returned to Fort Hartsuff Thursday evening at approximately 20:30. The Texas contingent arrived Wednesday evening and early Thursday morning. Most of the rest of the men arrived late Thursday afternoon and evening.

Friday morning the men breakfasted on a hearty breakfast of biscuits and gravy that Delmonico had prepared. At 08:00 (Bvt.) Col. Major Matt Lewis commanded the color guard and hoisted the garrison flag at



Ned Neiderlander spots for Major Matt Lewis in the long-range rifle.



Breakfast at Fort Hartsuff.

Fort Hartsuff. Following morning colors a report of hostiles near Scratch Town (Ord City) was received. The men departed for the scout by buggy, buckboard, or whatever other means available. Upon arrival at the site of the most recent encounter with the hostiles, the command was briefed and operations commenced with the long-range rifle match. The match was found to be quite challenging, as the top shooter only managed to hit 54% of the time. The men fared better on the long-range pistol course and the top shooter, Ned Neiderlander, had only one miss. Over the course of the campaign Ned proved

himself to be a very proficient marksman. Following a break for lunch (provided by the land owner), action continued with the Wild Bunch match. By middle afternoon the command returned to the post to prepare for a hop thrown in our honor by the Valley County Historical Society at Calamity Jane's in Ord City.

Saturday morning the men found themselves again on the trail of the hostiles following morning colors. This was to be the case all weekend. At the site of the previous day's hostilities, we found everyone to be present or accounted for. While the weather was beautiful, the Signal

Corp informed me a storm was probable for Sunday. So, after the second stage, I deemed it necessary to divide the command into two nearly equal squads in the hopes we might more expediently punish the hostiles. The gamble worked, and by evening we had completed seven stages instead of the planned six. (Bvt.) Col. Major Matt Lewis commanded one squad while (Bvt.) Lt. Col. Dusty Tagalon commanded the other. This left me free to perform an advisory role should either commander require guidance or assistance. Both commanders proved equal to the task,

(Continued on next page)

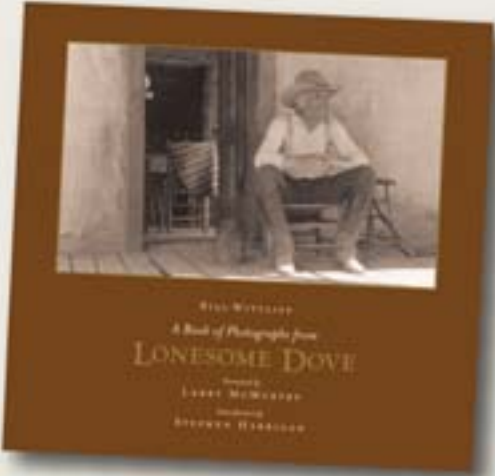

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(Continued from previous page)
 and I was able to take my turn on the line in Col. Lewis' squad. That evening the command dined on an outstanding meal prepared by Commissary Commander Delmonico and his assistant Doneyet.

I should mention here as is the case with any army, the Grand Army of the Frontier marches on its belly. And that being the case, it is no wonder the men (and women) preformed so admirably, as the commissary department provided the command with healthful and tasty sustenance all weekend.

Following the banquet a short meeting was held during which the men deemed it best to follow the precedence of the Grand Muster being held at the same facility two years in a row. Therefore, Fort Hartsuff and the Baker Ranch will be the site of the 2009 Grand Muster. After the meeting, some very nice door prizes were awarded.

Sunday morning we awakened to threatening sky's, so we pushed ahead in an attempt to complete our task before the storm arrived. So intense had the firing been, that some of the men found they had expended all their ammunition before completion of the match. I had planned for that contingency and had extra. We were able to finish our campaign before noon at which time we dined with the Baker family once again before returning to Fort Hartsuff. While the men policed up the barracks and surrounding area, Lt. Col. Tagalon and I totaled the scores, which are as follow:

Brigade Champion
 (Bvt.) Col. Rattlesnake Jack Robson
 (1st place Mil-Spec. Single Shot,
 1st place fatigue Uniform)

Milspec Repeating Rifle
 1 Ned Niederlander, SASS #934
 2 Curly La Grande, SASS #26914
 3 Scooter, SASS #19144

Milspec Single Shot

- 1 Rattlesnake Jack Robson, SASS #55228
- 2 Major Matthew Lewis, SASS #47823
- 3 Texas Sarge, SASS #58683

Scout

- 1 Col Diamond, SASS #15265
- 2 Cherry Lake Jake, SASS #6569
- 3 Capt. Montgomery Little

Lady Scout

- 1 Cherry Lake Kate, SASS #11875

Forager Scout

- 1 Dusty Tagalon, SASS #32291

Militia

- 1 Scruffy Skippy, SASS #74507

Staff Officer

- 1 River City John, SASS #27187

Dress Uniform

Texas Sarge

Fatigue Uniform,

Rattlesnake Jack Robson

Civilian Clothes;

Men's Shalako Al, SASS #41409

Ladies' Cherry Lake Kate

The Division of Canada won the Division Plate race on the strength of Rattlesnake Jack Robson's first place finish in both the Mil-Spec. Single Shot and fatigue uniform contests.

The results of the side matches are as follows:

Long Range Rifle

Big Bore Single Shot
 Smokeless Windy City Joe, SASS #69903

Big Bore Single Shot, BP

Pitspitr, SASS #74523

Pistol Caliber Lever, Smokeless

Shalako Al

Pistol Caliber Lever, BP

Capt Montgomery Little

Military Bolt Action

Col Diamond

Big Bore Lever Action, Smokeless

Scruffy Skippy

Big Bore Lever Action, BP

Rattlesnake

Jack Robson

Long Range Pistol

Smokeless Ned Niederlander

BP Shalako Al

Wild Bunch

Lever

1st Col Diamond

2nd Cherry Lake Jake

3rd Shalako Al

Bolt

1st Ned Niederlander

2nd Major Matt Lewis

3rd Steph

Women's Lever

1st Cherry Lake Kate.

I remain,
 Your Ob'd Servant,
 (Bvt.) Col. Pitspitr, SASS #74523
 Commander, Department of the Missouri
 Grand Army of the Frontier



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GUNS OF AUGUST 2008

(Continued from page 1)

officials at the sign-in table were able to provide shooting glasses and ear protection so they could wander the grounds and be up real close to the action. Rose Louise Reasoner, SASS #12516, and her crew provided additional guidance about name selection, handed out applications for SASS membership, and gave them a copy of *The Cowboy Chronicle*. There was one young father who brought his five boys to see what was going on. "Is that a real gun?" the youngest one asked with eyes bugging out in amazement. "Yep, Pardner. These are real guns, and I'm sure your dad will tell you how to be safe with them while you are here."

As you well know, SASS has grown not only in national flavor, but continues to grow in international flavor as well. The Canadian contingent, consisting of over 25 of our brothers and sisters from the Far North, again endured the intricacies of bringing all their guns and gear across the international border in order to attend.

Unlike previous years, our ace



During the Opening Ceremonies the both the American and Canadian colors were presented on horseback again this year.

weatherman came through with cooler mornings and pleasant afternoons with no rain, brutal heat, or other vagaries of Mother Nature we've experienced in previous years. Day one was an open invitation to participate in the numerous side matches that were not only easily accessible on the tree-covered hillside, but also on the flats adjacent to

the vendor area. Events ranged from the pocket pistol, derringer, speed shotgun, and speed pistol on the hill to the long range big bore lever rifle, long-range single shot, and Quigley Pail events that took place on the flats.

By popular demand we again held a Wild Bunch side match ... based loosely on the notorious Wild Bunch robbery of the 1900 Union Pacific Overland Flyer in Wyoming. Teams of three shooters competed with single actions, Model 1911's, a shotgun, and a rifle. The Quigley Pail

event drew a lot of shooters as well. Folks sure like to shoot those old buffalo rifles. Model '97's and double barrel shotguns were aligned on the trap and sheet fields for a round of *Cowboy Clays*. For a first, Miss Dusty Pebbles, a Young Gun, went on to win the Trap event with 25 straight! What a shooter!!!

Thursday evening was hospitality and Texas Hold'em poker night at the Manchester Inn hosted by Rose Louise Reasoner and her hubby, Wilbur Rexroat, SASS #12515. The Moustache Kid did a tremendous job of running the poker tournament. One Eyed Dave had his Faro paraphernalia and taught us all how to play this illustrious game of chance,

(Continued on next page)



The ladies were tired of being judged each year for their cookie baking expertise while the guys are out earning fame, fortune, and glory on the field of honor ... so they decided to get even! The details of their shady little secret are revealed in the article text and sidebar... and the look on Stan's face was worth the price of the banquet!



The Manchester Inn Saturday evening banquet was superb—great food, 1880's atmosphere, and wonderful entertainment. By all accounts, everyone has a terrific time!

GUNS OF AUGUST Cookie Contest Results

By Two Sons, SASS #12636

The Oatmeal Cookie Contest at Guns of August is an established tradition, but this year, "The Ol' Ladies" turned the tables on Deadwood Stan. Stan made his announcement at the banquet, and Ruthless McDraw was the chosen winner. Only one thing—Sage Chick's mom, Fowl Lady, had made a batch of 12 dozen cookies, and we all divided the cookies, put them on different plates, and placed them in Deadwood Stan's tent. But, he didn't have time to judge them until Saturday.

Judges for the best cookie contest were Deadwood, 7 Mile Tom, Manatee, and our famous Tex. They ate and ate and drank and drank, but could not decide between a couple of the plates. So, Deadwood Stan went out and found Colt McAllister on the road and told him to come in because they had a tie and couldn't decide. Colt helped them with one cookie he was sure contained Ohio black walnuts. He insisted they were nice and sweet and was sure these were Ohio Black Walnuts in the oatmeal cookie. Tex was sure the cookie he had was rich with more spices. 7 Mile Tom told me he was sure the cookies tasted different. I think Manatee forgot to judge and just ate cookies.

Maggie and I were out on the road watching these judges and laughing up a storm, because Colt had been eating these cookies for two days. He would take a bite and look up at us with a sly smile and then would get real serious. He said they were saying that some of the cookies were more moist and some were dry, but little did they know, all the cookies came from the same batch! Poor ol' Deadwood pulled in the wrong person, 'cause Colt really had the ol' guys going. Powers of suggestion work every time!

Some of the Ol' Ladies in this cookie contest were Ruthless McDraw, Honey B Quick, Two Sons, Katie Callahan, Lill from Kentucky, Sage Chick, and her mother the cookie baker, Fowl Lady, and Millie. Ol' Deadwood was speechless at the banquet. Now we know Deadwood likes Ruthless more than the other Deadwood Dollies! 🐾

The SASS Midwest Regional Championship



Guns of August again went to great lengths to support the SASS Scholarship Foundation. Cat Ballou graciously accepted the check for SASS.



Doc Molar and Young Gun, Sage Chick, were the Overall Regional Champions at Guns of August 2008. Outstanding Shooting and Congratulations!



Our cousins to the north traditionally induct a few, select Guns of August participants into the ranks of honorary Canadians each year. As always, the induction ceremony is consummated by the "kissing of the beaver." Would YOU kiss this thing?!



NRA President, John Sigler, was an honored guest Saturday Evening and reminded the assembled cowboys of the importance of ensuring we have a friendly face in the White House next term. He also had the opportunity to adopt a very famous pose during the auction of a .44 caliber Winchester.

(Continued from previous page) which was extremely popular in the Wild West during the Gold Rush. The betting layout consists of a suit of cards, from Ace up to King. Players bet on the card rank of their

choice. The dealer exposes cards in pairs, a winner and a loser, and pays out or collects accordingly. Of course it was all clean fun, and this along with all the other charity events raised over \$2700 to support the

SASS Scholarship. The brass raffle at the end of the match managed to raise some \$700 for the local Boy Scout Troop who performed flawlessly

Winners	
Regional Overall Champions	
Male	Doc Molar, SASS #18470
Lady	Sage Chick, SASS #48454
Top Gun Shoot-off	
	Colt McAllister, SASS #13823
Category Champions	
Senior	OI Short Tom, SASS #12635
L Senior	Two Sons, SASS #12636
S Senior	JR Hammer, SASS #45907
L S Senior	Kizzee, SASS #62624
E Statesman	Will Kilya, SASS #9568
Grand Dame #8036	Snapshot, SASS #8036
Young Guns	Terrible Tyler, SASS #28937
L Young Guns	Sage Chick
Buckaroo	Jimmy Wales, SASS #49316
Buckalette	Shana Sureshot, SASS #67122
49er	Doc MacBean, SASS #64185
L 49er	Honey B Quick, SASS #47009
B-Western Black,	Copperhead Joe Black, SASS #39162
L B-Western	Pinky Buscadero, SASS #74038
C Cowboy	T-Bone Dooley, SASS #36388
L C Cowgirl	Wicked Wanda, SASS #28122
Traditional	Doc Molar
L Traditional	KJ Stevens, SASS #62782
Modern	Three Gun Cole, SASS #50738
L Modern	Turkey Legs, SASS #48384

Duelist	Doc Roy L. Pain, SASS #28321
L Duelist	Miss Lead Lisa, SASS #51615
S Duelist	Smokin' Iron, SASS #22149
Gunfighter	Lassiter, SASS #2080
L Gunfighter	Mustang Megs, SASS #60070
Pale Rider	Swiss, SASS #13622
P R Gunfi'ter	Black Jack Beeson, SASS #11523
Frontiersman	Chili Pepper Pete, SASS #11917
L F Cartridge	Ruthless McDraw, SASS #37556
F C Duelist	Jackson Rose, SASS #37556
L F C Duelist	Rose Louise Reasoner, SASS #12516
F Cartridge	Indy Kid, SASS #4638

Blackpowder Match Winners	
Overall Champions	
Male	Copperhead Joe Black
Lady	Ruthless McDraw
Category Champions	
Plainsman	Captain Grouch, SASS #31321
Senior	Two Gun Tony, SASS #49842
S Senior	KC Jones, SASS #39124
E Statesman	Papa Dave, SASS #17266
49er	Indy Kid
B-Western	Copperhead Joe Black
C Cowboy	RJ Law, SASS #15466
Modern	Lucky Lee Roy, SASS #31712
Gunfighter	Bison Bud, SASS #36614
Pale Rider	Stone Creek Drifter, SASS #58853
P R Gunfi'ter	Blackjack Beeson
Frontiersman	Chili Pepper Pete
L F Cartridge	Ruthless McDraw

F C Duelist	Buffalo Brady, SASS #24830
F Cartridge	M Crossdraw
Side Matches	
Rifle	Colt McAllister
L Rifle	KJ Stevens
Revolver	T-Bone Dooley
L Revolver '97	KJ Stevens
L '97	Colt McAllister
'87	Queen of Hearts, SASS #9938
S X S	Lassiter
L S X S	Deuce Stevens, SASS #55996
Ladies Only	Two Sons
Derringer	Turkey Legs
	Oneeyed Dave, SASS #40029
L Derringer	Honey B Quick
Plainsman	Blackjack Beeson
SA P Pistol	Blackjack Beeson
DA P Pistol	Three Gun Cole
L DA P Pistol	Honey B Quick
Lawman	Blackjack Beeson
Long Range	
B B Lever	Last Gun, SASS #44096
S Shot	Doc Molar
Quigley	Marcus Allen, SASS #4357
L Quigley	Mattie Hays, SASS #7816
SASS Chal'nge	Shell Stuffer, SASS #33146
Wild Bunch	Blackjack Beeson, CJ, SASS #11524, and Larkin Skaggs, SASS #22199

(Note: The Pale Ride (P R) categories were "special" categories at Guns of August, requiring at least 30 grains of blackpowder and at least 200 grain bullets in the rifle and revolvers. The billowing smoke, the buck and roar of the firearms, and the fire and brimstone in the tree-shaded arroyo were absolutely awesome! Hopefully, others will give it a try and find it to their liking!)



The canopied trail up the hill provided a delightful environment for all the competitors, but was especially pleasing for the blackpowder shooters. The filtered sunlight turned the smoke a dazzling white, and the breezeless bays held it all in place. Once the first round went down range, finding the other targets was a challenge—one the blackpowder competitors loved!

ly as our traffic control throughout the week. These young men put on one heck of a Karaoke event, too—but names of attendees are being held in strictest confidence!

The Old West is still a place of myths and legends, and women have held a key part of that. Each of the twelve stages was designated for a significant woman ... for example; stage three was aptly named after Martha Jane Canary, AKA Calamity Jane. Here, with two pistols holstered, the rifle and shotgun strategically placed on the table, and the shooter starting with a toy pistol in

(Continued on page 76)

GUNS OF AUGUST 2008

(Continued from page 75)

each hand, the call to action was ... "It's a calamity!" It was to get the rifle and engage targets in a 2-1-2 pattern twice in the same direction, then a fast sweep of the pistol targets in front of you in a 2-1-2 pattern with the first pistol, engage the shotgun targets in any order, and then finish with the second pistol in a 2-1-2 pattern. This was quick, fun, and gave the shooter options on how they preferred to complete the pistol sweep. Sage Chick (Young Gun Girls) managed to blow this stage away in



Would YOU play cards with a dealer like this?! After assuring us all Faro was an even game and THIS was an honest game, One Eyed Dave proceeded to clean out every cowboy who ventured near his table! (Yes, he was cheating ... but we poor cowboys could never figure out how!)

26.81. Holy Cow! And, she went on to be the Top Cowgirl Action Shooter with an overall time of 278.85 seconds and 434 rank points. Wow!

When I looked up the hill, all I could see was a blue haze from our blackpowder aficionados. Their mini match drew a lot of shooters to "the dark side." You could see a lot of petticoats and leather in the fray. I've grown to appreciate all the intricacies of blackpowder, having been in the Smoke in the Woods competition, which will be coming up again on April 4th and 5th 2009, so get your applications in early as entries are limited.

Scores were posted daily at the entrance to the stages for everyone to peruse. And, after four fun-filled and action-packed days of competition, the winners emerged. Doc Molar and Sage Chick were declared the Midwest Regional Champions and Top Overall. Colt McAllister went on to demonstrate his cowboy proficiency by being the Top Gun Shoot-off winner! There were over 54 competitors who shot the entire match clean and 53 lady Action



The traditional cookie judging was an oft delayed but none-the-less serious endeavor again this year. The unusually large number of entries made the job very difficult, and admittedly, the differences were real, but subtle. Tex (l) and the others were struggling through until Deadwood Stan recruited Colt McAllister (r) to help sort things out ...

Shooters in the various categories. The thing that continues to impress me is the number of younger shooters that have entered the sport. Twelve young ladies and gentlemen were there, including Sage Chick, who not only won her Young Gun Girls category, as well as being clean throughout the match, but also went on to be the Midwest Regional Woman Champion this year! Better watch out guys, next year as she may just take the top gun title!

The highlight of the weekend was the banquet and evening's entertainment. The Manchester Inn staff was poetry in motion. Four buffet lines moved quickly providing a gourmet meal ... and I think I may have overindulged in the scrumptious prime rib!

Some of the Old' Ladies in the famous cookie contest were Ruthless MacDraw, Honey be Quick, Two Sons, Katie Callahan, Lilly from Kentucky, Sage Chick, and her mother the cookie baker, Fowl Lady, and Millie. Deadwood Stan was speechless at the banquet after he found out that all the cookies had different names affixed to the presentations, but actually they all came from the same batch of dough! And, I'm here to attest there is absolutely no truth to the rumor that Deadwood likes Ruthless more than the other Deadwood Dolls!

The Model '66 rifle Taylor donated was sent to Jim Downing who performed his masterful engraving, and to top it off, Lassiter performed a miracle on an already superb action. It was raffled off and the lucky winning cowpoke was John Derringer, from our New York group of shooters. Several guns from

Puberty and Taylor were given away as door prizes. In addition to all these events, Cat Ballot and Tex, Blackjack Beeson, 7 Mile Tom, and of course, Royal Wade Kames were able to take the sacred oath and "Kiss The Beaver" to be inducted as Lifetime Honorary Canadians.

The grand finale of the evening was Royal Wade Kames, the All American Music Cowboy and his band. As most of you already know, Wade spent years as a professional songwriter in Nashville before he launched a music career. Wade, a descendent of Ozark Mountain bank robbers, worked as a ranch hand for Loretta Lynn. He is not only one of the fore-

most entertainers, but is well renowned for his artwork, and he had examples of his artwork prominently lining the entryway into the ballroom. He got people dancing, and the ladies twirled on the dance floor to the great music. You can find out all about this great American Cowboy at www.wadekimes.com/front.html.

Everyone had a great time. The targets were big and close, the props were humorous, we got to shoot the dummy (which looked a lot like Lassiter) at stage 10, and it even caught on fire a couple of times because of the blackpowder shooters. Fire extinguishers were readily on hand to keep the stage moving right along. The scenarios challenged the hand and mind, and the side matches drew big crowds. Fifty-three shooters went clean!! Many thanks to the Middletown team for their outstanding shooting facilities and the Friday night dinner. Our beam marshals did a superb job of outlining the course of fire while also paying homage to the sponsoring vendor. And, many thanks to the vendors who sponsored each of the twelve stages.

Congratulations to all who competed in the SASS Midwest Regional Championships. You can find the complete match results posted at the Big Irons (www.Bigirons.com) as well as the SASS website.

The Guns of August continues to be a premier event because of its reputation for fun, friendliness, beautiful setting, and its central location. Guns of August is so easy to get to from anywhere in the country. The Middletown Sportsman's Club is located in Middletown, Ohio halfway between Dayton and Cincinnati, and both cities



Royal Wade Kimes was the featured Saturday evening entertainment ... the man provides an excellent show that is both entertaining and energizing. Those that weren't dancing were certainly tapping their toes!

have a major airport. It is also a great area for a vacation with numerous places to go and things to see within an hour's drive. Guns of August is conducted the second week of August annually on the grounds of the Middletown Sportsman's Club, 6943 Michael Rd, Middletown OH 45402 (513-422-5112 or fax 513-422-6113).

For further information on the Guns of August, or the host sponsors, The Big Irons, contact Deadwood Stan at 513-422-5112 or Lassiter at 937-687-1039. Of course, your best option is to check out the Big Irons and SASS websites listed earlier.

Larger numbers come every year. And, to a person, they all agree it's the hospitality of the Middletown Sportsman's Club and Big Iron Rangers staff, the comfort and excellent meals provided at the Manchester Inn, the Guns of August stage designs, and the shooting that keep them coming back. Come see us again for Guns of August 2009 and don't forget to bring lots of ammo, as this is a shooters match! 🤠



The SASS Midwest Regional Championship





DUEL DOWN UNDER

By Sudden Lee, SASS #19234

Ninety two shooters made their way to the West Coast of New Zealand's South Island. They came from parts all over New Zealand, and twenty eight came from Australia. They came to test their shooting skills, to do battle in a country versus country Cowboy Action Shooting™ event contested between two nations each year. They all assembled at Cowboy Paradise, a purpose built Cowboy Action range, tucked away under the Southern Alps at the head of the Arahura River Valley.

They would spend the next four days competing, cowboy against cowboy, and country against country to decide which Nation would engrave its name on the prestigious Fredrick



All the cowboys who traveled over from Australia.



These guys won all the stages.

Remington bronze trophy.

Cowboy Paradise is a work in progress and will continue to take shape over the coming years; however, the range currently boasts a working Saloon that caters up to two hundred thirsty and hungry cowboys. There are several bunkhouses that offer accommodation for fifty shooters, with many more camped on range in tents and campervans, which meant the socializing was always going to be a big part of the match.

The 9th Duel Down Under was hosted by the Trailblazers Gun Club in mid-February. February is usually a time of settled weather with hot and sunny conditions, but this was not to be the case this year, and although it cleared for the main match, the side matches were a real test of endurance for the competitors.

Most shooters took part in the day's events and there were many notable performances. This match was the first time in this country where there was a warm-up match held (in conjunction with the side matches) before the main match. It



Husband and wife team won the overall placings— Miss Ruby Redsmoke and Trinity Hill.

was well supported, and the general feeling was we should continue to offer this event, especially for shooters who have come from overseas. It gives the shooters a chance to shoot at the same targets in the same range conditions they will encounter during the match. Also, it's great for settling nerves and testing equipment.

Friday morning, day one of the main match, the weather had improved and everyone was rearing to go. This year's stages all offered many and different challenges for the shooters, as is the custom for the "Duel." There were stages with big up close targets, and some with targets that needed extra care. Most stages included down range movement, and a couple involved forty meters of movement with multiple shooting positions, full house pistol reloads, and the aim, as always, was for the shooters to enjoy themselves, have fun, and shoot safely.

With most of the shooters camped on range, the night life was never going to be dull. Friday evening in the saloon turned into a big night. Most of these folks hadn't seen each other for sometime, and they meant to catch up "proper like." It was also a good opportunity for folks to make new friends.

Saturday, the weather was holding, not too hot, some would say just right for shooting. Six more stages were shot, and most were happy with their efforts. Those who weren't; well, there is not much they could do about it, except go and get dressed up for the Saturday evening banquet and enjoy the socializing.

The evening saw folks dressed in some real dandy going to town duds, and also lots of fishnets and feathers. The saloon was humming well into the small hours.

The next day was time for the now traditional all in (yes all ninety-two shooters) shoot-off, which was particularly interesting this year as most of the "top" shooters were taken out in the first couple of rounds. When it came down to the last eight, the ladies outnumbered the men. However, the eventual winner was Rooster Cockburn who showed sure and steady will always (well, most times) win the day.


Time now for the official prize presentation. This year with Payden Kash unable to attend, there was considerable interest in who would fill the top overall slot. In the end it was no surprise—Trinity, who was the only shooter to clean the match (excluding the two clays, that is) was the top overall shooter. (You just can't miss fast enough to win). The next three shooters were this country's young guns, who always have their own little competition going on. Well done guys, the future of Cowboy Action Shooting™ in this country is in good hands.

Now the big one—which country won? New Zealand took that honour! However, the most important thing is not which country wins, it is *(Continued on next page)*



Rooster Cockburn and Miss Ruby Redsmoke shake hands before shooting off against each other in the Master Gunfighter event.

(Continued from previous page)
 that shooters continue to support international shooting events such as the Duel, as that is how sports grow and prosper.

We hope all who attended from both sides of the Tasman enjoyed the Duel Down Under and will be back again in two year's time. Trailblazers thanks all those who helped with the many tasks that needed doing in order to make the event the success it was. 



Virgil Earp presenting to Tuscon the Terrible.



Miss Clancy 2nd, Jo Bayne 1st, and Sapphire Sally 3rd were the top Lady Traditional competitors.



Junior Winners— Sundown Vinny 2nd, Nitro Glycerin 1st, White Lightning Jack 3rd.

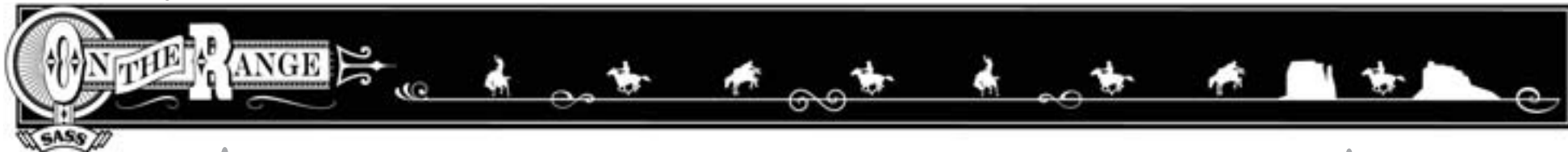


Traditional Winners— Hannibal, 2nd, Trinity Hill 1st, and Mr. Dean 3rd.



Winners		
Overall		
<i>Gent</i>	Trinity Hill, SASS #47086	NZ
<i>Lady</i>	Miss Ruby Redsmoke, SASS Life #48421	NZ
Category Champs		
<i>Traditional</i>	Trinity Hill	
<i>Junior</i>	Nitro Glycerine, SASS #19238	NZ
<i>B-Wesern</i>	Constable Nelson, SASS #11784	AU
<i>L B-Wesern</i>	Miss Ruby Redsmoke	
<i>Modern</i>	Kiwi PJ NZ, SASS #82349	NZ
<i>Senior</i>	Rooster Cockburn, SASS #11791	AU
<i>49er</i>	Jack-A-Roo, SASS #29989	AU
<i>Gunfighter</i>	Doit Daily, SASS #36174	AU
<i>Duelist</i>	Ima Bigun, SASS #60258	NZ
<i>F Cartridge</i>	Phil Healey	AU
<i>S Duelist</i>	Virgil Earp, SASS #4299	AU
<i>L 49er</i>	Alvira Sullivan Earp, SASS #4300	AU
<i>L Traditional</i>		
	Jo Bayne	NZ
<i>S Senior</i>	Rob Millar	NZ
<i>L Duelist</i>	Schofieldsue, SASS #42910	NZ
<i>Buckurette</i>	Dangerous Dolly, SASS #19239	NZ
<i>L Modern</i>	Janet Rush	AU
<i>E Statesman</i>		
	Don Baker	NZ
<i>L F Cartridge</i>		
	Bluesteel Greysmoke SASS #63546	NZ





THE FOURTH ANNUAL PRINCE OF THE PISTOLEERS MATCH

A "Reel" Slice of the Old West

By Fall City Sam, SASS #18878

Lenexa, KA – Welcome to Monticello Township and Hodgdon's Powder Creek Cowboy Action Shooting™ Range, home of the Powder Creek Cowboys, located in the heart of Lenexa, Kansas on the western edge of the greater Kansas City metropolitan area. The club is part of the well-known Powder Creek Shooting Park and is especially indebted to The Hodgdon Powder Company. Hodgdon was one of the first companies to see the tremendous potential of Cowboy Action Shooting™.

This year's match ran as smooth



One-handed Duelist style shooting was the order of the day, and what could be more authentic than a blazing cap and ball during the Prince of the Pistoleers match?

as the pocket watch of an Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad conductor, thanks in large part to the hard work of Match Director, Lit Rhodes, SASS #65398, and Eldorado Wayne, SASS #43509, acting as Range Master and Stage Author. These two pards were further assisted by our Side Match Marshal, KC Colt, SASS #69404, and his fearless Deputies, Asa Smith, SASS #40835, and Paola Slick, SASS #62648.

This annual shoot gets its name from James Butler Hickok (1837-1876), elected Town Constable of
(Continued on next page)

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(Continued from previous page)
 Monticello Township in March 1858, and over the course of his relatively short life would come to be known as "The Prince of The Pistoleers."

The Friday side matches were an obvious tribute to "Wild Bill's" famed talent with the six-gun. Accuracy was the key, as ladies and gentlemen of the assemblage were challenged with paper targets that seemed to weave in and out of this shooter's sight picture (speaking perhaps only for myself). Buffalos, Silver Dollars, Candle Flames, all required the steady hand of a steely gunfighter. All side match pistol events were shot Duelist in the style true to the Davis Tutt duel (July 21, 1865) in Springfield, Missouri.

Bravery, especially the celluloid kind, was in ample supply in this little northeastern Kansas territory from May the 23rd through the 25th of '08. The Main Match scenarios were borrowed from a number of classic "B" Westerns and shot in the realistic set pieces of the Hodgdon's Powder Creek

Cowboy Action Shooting™ Range.

The range itself is unique as it is in the city limits and is a recreation of an Old West Kansas cattle town. The facades require integral bullet absorbing baffling to prevent a round from escaping the range and include the Alamo Saloon, copied from the famous saloon by the same name in Abilene, Kansas. There are also recreations of The Old Reliable House mercantile in Ellsworth, Kansas, the C.M. Condon Bank in Coffeyville (not a good place to be a Dalton brother), and the Monticello Jail built in the Kansas Territory in 1856.

Randolph Scott (1898-1987)

Stage 1 – "The Stranger Wore a Gun" starring Randolph Scott. Jeff Travis (Randolph Scott) a former spy for Quantrill's raiders must bring Jules Murret's (George Macready) gang in to justice single handedly. Lee Marvin and Ernest Borgnine were just two of the outlaws Randolph Scott had to subdue in this classic 3-D Western. "This town is a disgrace to everyone in it."

Stage 2 – "Rage at Dawn" starring Randolph Scott (say it together—Randolph Scott!). We find our hero, James Barlow (Randolph Scott) as a Pinkerton agent trying to bring the true life Reno Brothers to justice. Denver Pyle, Forrest Tucker, J. Carrol Nash, Myron Healey, and Richard Garland join forces to do in agent Barlow. The year is 1866 and the place is Southern Indiana. The entire group of shooters would have made Randolph proud. "Now who would of thought of holding up a train?"

Joel McCrea (1905-1990)

Stage 3 – "Border River" starring Joel McCrea. Whoo Hoo!!! Yvonne DeCarlo was saloon owner, Carmelita Carlas! Loved this one. Joel plays the idealistic Confederate Major Clete Mattson. He is desperately trying to save the faltering Confederate army by stealing \$2,000,000 in Union gold. This one even has a double-crossing German military advisor, dastardly played by Ivan Triesault. "We give these men a fair trial, then we shoot them in the morning."

Stage 4 – "Gunsight Ridge" starring Joel McCrea. Buildup to a classic showdown gunfight (you guessed it, on Gunsight Ridge). One of the best villain names ever "Velvet Clark" a respectable(?) piano player at night and a thieving, no-account, bandana wearing stage robber by day. Mike Ryan (Joel McCrea) again goes undercover as an agent for the stage line. "I'll put my shadow on him."

Audie Murphy (1924-1971)

Stage 5 – "The Guns of Fort Petticoat" starring Audie Murphy. Audie plays Lt. Frank Hewitt who deserts the Union Army to warn his Texas neighbors of an impending Indian attack triggered by an Army massacre. He develops a fighting force made up entirely of women. The ladies, of course, defeat the Indians, and the young lieutenant finds love among the lady warriors. "Hetty, here they come. Are your troops ready?"

Stage 6 – "Ride Clear of Diablo" – starring Audie Murphy. This time railroad surveyor, Clay O'Mara (Audie Murphy) goes after the rustlers who murdered his father and brother. Along the way he arrests and then enlists Whitey Kincade (Dan Duryea). Kincade goes down shooting. "Maybe you're getting soft Whitey. Maybe you're turning into a human being."

James Stewart (1908 - 1997)

Stage 7 – "Winchester 73" starring James Stewart. Lin McAdam (James Stewart) is on the trail of his brother Dutch Henry Brown (Stephen McNally) when he runs into him at a shooting match run by Wyatt Earp (yep). Lin wins the Winchester (One of One Thousand), but Dutch steals it, and so begins a story of the rifle and the men who come to possess it. "I have not shot that gun yet, but I intend to."

Stage 8 – "Night Passage" starring James Stewart and Audie Murphy! Wow, another showdown between brothers again. Grant McLaine (James Stewart) hires on to protect the railroad's money and finds himself pursuing his outlaw kin, the Utica Kid (Audie Murphy). "Maybe I like to see what people will do when I take it away from them."

Meals during the three-day event were served from the back of an authentic chuck wagon with the food heated over an open wooden flame. Lot's of cowboy coffee, biscuits and gravy, and chili kept the cowboys and cowgirls on their game. 🤠

Winners

Overall & 49'er	Croaker, SASS #6968
B-Western	Buffalo Bruns
Cc Cowboy	High Plains Hud, SASS #64232
Duelist	Major Matt Lewis, SASS #47823
E Statesman	Quirt Dunn, SASS #37657
Frontiersman	J-Bar, SASS #18287
F Cartridge	KC Colt, SASS #69404
F C Duelist	Tame Bill, SASS #30699
Gunfighter	Colonel Diamond, SASS #15265
L 49'er	Emerald Nightshade, SASS #45675
L Senior	Sierra Sal, SASS #48500
L Traditional	Insanity Jane, SASS #60540
Senior	Shawnee Gambler, SASS #47794
S Senior	Whiskey Ed Ryan, SASS #47220
Traditional	Buffalo Sam Peed, SASS #66990



THE BEST KEPT SECRET IN WYOMING

By Jasper Agate, SASS #11697

Hell's Half Acre, WY – The Casper, WY Cowboy club puts on a small Annual Shoot called, what else, **Hells Half Acre Shootout**, and this was the 2nd annual. The Bessemer Vigilance Committee has a dedicated range at the Stuckenhoff Shooters Complex, six miles from the campground where we were staying, but once a year they haul most of their steel forty-five minutes west to one of the most picturesque shoot sites we have ever been to. It also has some historical significance as an Indian encampment and buffalo jump. The other apparent artifacts are from the movie set that was there for the filming of *Star Ship Trooper*, which was released in '97.

BeeBad, SASS #25307, my wife and traveling companion, is a traveling nurse, and we took an assignment in Casper, WY. She is a Cardiac nurse and liked what the local recruiter had to say about the hospital. I was a little hesitant about going to Casper, but it turned out to be a great place!! The local cowboy club welcomed us as old friends. I checked out their website, and they had the annual two day match listed, so we made arraignments to go. An e-mail to Eaton Flowers, SASS #50947, confirmed we were going.

We made plans to head out first thing in the morning on Saturday

and would be on site by 8:30. I did all the packing after she left for work, and everything was going according to our plan. Well, Mr. Murphy was in charge, and the weather took a turn for the worst. When I got up in the morning, it had snowed four inches and was very cold. I was wandering around the campground when BeeBad returned from work, looking for a ladder so I could scrape the snow from the top of the slides so they could be brought in. I waited an hour for the office to open, borrowed a ladder, did my chore, and we were off. The roads were wet but clear of snow except for the bridges. BeeBad tensed up at every bridge crossing, but we made the journey with no incidences.

When we went to unhook and setup, I noticed a strange phenomena I had never seen before. The truck and trailer was a huge Popsicle!! The whole rig had at least a 1-1/4 inch of ice covering it. The roads were salted and wet with the air temperature at 25 degrees, and it made a BIG mess!! We camped on the bluff above the gorge with the shoot setup down below. M R Fearnot, SASS #44300, came right over to help us set up and with the bad news they were going to have to cancel the shoot for the day. It's a good thing they set up on Friday! Oh

well, you win some, lose some, and others get SNOWED out!!

The snow melted during the day, but it remained rather cold. We did get some long range plinking in, shooting down into the gorge at steel M R Fearnot had thoughtfully placed out to 450 yards. We had a nice dinner with Dutch oven beans and biscuits provided by Flat Nose George, SASS #10499, who came all the way from Clark, WY for the day. Later we had cocktails around a much-appreciated campfire to keep us warm into the night.

Sunday, we awoke to the sun shining and the temperature at 30 degrees. Nine intrepid souls spent the night and eight more showed up the next day for a grand total of seventeen shooters for the match. Dynamite Mary, SASS #68289, was running around getting all the shooters signed up, and the rest of the crew were painting steel and making final adjustments to the stages. Smokewagon Bill, SASS #14284, set up two stages, and M R Fearnot set up the other two. Eaton Flowers gave a short safety talk, and we were off. The stages were fun with some movement and not too difficult to follow, although I managed to get a "P" on my first stage! The scenery was breathtaking with wonderful rock formations in all the col-

ors of the rainbow. I took a lot of pictures, but you can't fathom the beauty of that place from a picture in *The Cowboy Chronicle*, so I posted them at: <http://community.webshots.com/user/jasperagate> under the album named **Hell's Half Acre 08**.

Although we only got in one day of shooting instead of two, all that attended had a ball! I know I did and would go back in a heartbeat. These folks really know how to put on a good shoot!! They have a fine website you can access from the SASS home page under **Find a shooting club near you** to see their shooting dates. So, if you find yourself in Casper be sure to catch up with this fine club and tell them Jasper Agate and BeeBad sent you. 🤠



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CIVIL WAR FIREARMS GO WEST . . .

(Continued from page 63)

revolver for several dollars, a day or two's pay. All he needed was a tin of percussion caps, a mold, some lead, and some powder. These percussion revolvers were much cheaper to shoot than the metallic cartridge revolvers, even when the metallic cartridge revolvers became more common. You could also buy pre-made combustible conical ball cartridges like the military used, but that wasn't necessary.

Cowboy Action Shooting™ and these Civil War Revolvers

No one currently manufactures replicas of the S&W "Tip Up" revolvers. The original No. 1's should NEVER be used with modern .22 short ammo. To be blunt, it is VERY dangerous and would turn your antique into expensive shrapnel. The No. 1 1/2 and No. 2 are .32 rim-fire. Periodically, you can find Navy Arms .32 rim fire ammunition that is supposedly loaded with blackpowder. I still would not chance it. These, therefore, have little application in Cowboy Action Shooting™, even in side matches.

As for the Colt Walker, Patter-son, Dagoon, 1851 Navy, and 1860

Army revolvers, you are in luck. Replicas abound, mostly from Pietta and Uberti. So also it goes with the Remington .44 Army (1858) and Navy Model .36 caliber revolvers. These are perfect for Plainsmen side matches and Frontiersman Main Match guns. I currently use 1858 Remington's from Pietta. Of course, I use an 1860 Henry as a main match rifle, so that's a very appropriate choice for early West re-enacting. Speaking of Henry rifles, I will cover them, along with other Civil War long guns like Spencer's, Sharps, and Smiths, in the upcoming part two of this series!

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THE SASS TEXAS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP . . .

(Continued from page 69)

then. There was a live band on the porch of the Saloon and dancing inside, or if you preferred, you could just sit around listening to the music while sipping free Margaritas.

Saturday's main match went smoothly for the shooters, and then it was time to get cleaned up for the evening Banquet and Awards Ceremony. There was some beautiful dinner music by a couple of really talented country music performers. It was loud enough to be heard, but not so loud that you could not talk to your friends. The dinner was some of the best BBQ you ever tasted. Then the awards were presented five deep. The five winners were called up and presented with their awards while the next five were making their way to the front of the building. This was an extremely efficient way to do it, and the awards went quite quickly. All SASS categories were offered, regardless of the number of shooters, and awards were presented. I would hate to have someone practice for a category all year long and then be placed in another category at the last minute because not enough people were shooting that category. There were also a couple of extra categories that were not SASS required.

All thirty-four clean match shooters were presented with a certificate of accomplishment. There was nothing but smiling faces in that group picture.

Usually only a small number of shooters stay for the Sunday shoot-off's and side matches, but this year saw a crowd. The workers thought

they would get off easy and get to relax early, but that did not happen. There was no planned lunch Sunday since most shooters usually hit the road as soon as they can after shooting. But this year they wanted to stay. The extra food from the banquet was brought out along with several loaves of bread, and anyone who wanted made themselves a sandwich. I don't know if everyone got enough to eat, but all the food was gone. Then several shooters wanted to know if the range was hot so they could practice. They stayed several more hours. Some campers stayed a few more days to get some practice in, and then the range was quiet.

Now is time to start getting ready for next year. Mark your calendar ready for April 30 thru May 3, 2009. You are welcome to come early and stay late. Jail Break '09 promises to be bigger and better than '08! The theme for the shoot will be the Civil War, or as it is known in the South, "The War of Northern Aggression." For any "Yankees" who think the war is over, the final battle will be held on Sunday as a side match, The Yanks verses the Rebs. Sign up early for the team you want to be on. If not enough Yankees show up, either the Rebs will win by default, (heaven forbid), or some Rebels will be drafted for the "other side." Carpetbaggers will be tolerated, and history may be re-written. Doesn't that sound like a challenge?

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ade parties, and Victorian balls. Again, the students walked away from class with beautiful, completed projects.

One thing we found lacking was instructors for 19th century western fashion. We believe the experience at Costume College would be loved by many more of our SASS friends if Cowboy Action Shooting™ attire was included in the curriculum and taught by both women and men.

On another note, there was no lack of costumes! Exhibits are found in several rooms at the hotel. This year the Wedding Dress of Giselle, based on Disney's film "Enchanted," was one of the most spectacular gowns on display. Also, many of the students and teachers dress in costume every day. It's not surprising to see someone eating their lunch at the hotel restaurant in beautiful petticoats and a corset, sitting with a friend in full 1860 attire, fan and parasol included!

Everyone dresses in beautiful costumes from many different fashion periods for the Time Travelers' Gala. They enter the function in "Red Carpet" style, cameras flashing from both sides as they walk down the aisle toward the ballroom. Participants enjoy a formal dinner and go crazy when the music begins. Can you imagine several hundred men and women out on the dance floor, many women wearing bustles and hoop skirts, dancing to "The Time Warp" from the Rocky Horror Picture Show, a 1975 musical comedy film? The music ranged from Victorian waltzes to the Virginia reel, to the Boogie-woogie throughout the evening. It was a fun and exciting atmosphere!

Registration for the 2009 Costume College will begin in September 2008. I encourage those interested in participating, to explore the college's website as early as possible for registration information, as tickets sell out quickly. Their website is located at <http://www.costumecollege.org/>.

COSTUME COLLEGE IN CALIFORNIA RATES HIGH WITH SASS MEMBERS . . .

(Continued from page 39)

hats for long-term storage or travel. We also discussed how to pattern and construct a custom shaped hatbox for top hats.

Lady Fleur taught a limited class titled Vegas Baby. Wild and fun feather headpieces were made by each of the participants for occasions such as Mardi Gras, masquer-

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"I HAVEN'T A THING TO WEAR!" . . .

(Continued from page 31)

on distant farms lucky to have one new calico dress a year, but for ladies who aspired to wearing Paris fashions. They would have viewed as we view a sewing pattern at a store; we look at the fashion, choose our own fabric, our own trims, and make the gown as would best suit us. Most women normally do not purchase a pattern and copy it verbatim when sewing.

Were your ancestors high flying socialites, they likely attended the grand fancy dress ball given by the Mayor of Sydney in 1879 - here is just a partial list of characters that appeared at the costumed ball; some of these may be interpreted with slight changes for the SASS 1876 Centennial ball!

- * Night and Morning
- * Red, White, and Blue
- * Fishwife
- * Ambulance nurse
- * Red Riding Hood, Snow-white, Old Mother Hubbard
- * Spanish costume
- * Daughter of the regiment
- * African slave
- * Florence Nightingale
- * Queen of the Roses, Shower of Pearls
- * Swiss girl
- * Huntress
- * Autumn; Snow; Summer; Christmas
- * Member of the Red Cross
- * Doctor
- * Morning
- * Daughter of the Mountains
- * Primrose
- * Peasant
- * Irish girl
- * University student
- * Vivandiere
- * Day and Night
- * Flower Girl
- * Milk Maid
- * Forget-me-not
- * The Millers Daughter
- * Lily of the Valley
- * Quakeress
- * Dawn of Morning
- * America
- * German Peasant Girl

I hope to see you at the Ball - please look for me as "Mary Lincoln" with my escort "Detective Pinkerton!" (Just a "FYI": The first fancy dress ball on record in New York Society was held at Bowling Green in 1820.)

Sources:

1, 2, 3 Text courtesy of A. Jarvis, P. Raine, 'Fancy Dress', Shire Publications.

A. Jarvis, P. Raine, 'Fancy Dress', Shire Publications."

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Heinz K. and Bridget A. Henisch, The Photographic Experience, 1839-1914: Images and Attitudes (University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1994)

(Joy Melcher aka Queen Victoria owns www.CivilWarLady.com and can be reached through her website or at 712-310-9383 to assist you in your costuming needs. She will be a vendor at the upcoming SASS Las Vegas Convention. Joy produces award-winning gowns for Museums, Broadway, and SASS members throughout the country.)

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BUTTERFIELD OVERLAND MAIL COMPANY . . .

(Continued from page 33)

Celerity or “mud” wagons, much lighter in design, were used on more rugged areas and across the desert. Both coaches were set on leather straps, which gave a comfortable ride, but the forward/backward sliding motion caused a great deal of “sea sickness” among passengers.

Inside the coaches, passengers sat on one of three padded benches. One faced towards the rear of the coach, directly under the driver’s seat; this was considered the “choice” spot, as not as much swaying occurred there. Another bench faced forward and a third could swing down in between to accommodate three more people. Passengers rode with baggage on their laps and mail pouches beneath their feet.

The drivers, referred to as “jehu” (as in the phrase, “Drive like Jehu,” after a Biblical chariot driver who became king of Israel), were required to know every inch of their 60-mile segment of the route, since often they had to navigate at night. Lanterns were set on the front of the coaches. In areas where river fording was necessary, an additional horseman would ride along with a lantern.

Horses were used in the east, but Missouri-crossed Mexican mules proved a better choice in the desert. Willing and able to eat almost anything, they were sturdier than horses. The biggest problem with the mules was they were often stolen by Indians.

During the two-and-a-half years the Butterfield stage was in operation, every eastbound and westbound stage arrived within the 25-day contract time. Sometimes the trips took just 21 days. The mail service was so reliable that the British government sent official correspondence destined for British Columbia by the Butterfield Overland Mail. When it first began operations, the company transported only letters, but later added newspapers and small pack-

ages. The stages never hauled valuable freight or payrolls, however.

The Butterfield Trail helped shape the entire Southwest and helped improve transportation and commerce in El Paso. As the midpoint of the Butterfield Trail, the Franklin stop helped El Paso develop into a sizable town, with new buildings and streets. The Butterfield Overland stages left El Paso going east to St. Louis and west to San Francisco twice a week.

Historian Frank Mangan says business was so good the company built El Paso’s first two-story building on the southeast corner of El Paso and Overland Streets. Leon Metz adds that the Overland Stage office was the largest building in El Paso for forty years. The Butterfield Trail Overland Company stations offered permanent construction of corrals, outbuildings, maintenance and repair shops, and eating facilities, as well as employing harness makers, blacksmiths, horse wranglers, armed guards, and cooks.

As a result of increased commerce and transportation, the town of Franklin was surveyed to make a map of the community, showing each block in town. Most of the downtown streets were given Butterfield Overland Trail route names such as Santa Fe, Oregon, Wyoming, Arizona, Missouri, and San Francisco.

The Butterfield Trail also set examples that would later be followed by the transportation industry. It operated through the best passes and valleys that allowed staging suitable for passengers and for carrying mail securely and efficiently. Frank Mangan explains that the trail was so well designed that in later years when highway engineers first built the El Paso-Carlsbad highway, they closely followed the original route of the Butterfield Trail. Today, Interstate 10 west of El Paso parallels the Butterfield route as well.

The railroad also followed the Butterfield routes. The Texas and

Pacific lines traveled from El Paso to St. Louis basically through the same stops. Writer G. C. Tomkins says the railroad actually laid track on some stretches of the Overland route and took on water for the locomotives from wells dug by Butterfield’s men.

Before the first train would arrive 20 years later in 1881, the Butterfield Overland Mail Company had done much to set El Paso on its way to becoming a prosperous city. Downtown El Paso would have looked very different without the Butterfield Trail, and streets would be known by different names. Although many residents today choose to use e-mail rather than the postal service, or “snail mail,” it was this very service that helped develop El Paso 150 years ago.

In 1858, Mesilla, New Mexico Territory, boasted the largest population between San Antonio and San Diego. More than 3,000 people called Mesilla home. And it was here, on the plaza in what is known as Transportation Row that the Overland Mail Co. placed the headquarters of its southwestern sector.

The divisional headquarters for Butterfield Overland Mail Co. was a block west of La Posta in the building now housing El Patio. The main street, Calle Principal, passed on the west side. Corrals, located behind what is now a Nambe store, housed mules and horses. The Overland Mail, when pulling away from the headquarters, would proceed north on Calle Principal, then turn west on Calle de Santiago, travel over the *acequia madre*, then follow the water channel north out of town towards Picacho Peak. To make good impressions, teams of horses were used for the first 15 miles, then at the next stage stop and before reaching Picacho, mules were switched for horses for their long trek across the desert.

The famed stagecoach line’s history was as brief as it was colorful. In early 1861, the Civil War loomed back east. As if that weren’t bad enough, war with the Apaches in Arizona and New Mexico heated up. In February 1861, Army Lieutenant George Bascom wrongly accused Cochise’s tribe of kidnapping a half-white boy. Up until this time, Cochise had allowed peaceful passage of the stages through his territory, even supplying firewood to the way stations. During this misunderstanding, however, Cochise’s brother was captured, and then hanged. Understandably outraged at the injustice, Cochise declared all-out war against anyone who wasn’t Apache. The station manager at Apache Pass was killed, along with a couple of other drivers and Butterfield employees. This fiasco became known as “The Bascom Affair,” and its precise facts are still debated today.

Meanwhile, the spread of the telegraph had already begun to make the stage obsolete for getting communications across the country. The telegraph would directly doom the Pony Express, which had sprung up in response to demand for a northern mail route, similar to the Butterfield Trail. Residents of fast-growing Colorado, Utah, and Oregon wanted a trail, citing bad winters and high mountains. However, Butterfield declined to cut new roads. The Pony Express launched without him in the spring of 1860. Pony Express riders took mail from St. Louis to Sacramento and points in between for \$5 per half-ounce, riding 75-mile stretches at breakneck speed. After 13 months, however, an even shorter lifespan than the Overland stage to the south, the Pony Express perished due to the installation of the transcontinental telegraph. By 1862, 48,000 miles of telegraph lines would cobweb the United States.

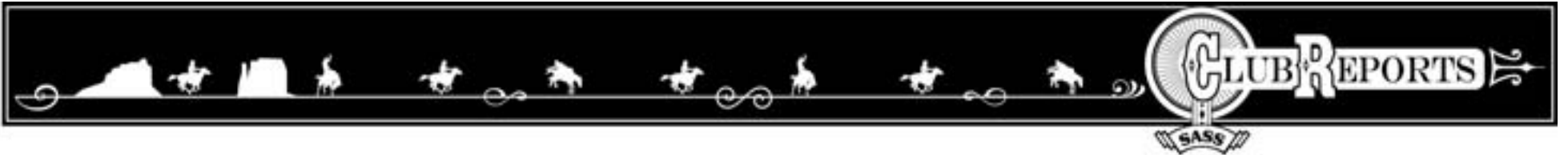
But it was the pending outbreak of the Civil War that actually halted operations along the Butterfield Trail. That meant abandoning everything Butterfield and his crew had worked for. To add insult to injury, the Confederates seized all the Butterfield stations and coaches in Texas.

John Butterfield, already in ill health, would die in 1869. His Overland Mail Company shut its doors, leaving only the echoes of what had once been a 2,800-mile adventure through history.

(*Three Fingers Tequila has been in law enforcement since 1974. An El Paso native, he continues to research the early law enforcement years in El Paso. harry_kirk@yahoo.com*)

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KASKASKIA COWBOYS SHOOTOUT FOR ABIGAIL WILLIAMS

By Inspector, SASS#41400

August, 2008 Sparta, IL – Most of you probably don't know who Abigail Williams is, and quite frankly, I wouldn't expect you to. You see, Abigail is only two years old. In her two years of existence, life has not been kind to this sweet little girl. Abigail was born with Downs Syndrome. If that is not challenging enough, within this past year, she has been diagnosed with leukemia.

Although this child has her afflictions, she also has many wonderful blessings. Most important of these, is a loving family. Her parents, Jesse and Katie Williams of Pinkneyville, Illinois, are leading her hard fought fight and ensuring Abigail receives the best care possible.

According to Katie, Abigail's leukemia has been in remission for



Jesse, Abigail, and Katie next to their uncle, Gun Runner Jim, SASS #70278 (r)

ed for an August day in Illinois, the stages were well written, a little challenging, but lots of fun! At the end of the day, the scores confirmed the top overall shooters. In the Ladies category, Ten Shot Tammy, SASS #49462, was the winner, and in the Men's category, it was Ned Plinkerton, SASS #41905.

Altogether, \$1115 was raised to help with Jesse and Katie's expenses during this final round of chemo. We all walked away with a little confidence that Abigail will have her Mom and Dad at her side during the rough times that this treatment can bring. Abigail, it was our pleasure to help in any way we could. God bless you in your treatment. We'll be praying these treatments bring you many long years with such a loving family. 🙏



The Grand Prize winner, Juvenile, SASS #73077, stands next to his new duster.

the past five months. When I met Abigail, she had completed two of the three rounds of chemotherapy. The first was six weeks and the second was five weeks. She was preparing for her third six week round the following month.

Abigail's treatment is performed at Children's Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri. Now if you check your 2008 edition of the Rand McNally, that is over an hour and a half drive from Pinkneyville, Illinois. That kind of commute can wear hard on one's time, vehicle, and pocket book. As far as time and vehicle wear, well there ain't much a Cowboy can do to help out, but as far as the ole' pocket book is concerned, we certainly enjoy

lending a hand.

Remember I said one of Abigail's blessings was a loving family? Well, it doesn't hurt to have a Cowboy in those ranks. Abigail's Cowboy is her Great Uncle, Gun Runner Jim, SASS #70278 (A.K.A. Jim Lueker). Under Jim's direction, a fundraiser was held for his great niece in the form of a Cowboy Action Shoot.

Cowboys certainly enjoy turning out to shoot in order to raise money for a good cause, and on this pleasant

August Sunday, 70 shooters decided to have fun and raise money for Abigail. Not only did the match fees go to benefit Abigail, a 50/50 raffle was held and so were drawings for great prizes.

The winner of the 50/50 raffle was Cripple Creek Ranger, SASS #66898, who donated his winnings back to Abigail. The winner of the grand prize for the drawings was Juvenile, SASS #73077, who won an embroidered duster with the Kaskaskia Cowboys logo stitched on the back.

Let's not forget why we gathered together for Abigail's benefit, and that was to shoot. The weather was more pleasant than could be expect-

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Whooper Crane,
SASS #52745
Mug shot by Deadeye Al

BUNKHOUSE BIDNESS

A Spotlight on SASS Clubs Around the Country

By Whooper Crane, SASS #52745

HISTORY

This Club's story begins with two Jackson Parish, Louisiana Deputy Sheriffs, Jason Robinson and Mike Walsworth, who really enjoyed competitive shooting. Both had won many individual and team medals in Police Pistol Combat shooting disciplines.

Then, in 2006, the guys decided to open a gunshop, R&W Firearms in Quitman, LA. In early '06 they had a booth at a local gunshow and, as luck would have it, were right across the aisle from a couple of Cowboy Action Shooters, Palmetto Slim and Buckskin Billy Macoy, who were promoting Cowboy Action Shooting™.

Jason was curious about Cowboy Action and spent some time jawboning with the cowboys at the show. They, in turn, invited Jason to come out and visit their next shoot. He came just to visit, but the cowboys insisted he borrow some of their guns and give it a try.

He was hooked!!! Being a shooter already, and owning a gunshop made the move real easy. Before long, he was shooting at all the local and not-so-local matches (anywhere from one to three hours from home). He also started hitting the "Big" matches like Mule Camp and Winter Range. He just couldn't get enough of this exciting game.

In 2007, the guys bought the 20 wooded acres adjacent to their gunshop with the intention of setting up shooting bays for their customers. Part of that plan was to build an old western town for Cowboy Action Shooting™.

They started in late '07 with a 100-200-300 yard Rifle Range and a 50-yard Pistol Range ... complete with covered shooting areas to protect their guests from the elements.

Jason, who had become Slick McClade, SASS #69490, knew quite a few local shooters who were interested in Cowboy Action, but didn't favor the long drives to the nearest clubs. So, to answer their needs, in March of this year, he and his brother, Barry (Bruno, SASS #69491) and his uncle, Purvis Rodriquez, set about building a state-of-the-art (if

you, like me, consider the 1880's as state-of-the-art) cowboy town.

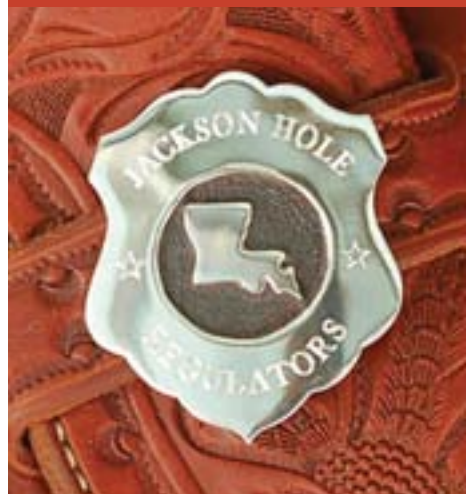
From one of their customers, who just happened to own a logging business, the guys received over

6,000 board feet of cypress and treated pine. From a group of their Rifle Club pals, they received over 100 custom-made steel targets.

(Continued on next page)

This month we're going to deviate a bit from our usual pattern. Instead of focusing on a long-established Club, we're zeroing in on a brand new Club, the **Jackson Hole Regulators**, who just started their shooting operations in September. What's so interesting about this Club is they began operations with a whole gang of beautifully-created stage-fronts to shoot through right from the get-go. Take a look.

Jackson Hole Badge



DETAILS

Contact: Slick McClade, President
Email: slickmcclade@bellsouth.net
Phone: (318) 278-9071
Website:
www.jacksonholeregulators.com
Location: Quitman, Louisiana
Matches: 4th Saturday every month



(Continued from previous page)

They obtained weathered tin roofing from an old barn that was being torn down nearby. Then Slick and his bro and uncle set about converting these goods into one of the nicest simulated cowtowns you'll see at any SASS match.

They wanted each stage to be different and, most importantly, to be user- and spectator-friendly. The buildings were to be fronts only, with no sides to block the view of the action. Shooters were to shoot from large (16' X 10') boardwalks with plenty of room for Timer

Operator and Spotters to do their thing without interfering with the shooters. As you can see from the pictures, the guys accomplished all they set out to do ... and then some.

It's a short history, but full of important stuff to get this new Club off the ground running.

INTERESTING STUFF

Now, as to the permanent stages themselves:

You start your visit to Jackson Hole at the Train Depot; then on to Los Lobo Cantina, with its swingin' doors; then the Rosewood Hotel with authentic windows and door from an original 1880's homestead; next comes the "brick" Jailhouse with its barred windows and door; then, covering a shallow ravine is a 30' Sleepy Hollow-style covered bridge; next is the board and batten Mercantile building followed by the Jackson Hole Bank (whose door you shove down before you start shooting); then there's an authentic-look-

ing barn that you enter to start your shooting; and lastly, toward the end of the street, is the mandatory Church and its Old West-style Graveyard.

You want to know what's *really* incredible? This whole town was built by Slick and his kin and a few other kindly volunteers in their spare time in just SIX MONTHS!!!!

This feat is truly amazing, but Slick says the town is only half the enjoyment of your visit to Jackson Hole. The grounds are park-like, with lots of trees for shade, a playground for the young'uns, and overnight camping for those folks who prefer to camp when they go shooting. Right now it's dry-camping, but by April they'll have full camper hookups. The whole area lends itself to a totally relaxed atmosphere for shooters and spectators alike.

Speaking of shooting, the Regulators held their first match in September. Not only did they attract 29 good shooters from three states, they also attracted 300 spectators who came to see what the fuss was all about. Many of these left with the idea of returning as

new shooters in the months ahead.

The Club has a nifty incentive for new members. You join for \$85, and you receive an \$85-value Sterling Silver Jackson Hole Regulators Club Badge ... and that's it!!! No dues ... no renewal fees ... no red tape. Once you're a member, you're a member. Because of the permanent stage-fronts, and the fact ongoing maintenance is handled by employees of R&W Firearms, you don't even have to get your hands dirty.

Just come, shoot, have lunch at their concession stand, enjoy the park-like atmosphere, and go home (no teardown even). What a Deal!!!

The Club is small at this point, but you can bet it's going to grow like crazy when area shooters get to know this outstanding facility. This is the way most Clubs wish they could have started.

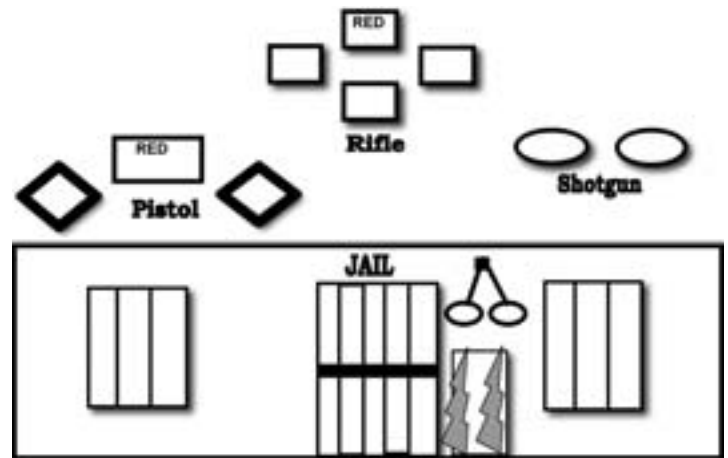
That's it for this month. Next month we'll look at another Club that deserves your attention. Until then, ride hard and shoot straight!

Photos: Whooper mugshot by Deadeye Al
Range shots by Slick McClade
Badge by Joe Perkins



JACKSON HOLE REGULATOR'S FAVORITE STAGE

Two revolvers and 10 rounds, Rifle and 10 rounds, Shotgun and 2+ rounds
Revolvers holstered, Rifle & Shotgun at Rack



PROCEDURE:

Shooter begins holding handcuffs in both hands in front of Gunrack. Shooter says the Line: **"I'm bustin' out of here!!!"**

AT THE BUZZER:

Drop the handcuffs. Shooter can choose either Rifle or Shotgun to shoot first. If Shotgun, retrieve Shotgun and move to right window. Shooting through the bars, engage Shotgun targets until both are down. Restage Shotgun in Rack. Retrieve Rifle and move to Door. Shooting through the bars and starting with the RED target, engage the four Rifle targets with Double Taps in a Clockwise OR Counterclockwise direction for 10 Rounds. Restage Rifle in Rack. Move to Left Window. Draw 1st Pistol and, starting with the RED target, engage the three Pistol targets in a Nevada Sweep. Holster. Draw 2nd Pistol and repeat with another Nevada Sweep. Holster. **If Shooter chooses to begin with Rifle**, at Buzzer he retrieves Rifle and starts shooting at Door, then moves to Left Window for Pistols, and finally to Right Window for Shotgun.



IT'S A WONDERFUL COWBOY LIFE!

By Black Hills Barb SASS 34171

*The cowboys did it, Dennis!
The cowboys did it! They told a few people you were in trouble, and they spread the word all over the country. No one asked any questions—just said: "If Dennis is in trouble—count on me." You never saw anything like it.*

Hamburg, PA - September 6, 2008 - The outpouring of love and generosity witnessed at the Dennis and Sallie Yoder Benefit Shoot (The Mad Tanner, SASS #14895, and Shaky Sallie, SASS #26020) was reminiscent of the movie "It's A Wonderful Life" when during a snowstorm, and with the help of an angel, George Bailey got to see what life would have been without him. On this day, during a hurricane and with the help of many angels dressed as cowboys, Dennis and Sallie got a glimpse of the lives they've touched.

Tables were overflowing with donated food. Coolers were stacked full of donated drinks and ice. Even more tables were filled with donations for the Silent and Chinese Auctions. Raffle tickets were sold for the 50-50 drawing, guns and even a shoulder mount from a local taxidermist. Family and friends unfamiliar with Cowboy Action came, registered, and joined us in celebrating the Cowboy Way. Some even paid as much as five times over the registration fee with no intention of shooting.



Inclement weather didn't dampen the spirits or the enthusiasm of the shooters or guests at this fund-raising event. The food was great, and in spite of the rain, so was the shooting!

Yes, I suppose we could have had perfect weather—perfect weather that would have really enabled us to throw one wonderfully festive event. However, maybe it wasn't meant to be that way. Maybe it was supposed to rain. Perhaps seeing all those people crowded under the canopies and roofs really showed Dennis how much he is loved. Faces, streaked by dye from cowboy hats, were bright with smiles. In the type of weather

that match directors know will bring a litany of complaints, not one complaint was uttered.

As the organizers and volunteers arrived early in the morning to put the finishing touches on setting up, they worried that Hurricane Hannah's arrival would keep shooters away, and the benefit would fall desperately short of our hopes. However, our worries were quickly dismissed. As the first drops of rain

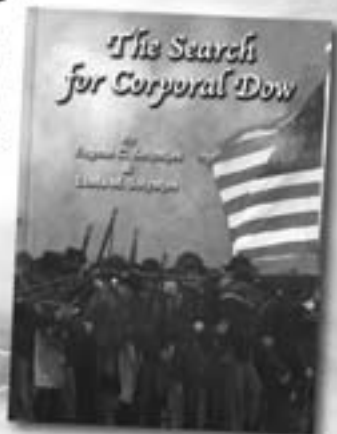
fell, the first shooters were registering. The rain strengthened, and the line to sign in grew longer. Many shooters handed over \$100 bills to pay the \$20 registration and said, "Keep the change." Over 100 signed up on the "Honors Posse." These folks had no intention of shooting, but they wanted us to take their registration fees just the same.

Cowboys arrived from as far
(Continued on next page)

FROM THE SASS MERCANTILE

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Main Shooter Sig. Other Young Gun/Buckaroo Plainsman Event

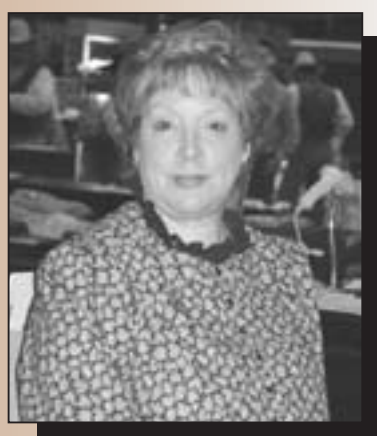
Name: _____ SASS Alias: _____
 Shooting Category: _____ Shooting Ladies Category? Y N
 SASS # (required): _____ Are you a ROI? Y N Are you a ROII? Y N
 Address: _____ City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: (____) _____
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Registration receipt and information packet will be mailed back to you confirming your entry.
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(Continued from previous page)
 away as Iowa and Texas. Donations came from as far away as Washington State. The winner of perhaps the most coveted prize to be awarded that day was informed of the win via phone call. Seconds later it was announced the prize was donated back to be auctioned off. This auction raised another \$1700 for the cause. Later we would learn that the original winner was the father of a young man that once bat-

tled brain cancer.
 As Clarence reminded George, "No man is a failure who has friends." Dennis and Sallie told all of us present that, "A person with true friends is never poor," and they felt truly blessed by the generosity of the cowboys and cowgirls. We are indeed a part of a wonderful organization filled with wonderful people. Many of us knew this before, but being a part of it and witnessing it firsthand was something that won't be forgotten easily. ♪



Donna Oakley
 SASS #13013

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Smoky Mountain Shoot-Out

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The Oak Ridge Sportsmen's Association Smoky Mountain Shootist Society officially announces the 7th annual Smoky Mountain Shoot-Out. As springtime comes to East Tennessee, cowboy and cowgirl action shooters pack up their frontier-era wardrobe, single action revolvers, lever action rifles, and old-fashioned shotguns and head for the foothills of the Smoky Mountains. It will be a weekend of Cowboy Action Shooting and good old Southern Hospitality. Side Matches are on March 26th and the Main Match is on March 27th and 28th.

☆☆ Shooter's Registration Form 2009 ☆☆

*Please use one registration form per shooter. (Copy form for additional entries.)
 Send Spouse and Junior Entry with Main Entry. Entry deadline is March 1, 2009.
 Match will be limited to the first 200 registrants.*

Name: _____
 Alias: _____ SASS No. (Required) _____
 Street: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ E-mail: _____
 Club Affiliation: _____
 Shooting Category (All SASS Categories + Outlaws) _____
 Try to posse me up with: _____

Please make check out to **ORSA**
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FEES:	Total
Main Match	\$70 _____
Spouse	\$50 _____
Jrs. & Buckaroos	FREE
Side Matches (all day)	\$15 _____
Saturday Night Awards Dinner (each)	\$35 _____
Total Fee	\$ _____

A \$15 fee will be charged for cancellations made before January 16, 2009. No refunds after that date.



*Cree Vicar Dave, SASS Life #49907
Territorial Governor,
Sucker Creek Michigan*

THE PERFECT REFLECTION

*By Cree Vicar Dave, SASS Life #49907
TG, Sucker Creek, Michigan*

My father, bless his soul, was born just after the close of the 19th century. As a lad he was familiar with horsepower in the flesh. He told stories of riding in a buckboard to town and farming with a draft team. And, there was even a dramatic experience he related to me when he tried

to rescue a team of horses from a burning barn with his young wife, my mother, screaming at him not to do it. Hanging in my workshop is a pair of complete horse collars that were passed on to me from my dad.

Browsing around an antique shop a while ago I spotted a horse collar with a fair amount of wear. The price was right so I became the proud new owner of the sweat-laden piece of his-

torical leather. The Vicar's Wife gave me the LOOK as we walked out of the store. But I had something special in mind for the potential heirloom. I had seen a horse collar mirror before, and this worthy specimen would be perfect for the project. Since Cowboy Action Shooting™ became a part of our lives, mirrors seem a little more important. It says in I Samuel 16:7 "...Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." My heart is right with God, but people still take notice of what you look like. So, the mirror plays a role in our sport.

I took my proud new prize possession over to a local glass shop where the glazier cut a piece of plate glass mirror to fit the center. He suggested I use dark brown caulk to hold the mirror in place. After the mirror was installed, I strapped on a pair of hames that were lying around in the barn. The finished product impressed even me.

Now some years later, this reflective gem of history has found a new place to hang around. It's on loan to our club where it adds ambience hanging on the assay office wall. I hope it hangs there for many years, reflecting competitors participating in Cowboy Action activities even after the Lord calls me home. "Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known."

I Corinthians 13:12
creevicardave@hotmail.com



Horse Collar Mirror



Horse Collars inherited from my dad

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Send Registration to: T.H.S.S. - P.O. Box 151 - Columbus, Texas 78934

1. All SASS Categories are available. Minimum of three (3) entries to establish a category.
2. Minimum of five (5) entries in a category to award three (3) places.
3. \$25.00 Late Fee on entries postmarked after 03/06/09. No guarantee of Posse assignment on entries after 03/06/09.
4. No refunds on cancellations made after 03/17/08.
5. Junior ages 13 - 17 years, Buckaroo/Buckarettte ages 9 - 12 years.
6. Absolutely no category changes made after first shot of Main Match.
7. **NO GOLF CARTS, MOTORIZED GUN CARTS, OR VEHICLES ALLOWED ON THE RANGE.**

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JUNIORS (with registered Adult shooter)	\$45.00
BUCKAROO/BUCKARETTE	FREE
GUEST BANQUET TICKETS (20)	\$20.00
LATE FEE	\$25.00
TOTAL SHOOTER FEE Includes Banquet.....	_____

Mounted Shooting Competition Saturday & Sunday, contact Bill Williams for registration information 936-539-1930

SINGLE ACTION!

Enter To Win a "Custom By Bob Munden" Engraved Colt And This Beautiful Rig!

Tax Deductible 501(c)(3) Corporation




5 Tickets for \$20.00
5 tickets for \$20.00 minimum purchase

RAFFLE DONATIONS SUPPORT THE SASS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Munden® Premier Single Action Revolver
.45 CAL COLT • NICKEL SCREWS, 4.63" BBL.
"CUSTOM BY BOB MUNDEN" ENGRAVED ON BARREL
COLT WALNUT GRIPS WITH GOLD COLT MEDALLION
RETAIL VALUE \$3300

Long Hunter 8-Western® Single Rig
CUSTOM BUCKLE • HAND TOOLED WITH STUDS
MAHOGANY WITH HAND PAINTED BLACK INLAY
RETAIL VALUE \$550

To Purchase Tickets Call: 877-411-SASS or Visit Us Online at: www.sassnet.com

Entry Deadline November 21, 2008

*Pistol Donated by Munden Enterprises, Inc.
Gun Rig Donated by Kirkpatrick Leather Co.*

Winner will be selected by random drawing at the 7th Annual SASS Convention, Saturday December 6th, 2008. Employees or family members of SASS are not eligible to participate. You need not be present to win. No maximum number of entries.



WINNER TAKE ALL!

Enter To Win a Custom Engraved Pair of Great Western II's And This Beautiful Rig!

Tax Deductible 501(c)(3) Corporation



5 Tickets for \$20.00
5 tickets for \$20.00 minimum purchase

RAFFLE DONATIONS SUPPORT THE SASS WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM & COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING HALL OF FAME

SASS WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM & COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING HALL OF FAME

2 EMF Great Western II® Pistols
.45 CAL COLT • BARK IVORY GRIPS
NICKEL PLATED, 4 1/4" BBL. • FIRE BLUED ACCENTS
100% ENGRAVED HAGEMAN PATTERN
RETAIL VALUE OVER \$6000

Handcrafted, "Tombstone Rose" Double Rig
200% NICKEL SILVER SPOTS • NICKEL SILVER FOR CAPS ENGRAVED TO MATCH PISTOLS
RETAIL VALUE OVER \$1300

To Purchase Tickets Call: 877-411-SASS or Visit Us Online at: www.sassnet.com

Entry Deadline November 21, 2008

*Pistols Donated by EMF
Grips and Accents by John Schultz
Engraving by Mark Swanson
Belt and Holsters by Big Ed Douglas*

Winner will be selected by random drawing at the 7th Annual SASS Convention, Saturday December 6th, 2008. Employees or family members of SASS are not eligible to participate. You need not be present to win. No maximum number of entries.



SASS CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Become a SASS Corporate Member Today!

Join Now

■ The Single Action Shooting Society® is proud to offer Corporate Memberships to businesses involved in SASS® and Cowboy Action Shooting™.

These annual memberships are designed to identify and offer special benefits to businesses that support SASS® and its membership.

Show your support by becoming a SASS® Corporate Member and let the industry and the SASS membership know you are part of our family.

SASS® Corporate Memberships run from January through December and are renewable annually.

Support

■ Annual SASS® Corporate Memberships give businesses the opportunity to show their support of SASS and the Cowboy Action Shooting™ community. Corporate Membership offers a unique package of benefits. By becoming a SASS® Corporate Member, you will be helping insure the future of SASS® and the sport of Cowboy Action Shooting™ as well as preserving the history of the Old West.

Fees

■ One-year Corporate Memberships are \$500 and provide your company with many worthwhile benefits, including multiple subscriptions to The Cowboy Chronicle, the SASS® Monthly Journal, license to use the SASS® logo in ads and promotions, a banner link on the SASS® Web Site as well as an identifying framed certificate.

SASS® Corporate Members can sign up by completing and returning this application with payment, or on-line at www.sassnet.com.

Benefits

- SASS Corporate Members receive the following benefits:
 - Five subscriptions to The Cowboy Chronicle
 - Five SASS® Marshal Lapel Pins
 - Five SASS® Decals
 - License to use the SASS® logo in ads and promotions
 - Banner link on a SASS® Web Site special Corporate Member page
 - Periodic company listing in the The Cowboy Chronicle
 - Custom framed membership certificate

Visit www.sassnet.com or call 1-877-411-SASS

SASS Corporate Member Application ~

Yes ____ Sign us up as a Corporate Member

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

e-mail: _____

Web Site Address: _____ Contact: _____

Please list up to five recipients for Cowboy Chronicle Subscriptions

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Corporate Membership - \$500.00 Renewal Corporate Membership - \$350.00

Bill Me Check Am EX Visa MasterCard Discover

Acct. No _____ Exp Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____



Single Action Shooting Society
23255 La Palma Ave, Yorba Linda, California 92887
www.sassnet.com • 1 877 411-SASS



SASS

APPAREL

Mercantile

SASS DENIM JACKET

Price: \$59.95

Denim Jacket, Blue, SASS Embroidered above left pocket and on back of collar.

AJ0003- Please specify size S,M,L,XL, & 2XL



NEW



COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING T-SHIRT

Price: \$14.95

• This 100%, pre-shrunk, heavy weight t-shirt comes with the SASS Marshal logo positioned on the left chest. Back top: The Single Action Shooting Society, Back bottom: Cowboy Action Shooting Celebrating America's Wild West Heritage.

ATS007-GR
Please specify size



FOUNDERS RANCH LONG SLEEVE BUTTON-UP SHIRT

Price: \$39.95

• This stylish denim shirt features an embroidered SASS Logo above a buttoned pocket

• Available in M, L, XL, XXL

ABL004-TN
Please specify size



SASS MARSHAL FIELD JACKET

Price: \$95.00

• Mustard colored 100% cotton duck with blanket lining.

• Many convenient pockets inside and out.

• Available in M, L, XL, XXL

AJ0001-MTM
Please specify size



2008 COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING T-SHIRT

Price: \$19.95

• Hanes Beefit - T shirt, Ash color. SASS Marshal logo on the front left chest. New Cowboy Action Shooting art on bac.

ATSCAS08- Please specify size - S,M,L,XL,2XL, & 3XL

SASS COLLEGIATE LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRT

Price: \$24.95

• This stylish collegiate long sleeve shirt commemorates the 1873 Colt Single Action Army and the Winchester '73

• Writing down right sleeve

• Limited Sizes Available

ATS004-LS
Please specify size



FOUNDERS RANCH T-SHIRT

Price: \$14.95

• This 100%, pre-shrunk, heavy weight t-shirt comes with the SASS Founders Ranch logo positioned on the left chest

• Back shown

• Available in S, M, L, XL, and XXL

ATS002-BN
Please specify size



SASS EMBROIDERED DENIM SHIRT

Price: \$39.95

• This stylish denim shirt features a highly embroidered SASS Logo above a buttoned pocket

• Made from a subtle but sturdy cotton denim, the button down collar adds a stylish look

• Available in L, XL, XXL, Youth/Ladies Medium and Youth/Ladies Large

ABL002-DE
Please specify size

SASS COLLEGIATE SWEAT SHIRT

Price: \$29.95

• This stylish collegiate sweat shirt commemorates the 1873 Colt Single Action Army and the Winchester '73

• Limited Sizes Available

ABL002-DE
Please specify size



SASS DELUXE BALL CAPS

Price: \$19.95

• This deluxe ball cap is 15% wool and 85% acrylic with 6 panels and sewn eyelets

• The SASS Marshal is embroidered on the front of the cap and there is a plastic snap size-adjuster in the back so you can get the perfect fit!

• Available in Navy Blue, Red and Black

• One size fits all

Black AC0001-BKD
Navy Blue AC0001-NYO
Red AC0001-RDO



JOHN DWAYNE DELUXE BALL CAP

Price: \$19.95

• This deluxe ball cap is 15% wool and 85% acrylic with 6 panels and sewn eyelets

• John Dwayne is embroidered on front with SASS on the back above the plastic snap size-adjuster!

• Available in Black, Navy Blue and Red

• One size fits all

Black AC0002-BKD
Navy Blue AC0002-NYO
Red AC0002-RDO



FOUNDERS RANCH BALL CAP

Price: \$19.95

• This deluxe ball cap is 100% cotton with 6 panels and sewn eyelets

• The Founders Ranch logo is embroidered on front

• One size fits all

AC0003-BNO



TO ORDER CALL: (877) 411-SASS or visit www.sassnet.com

SASS ACCESSORIES

Mercantile

SASS Collectors Badge rests on top of the ring cut outs



CUSTOM LEATHER POUCH BADGE HOLDER

Price: \$29.95
 • Hand stitched with heavy duty snap
 • Available in Black, Brown, and Tan

Black L00002-BKD
 Brown L00002-BND
 Natural L00002-NAT



CUSTOM LEATHER SASS BADGE HOLDER

Price: \$19.95
 • Hand stitched with heavy duty snap
 • Available in Black, Brown, and Natural

Black L00001-BKD
 Brown L00001-BND
 Natural L00001-NAT



SASS STERLING SILVER MONEY CLIP

Price: \$45.00
 • Crafted from Sterling Silver

G00010-000



CYLINDER PENCIL HOLDER BLUE AND NICKEL

Blue Pencil Holder - Price: \$29.95
 Nickel Pencil Holder - Price: \$34.95
 • Available in Blue and Nickel

Blue G00020-BLU
 Nickel G00020-NIC

Mercantile

CUSTOM ORDERS



CUSTOM ORDER

SASS COLLECTOR BADGES - GOLD AND SILVER

Price: \$43.95 - Gold Collectors Badge LIFE MEMBERS ONLY (Includes \$9.00 shipping)
 Price: \$33.95 - Silver Collectors Badge (Includes \$9.00 shipping)
 • Law enforcement-type badges are made in the U.S.A. and constructed of heavy brass alloy
 • The Gold Badge is plated in 24 karat gold
 • The Silver Badge is Rhodium plated for a high luster, scratch resistant, non-tarnish finish
 • All custom orders take 4-6 weeks

Gold C00001-G00
 Silver C00001-S10



CUSTOM ORDER

CLASSIC CAST IRON WALL CLOCK WITH YOUR ALIAS

Price: \$109.95 (Price includes shipping to Continental US. Extra Shipping applies to Alaska, Hawaii and International)
 • Please select a color, and enter your Alias and SASS Number. (see website for form or call 1-877-411-SASS to speak to a customer service representative)
 • Available in Black or Rust

Black C00006-000-BLA
 Rust C00006-000-RUS



CUSTOM ORDER

SASS DELUXE BELT BUCKLE WITH OR WITHOUT ALIAS

Price: \$84.00 - With Alias (Includes \$9.00 shipping)
 Price: \$69.00 - Without Alias (Includes \$9.00 shipping)
 • All custom orders take 4-6 weeks

C00002-000



CUSTOM ORDER

SASS DELUXE LADIES DRESS BUCKLE WITH ALIAS

Price: \$89.00 (Includes \$9.00 shipping)
 • All custom orders take 4-6 weeks

C00003-000



CUSTOM ORDER

SASS DELUXE MENS DRESS BUCKLE WITH ALIAS

Price: \$89.00 (Includes \$9.00 shipping)
 • All custom orders take 4-6 weeks

C00004-000



CUSTOM ORDER

SASS SUPREME BELT BUCKLE WITH ALIAS

Price: \$124.00 (Includes \$9.00 shipping)
 • SASS Supreme Custom Belt Buckle in Bass Relief Customized with your Alias
 • All custom orders take 4-6 weeks

C00005-000

TO ORDER CALL: (877) 411-SASS or visit www.sassnet.com



SASS

COLLECTIBLES

Mercantile

16OZ STAINLESS, TRAVEL MUG

Price: \$19.95

- 16 oz Stainless Steel Mug, with SASS Marshal logo on two sides.
- M00000-000

NEW



SASS CONVENTION 2006 LAPEL PIN

- Price: \$4.95
- 5th Annual SASS Convention and Wild West Christmas lapel pin from 2006. This pin is a great souvenir.

PC0600-000



END OF TRAIL 2005 LAPEL PIN

- Price: \$4.95
- 24th Anniversary End of Trail lapel pin from 2005. This pin is a great souvenir to have from End of Trail, the Cowboy Action Shooting Championships.

PE0500-000



END OF TRAIL 2006 LAPEL PIN

- Price: \$4.95
- 25th Anniversary End of Trail lapel pin from 2006. This pin is a great souvenir to have from End of Trail, the Cowboy Action Shooting Championships.

PE0600-000



SASS MARSHAL LAPEL PIN

- Price: \$4.95
- The SASS Marshal lapel pin is a great collector's item

P00001-000



SASS WATCH FOB WITH LEATHER STRAP GOLD AND SILVER

- Price: \$14.95 - Gold Watch FOB
Price: \$14.95 - Silver Watch FOB
- Available in Silver or Gold with an adjustable leather strap

Gold G00016-G00
Silver G00016-S10



FOUNDERS RANCH LAPEL PIN

- Price: \$4.95
- Lapel pin is 7/8" x 7/8". Has gold lettering and trim with background burgundy.

P00005-000



SASS LICENSE PLATE FRAME WITH FOUR-COLOR CAR PLATE

- Price: \$14.90
- Brite Chrome finish license plate frame with SASS logo plastic plate

G00008-000



SASS GUN CLEANING PAD

- Price: \$12.95
- Sturdy green Drymate gun cleaning pad
 - Washable, waterproof stain resistant pad
 - Measures 16" x 54"
 - Folds for easy storage

G00019-000



EMBROIDERED SASS MARSHAL PATCH

- Price: \$5.95
- 3" Patch embroidered SASS logo
 - Great for spicing up a jacket or duffel bag

G00012-000



SASS MOUSE PAD

Price: \$9.95

G00011-000



SASS HITCH COVER

- Price: \$39.95
- Made with high quality, durable steel and highlighted with the SASS Marshall in acrylic
 - The ideal way to beautify your hitch

G00022-000



SASS BADGE LAPEL PIN GOLD AND SILVER

- Price: \$9.95 - Gold
Price: \$9.95 - Silver

Gold P00003-000
Silver P00002-000

MUGS & MORE



SASS TRAILER SIZE DECAL

- Price: \$43.95
- The SASS trailer size decal is perfect for your recreational vehicle or club
 - Complete color detail, the decal is a peel-and-stick
 - Easy to install with a spray bottle and water

G00003-000



ZIPPERED KOOZIE

Price: \$12.95

- High quality, black, durable neoprene zippered koozie ensures your favorite bottled beverage stays chilled
- Features a non slip base

G00021-000



8OZ STAINLESS STEEL HIP FLASK

Price: \$21.95

- 8 Ounce Stainless Steel engraved Hip Flask
- Each Flask is 100% Stainless Steel with the SASS Marshall Logo and includes a hinged safety cap

G00020-000

SASS MARSHAL DECAL

Price: \$5.00 each or 3 for \$5.00

- Full color self stick decal

G00004-000



SASS BULLET HOLE MUG

Price: \$9.95

- Ceramic mug with bullet hole design

M00002-000



JOHN DWAYNE MUG

Price: \$12.95

- Ceramic mug with SASS logo on one side and EOT John Dwayne Logo on the other

M00001-000



FOUNDERS RANCH MUG

Price: \$11.95

- Ceramic mug with the SASS Founder's Ranch logo in deep red embossed on both sides

M00004-000

TO ORDER CALL: (877) 411-SASS or visit www.sassnet.com



SASS

VIDEOS & DVDs

Mercantile

ONE-EYED-HORSE

NEW

Price: \$19.95 - DVD

Exclusive SASS Edition of the New Western Starring Mark Redfield, Jennifer Rouse and Mike Hagan. Extras include: THE GUNS OF ONE-EYED HORSE Documentary and more!

VD00005-000



COWBOY ACTION SHOOTER TV 2004 SERIES: VOLS 1-4

Price: \$89.95 - DVD

• The Complete 13 episode 2004 Cowboy Action Shooter Series on DVD

• Volumes 1-4

VD00005-000



COWBOY ACTION SHOOTER TV - VOLUME I

Price: \$24.95 - DVD

• Episode 1-EOT Action Shooting
• Episode 2-EOT Mounted Shooting
• Episode 3-EOT Ladies Edition

VD00001-000



COWBOY ACTION SHOOTER TV - VOLUME II

Price: \$24.95 - DVD

• Episode 4-Shootout at Mule Camp
• Episode 5-Hell on Wheels
• Episode 6-Shootout at Horse Ridge

VD00002-000



COWBOY ACTION SHOOTER TV - VOLUME III

Price: \$24.95 - DVD

• Episode 7-Guns of August
• Episode 8-Mason Dixon Stampede
• Episode 9-Showdown at Buck Creek

VD00003-000



COWBOY ACTION SHOOTER TV - VOLUME IV

Price: \$24.95 - DVD

• Episode 10-SASS International Black Powder Championships
• Episode 11-Shootout at Deadman's Pt.
• Episode 12-SASS Western Regional
• Episode 13-SASS Convention

VD00004-000



BAR-H INTRODUCTION TO COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING

Price: \$24.95 - DVD

• A great entry level video

DVD - VD00008-000



BAR-H TOP SHOOTERS GUIDE PART I

Price: \$24.95 - DVD

DVD - VD00009-000



BAR-H TOP SHOOTERS GUIDE PART II

Price: \$24.95 - DVD

DVD - VD00010-000



END OF TRAIL, 2006

Price: \$24.95 - DVD

The Silver 25th Anniversary Edition!

VD00044-000



2004 END OF TRAIL

Price: \$24.95 - DVD

Price: \$24.95 - VHS

• The 1997 World Championship of Cowboy Action Shooting

DVD - VD00006-000

VHS - VV00006-000



1997 END OF TRAIL

Price: \$19.95 - VHS

• The 1997 World Championship of Cowboy Action Shooting

VV00005-000



2001 END OF TRAIL

Price: \$24.95 - VHS

• The 20th Anniversary End of Trail 2001 Video

VV00007-000



CREATING YOUR OWN VICTORIAN HAT

Price: \$29.95 - DVD

• Learn the secrets of making Victorian hats with all the flare and elegance

VD00037-000



MAKING YOUR OWN VICTORIAN BALL GOWNS

Price: \$29.95 - DVD

• This video shows you where to find second hand prom dresses and how to take two or three dresses and make one beautiful gown for pennies

VD00038-000



CREATING YOUR OWN B-WESTERN OUTFIT

Price: \$29.95 - DVD

• Teaches how to design and make breathtaking outfits for men or women
• Hurricane will also share with you the accessories that must accompany the outfit to make it complete

VD00007-000



THE DARK SIDE

Price: \$29.95 - DVD

Price: \$29.95 - VHS

• Learn shooting techniques along with how to load cap and ball revolvers, lever action rifles, and double barrel shotguns

DVD - VD00022-000

VHS - VV00025-000



OUTLAW ANNIE'S BEST OF MOUNTED SHOOTING - VOL. I

Price: \$34.95 - DVD

• Highlights include Shooting Technique, Horse Training Tips, Stage Patterns, Wardrobe Tips, and Competition Footage

VD00017-000



OUTLAW ANNIE'S MOUNTED SHOOTING - VOL. II COMPETITIVE EDGE

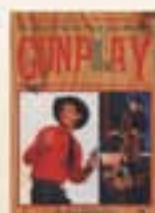
Price: \$39.95 - DVD

Price: \$39.95 - VHS

• Mounted shooting drills, expert's advice on bits, sports medicine and more

DVD - VD00018-000

VHS - VV00018-000



GUNPLAY

Price: \$19.95 - DVD

• The world's greatest trick and fancy gun artists, sharpshooters, movie stars and stuntmen!

VD00043-000



GUNPLAY MADE EASY PART I

Price: \$19.95 - DVD

• Learn traditional Hollywood western fast draw and gun spinning from top international movie gun coach Alex Green

VD00041-000



GUNPLAY MADE EASY PART II

Price: \$19.95 - DVD

• Part II picks up where Part I left off. More advanced gun spinning, fast draw and trick shooting

VD00042-000



BOB MUNDEN - THE COLLECTOR'S EDITION

Price: \$9.95 - DVD

• This collectible DVD includes a full 2 hrs and 20 minutes of super shooting!

VD00039-000



HOW TO BE A MASTER GUNFIGHTER

Price: \$29.95 - DVD

• This video contains expert instruction in fast draw and Cowboy Action Shooting, as well as speed shooting demonstrations

VD00015-000



GUNSITE'S COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING

Price: \$29.95 - VHS

• Learn how to safely handle and operate single action in an exciting introductory video by one of the world's top training centers

VV00001-000

TO ORDER CALL: (877) 411-SASS or visit www.sassnet.com



SASS

VIDEOS & DVDS

Mercantile



GUN TWIRLING FOR BEGINNERS
 Price: \$14.95 - DVD
 • Pistol Packin' Paula, entertainer and accomplished stuntwoman, shares her tips about gun handling with her .45 Colt in a 20 minute video
 VD00014-000



ROY ROGERS & RANDY TRAVIS COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING
 Price: \$19.95 - VHS
 • Join Roy Rogers, Randy Travis, and Dusty Rogers as they look at one of the nation's fastest growing membership organizations - SASS
 VV00011-000



SPEED & ACCURACY COWBOY ACTION STYLE
 Price: \$29.95 - DVD
 • This informative how-to video shows you the best shooting tips and techniques using single action revolvers, lever action revolvers, and cowboy style shotguns
 VD00021-000



CUSTOMIZING THE COLT SINGLE ACTION ARMY
 Price: \$29.95 - VHS
 • Master Gunsmith Larry Crow shows you everything you need to know about customizing a Colt Single Action Army for increased accuracy and reliability
 VHS - VV00003-000



COLT SINGLE ACTION ARMY COMPLETE DISASSEMBLY & REASSEMBLY, CLEANING & MAINTENANCE
 Price: \$29.95 - VHS
 • Master gunsmith, Larry Crow shows you complete disassembly and reassembly of the Colt Single Action Army revolver along with cleaning and maintenance tips
 VV00002-000



DVDs sold separately

EVIL ROY - VOL I PISTOL TECHNIQUES
 Price: \$29.95 - DVD
 • Award winning pistol techniques and drills for all levels of CAS shooters
 VD00011-000

EVIL ROY - VOL II RIFLE TECHNIQUES
 Price: \$29.95 - DVD
 • Award winning rifle techniques and drills for all levels of CAS shooters
 VD00012-000

EVIL ROY - VOL III SHOTGUN TECHNIQUES
 Price: \$29.95 - DVD
 • Award winning rifle techniques and drills for all levels of CAS shooters
 VD00013-000

EVIL ROY - VOL IV HANDLING & TRANSITIONS
 Price: \$29.95 - DVD
 • Award winning handling and transition techniques for all levels of CAS shooters
 VD00014-000

LIFE MEMBERS



LIFE MEMBER MUG
 Price: \$14.95
 • We took our favorite mug and transformed it for you, the SASS Life Member!
 • Designed with the distinguishable SASS Life Member Logo, this mug is sure to please any SASS Life Member
 M00007-000



LIFE MEMBER LAPEL PIN
 Price: \$8.95
 • Show your Life Member Status with the distinctly designed SASS Life Member Logo
 • The perfect accompaniment to your Gold Badge
 P00007-000



LIFE MEMBER EMBROIDERED BALL CAP
 Price: \$19.95
 • This stylish ball cap is embroidered with the SASS Life Member logo on front
 • One size fits all
 AC0005-800



LIFE MEMBER PULLOVER SWEATSHIRT
 Price: \$39.95
 • Our heavy duty SASS Life Member Pullover Sweatshirt was designed with versatility in mind
 • It is sure to keep you warm and comfortable on the range
 • Available in M, L, XL, XXL and XXXL
 ASL002-LS
 Please specify size



LIFE MEMBER BUTTON DOWN OXFORD SHIRT
 Price: \$39.95
 • Embroidered with the SASS Life Member Logo
 • Perfect for work or play
 • Available in M, L, XL and XXXL
 ABL005-LS
 Please specify size

TO ORDER CALL: (877) 411-SASS or visit www.sassnet.com

SASS FINE FIREARMS

Mercantile

SASS COLT SINGLE ACTION

Price: \$1,325.00

From the moment you hold a genuine Colt Single Action Army you understand what legends like Hickok, Earp and the original Wild Bunch have known since Colt was first awarded its patent in 1871. Now, as a SASS Member, You can create your own legend with the exclusive Colt SASS Single Action. The *Special Edition Colt SASS Single Action (Model "P" Peacemaker)* is custom built to your specifications with your SASS badge number as the serial number. Choose from three distinct models – The SASS Shooter, SASS Regulator or the SASS Marshal. Each model is hand crafted by the Colt Custom Shop and covered by Colt's Standard Lifetime Service Agreement. Blue with case color hardened or nickel finish, choice of barrel lengths and caliber make your SASS Colt a one-of-a-kind original. You can even have your alias panagraphed down the backstrap. Pairs are available with a second gun having a reversed serial number from the first. (00001-99999SASS). Don't delay. Create your own history and legacy by adding The Colt SASS Single Action to your collection today. After all, Real Cowboys Shoot Colts. America's First Name in Firearms Colt Since 1836.

THE SASS SHOOTER, MODEL #1 - \$1,335.00

The SASS Shooter comes with your choice of barrel length, caliber and finish. No other modifications are available.

THE SASS REGULATOR, MODEL #2 (10 LETTERS) - \$1,635.00

The SASS Regulator comes with your choice of Finish, Barrel Length and Caliber. This model also includes your choice of Custom Grips and your Alias (up to 10 letters) panagraphed down the backstrap in your choice of script or block.

THE SASS REGULATOR, MODEL #2 (20 LETTERS) - \$1,690.00

The SASS Regulator comes with your choice of Finish, Barrel Length and Caliber. This model also includes your choice of Custom Grips and your Alias (up to 20 letters) panagraphed down the backstrap in your choice of script or block.

THE SASS MARSHAL, MODEL #3 (10 LETTERS) - \$2,320.00

The SASS Marshal includes Colt's B-Engraving and comes with your choice of Finish, Barrel Length and Caliber. This model also includes your choice of Custom Grips and your Alias (up to 10 letters) panagraphed down the backstrap in your choice of script or block.

THE SASS MARSHAL, MODEL #3 (20 LETTERS) - \$2,415.00

The SASS Marshal includes Colt's B-Engraving and comes with your choice of Finish, Barrel Length and Caliber. This model also includes your choice of Custom Grips and your Alias (up to 20 letters) panagraphed down the backstrap in your choice of script or block.

OWN A HANDFUL OF HISTORY

From the moment you hold a genuine Colt Single Action Army you understand what legends like Hickok, Earp and the original Wild Bunch have known since Colt was first awarded its patent in 1871.

Now, as a SASS Member, you can create your own legend with the exclusive Colt SASS Single Action. The Special Edition Colt SASS Single Action is custom built to your specifications with your SASS Badge number as the serial number.

Choose from three distinct models – The SASS Shooter, SASS Regulator or the SASS Marshal. Each model is hand crafted by the Colt Custom Shop and covered by Colt's Standard Lifetime Service Agreement.

Blue or nickel finish, choice of barrel lengths and caliber make your SASS Colt a one-of-a-kind original. You can even have your alias panagraphed down the backstrap. Pairs are available with a second gun having a reversed serial number from the first. (00001-99999SASS).

Don't delay. Create your own history and legacy by adding the Colt SASS Single Action to your collection today. After all, Real Cowboys Shoot Colts.

COLT **SASS**

AMERICA'S FIRST NAME IN FIREARMS COLT SINCE 1836

Allow 9 to 12 months for delivery

IMPORTANT: Stag Grips are no longer available with this program. No alternative configurations are available. This offer valid only to current SASS Members. Buyer is responsible for identifying a dealer to receive the firearms. A photocopy of the dealers Federal Firearms License (FFL) bearing an original signature must be sent to SASS before your Colt SASS Single Action can be shipped or delivered.

Price includes shipping to Continental US. Extra Shipping applies to Alaska, Hawaii and International.

Product Options:
You may customize your fine Colt from the following options. Please enter your 10 or 20 letter SASS Number/Alias in the last box when ordering the SASS Regulator or SASS Marshall.

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The SASS Marshal includes B-Engraving
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END OF TRAIL Time for a Face Lift . . .

(Continued from page 6)

the first weekend of the event. Shooting starts Monday, June 22nd. The Wild Bunch and the warm-up matches will be hosted on Monday and Tuesday. Side matches will occur on Wednesday along with the usual opening ceremonies Wednesday evening. For those tight on time or interested only in the main match, you can defer your arrival time until as late as Wednesday, June 24th and participate fully in the event.

The main match will be hosted on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday as before, with public entertainment limited to Friday and Saturday, the only days the public will be invited to attend.

Evening activities are expected to be drastically revised as well, and planning is still in process. Evenings will be far less formal than they have been in the past ... our members like to party, socialize, and provide much of their own entertainment. Incremental awards will be recognized in the evening as soon as practical following the events. The Wild Bunch awards will be handed out Tuesday evening; side match awards on Thursday evening. All costume contests and costume awards may be

finalized by Friday evening.

Saturday evening, everyone has finished the World Championship competition and wants to know "who won?" The first item on the Saturday evening agenda will be the main match awards! Following these awards, it's party time!! The winners can bask in glory and the praise of their peers, and the losers can explain their woes away over beer and/or Tequila! Dancing, cards, and socializing will be the order of the evening.

With the wrap-up of awards on Saturday evening, what's left for Sunday? There will be plenty to do on Sunday, but it is also an optional event day ... those with long commutes home can pack up and get as early a start as they wish! Those interested in the Top Gun Shoot-off and the other specialty shooting events are invited to stay for Cowboy Church, perhaps a Dutch oven breakfast, and more shooting. Awards for these Sunday events will be recognized immediately following each event.

While the big picture has been framed, there are clearly many details yet to be finalized. Receptions, seminars, and meetings traditionally held will be revisited and

rescheduled. Even assignments for event organizers to interface with shooters, waddies, and vendors are being addressed to ensure everyone has the most agreeable experience possible at END of TRAIL. As things change and are finalized, they'll be identified in *The Cowboy Chronicle* and on the SASS web site. Also, pay attention to the END of

TRAIL advertisement and application on page 55 of this issue. It, too, will be updated as appropriate from time to time.

By early afternoon Sunday, the Ranch will begin returning to its tranquil, rural environment ... and even the buffalo can go back to their quiet, majestic grazing. Please plan to join us for END of TRAIL in 2009! 🤠

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The Single Action Shooting Society™ is an international membership organization created to preserve and promote the sport of Cowboy Action Shooting™. SASS endorses national, regional, and state matches conducted by affiliated clubs; stages End of Trail™, The World Championship of Cowboy Action Shooting™, promulgates rules and procedures to ensure safety and consistency in Cowboy Action Shooting™; and seeks to protect it's members' 2nd amendment rights. SASS members share a common interest in preserving the history and traditions of the Old West and competitive shooting.

SASS Members Receive a Wagon Load of Benefits:

Permanent member/shooter number, SASS badge, SASS membership card, SASS Marshall lapel pin, SASS membership certificate, The monthly Cowboy Chronicle, SASS Decal, SASS shooters handbook, and a Gold collector's badge for Life members.

A Silver Collector's badge is also available to order with your membership.



THE SINGLE ACTION SHOOTING SOCIETY

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