



# The Cowboy Chronicle

The Monthly Journal of the Single Action Shooting Society®

Vol. 22 No. 12

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December 2009

See our  
**EXCITING**  
Mercantile section  
(starting on page 87)

## A SASS Double Feature

# HEADQUARTERS AND BUSTUP AT BOOMTOWN

By Grey Fox, SASS Life Regulator #223, and Miss Mary Spencer, SASS Life #55147

**V**ictoria & Courtenay, BC - Better than two B-Westerns at the Saturday matinee, couple the oldest SASS affiliated match in Canada to the newest cowboy town, and you have events that equal any on the SASS circuit.

Like the matinees of old, western dress and blazing six-guns were the order of the day on each occasion. The concept of two events, the last weekend of August and the first weekend of September, was a fine stroke of genius.

The shootists descended on Vancouver's Island to shoot and vacation. Life can't get much better. As Gus said in Lonesome Dove, "the older the violin, the sweeter the music" and the 18th Annual Headquarters of 2009 proved to be one of the best ever. Salmonella Gulch was hopping with miscreants at Lean Laura's, others attempting to rob the Express Office, and on it went. Once more Cornelius O'Keefe



The Grey Fox, impersonating Appaloosa's Everett Hitch character, cut a dashing figure and made lots of smoke in a very traditional way. Grey Fox's enthusiastic, long time involvement in Cowboy Action Shooting™, his love for the "old ways," and his adherence to costuming from the very beginning are all factors that contributed to his induction into the SASS Cowboy Action Shooting™ Hall of Fame, Class of 2009.

See **HIGHLIGHTS** on pages 70, 71

Cremation of Sam McGee" and other Robert Service favorites. The stage props were superb. The action was fast and stages very shootable. Boomtown has the finest buildings, mine shaft, and fort. Saturday's dinner with side match and costume awards was a credit to any SASS event.

Sunday's action was a little damp; however, it moved along with spirit and enthusiasm. The Sunday dinner and main match winner awards was splendid dining with majestic views of the mountains and Comox Lake. Costuming was excellent, and the array of awards breathtaking. The winners list for Head-

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from Germany presided over the mid and long range event and the much coveted Schutzen target.

The SASS Canadian Regional, "Bustup at Boomtown," was pure Robert Service, the gold rush poet. The Friday night festivities included a steak BBQ and entertainment pro-

vided by the Boomtown Thespian Society performing Robert Service's "The Shooting of Dan McGrew."

Everett Hitch's quote from Appaloosa "we do gun work because we are better at it" and good gun work there was. The main stages were all Yukon themes, including "The

## NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL

See  
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Justice Lily Kate and Shotglass entertain celebrity visitor of stage, screen, and radio fame, Jed Clampett ... oh, no wait ... it's Judge Roy Bean! The Judge has finished his cancer treatments, has the tubes out, and is getting a new set of teeth ... he's down to "fighting weight" ... and with a little luck will stabilize and be as feisty as ever! The Judge plans to attend the Convention ... and hang out in the Riviera's Judge Roy Bean Saloon, day and night, until Kate pulls his kitchen pass ... come by and say hello!



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

# RANGE OPERATIONS

## Revisited

By Tex, SASS #4

to their top shooters to design and administer their matches. These same top shooters are the ones who are motivated to do just that ... they know what constitutes a good match, and they want a match that is fun for them. Unfortunately, after they do all that, it's unfair for them win their own event.

I'm very sensitive to this particular issue ... in the early days of SASS, I belonged to The West End Outlaws, the second oldest Cowboy Action Shooting™ Club in the United States. West End had its first annual match in October 1982. West End chose to publish its match stages prior to the match ...

so everyone knew what to expect ... no surprises!

In those early days, none of us really knew what we were doing ... so the club chose to shoot the stages a few times ... to "test for safety issues." We quickly learned after running through a stage a few times, our shooting times were drastically reduced! Many of the early Cowboy Action Champions were West End Outlaws!

Everyone quickly understood this was bad practice ... it gave those from the "home club" an unfair advantage over the other competitors. It became common practice to keep the stages "under wraps" until the match so everyone saw them at the same time ... and everyone's first

run was for official time.

In the early days we had several instances where Match Directors won their own match. This was deemed inappropriate for a number of reasons. First of all, the "natural" thing for anyone to do is design stages that accommodate the designer's strengths. Secondly, even if they had not practiced the stages, they were able to "dry run" them mentally many times prior to the event ... once again providing an "unfair advantage." Bill Oglesby, an excellent competitor and match designer of the Mid-West Regional many years ago, won his own match, but set his scores aside and proceeded to recognize winners from the rest of

(Continued on next page)

I have noticed a number of instances in the past couple of years of "questionable" range operations activities by Match Directors and their key staff. Any time match organizers have prior knowledge of match stages, whether they "practice" the stages or not, there is both a real and perceived "unfair advantage" for these officials, especially if they plan to shoot the match (and win).

Unfortunately, many clubs turn



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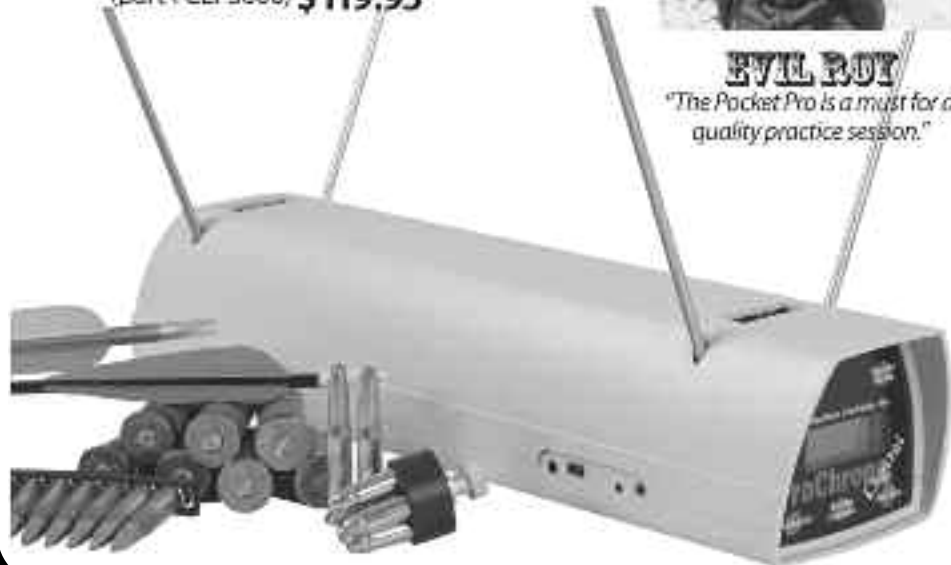
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(Continued from previous page) the competitors. This was a very classy move that was much appreciated by everyone. (It's fine for the Match Director to shoot his own match ... that's about all the "pay back" or "reward" he's going to get ... but it's poor form for the Match Director to win his own match.)

Safe stages are a must at every event. However, today we have enough experience and the benefit of RO-II training to quickly determine the appropriateness of a stage simply by looking at it. If there are concerns, a walkthrough by a few experienced RO-II's will usually complete the review. Shooting the stages is no longer required or appropriate.

In those rare instances where special props are being introduced for the first time, SASS has found the best way to ensure these props are going to withstand the rigors of a match, not impede the flow of the match, or introduce unexpected safety issues is to use the props in a few

monthly matches prior to the "big event." Scenarios similar, but different, from the ones planned for the big event can be used without jeopardizing the fairness of the big event.

The Wild Bunch developed an internal policy for ourselves that whoever was exposed to the stages prior to END of TRAIL was not eligible to shoot and win the match. We've gotten so old and slow, none of us are a threat anymore, so we now feel free to review and critique the END of TRAIL stages and still shoot the match!

Remember ... practicing match stages at the home range before a big match is cheating. Mentally practicing the stages for weeks is just as bad. Cheating is an ethics issue ... and everyone knows, when it comes to ethics, even the appearance of impropriety must be avoided. Don't put your top shooters in jeopardy by being too lazy to have a match committee design the "big match" for everyone! 🤞



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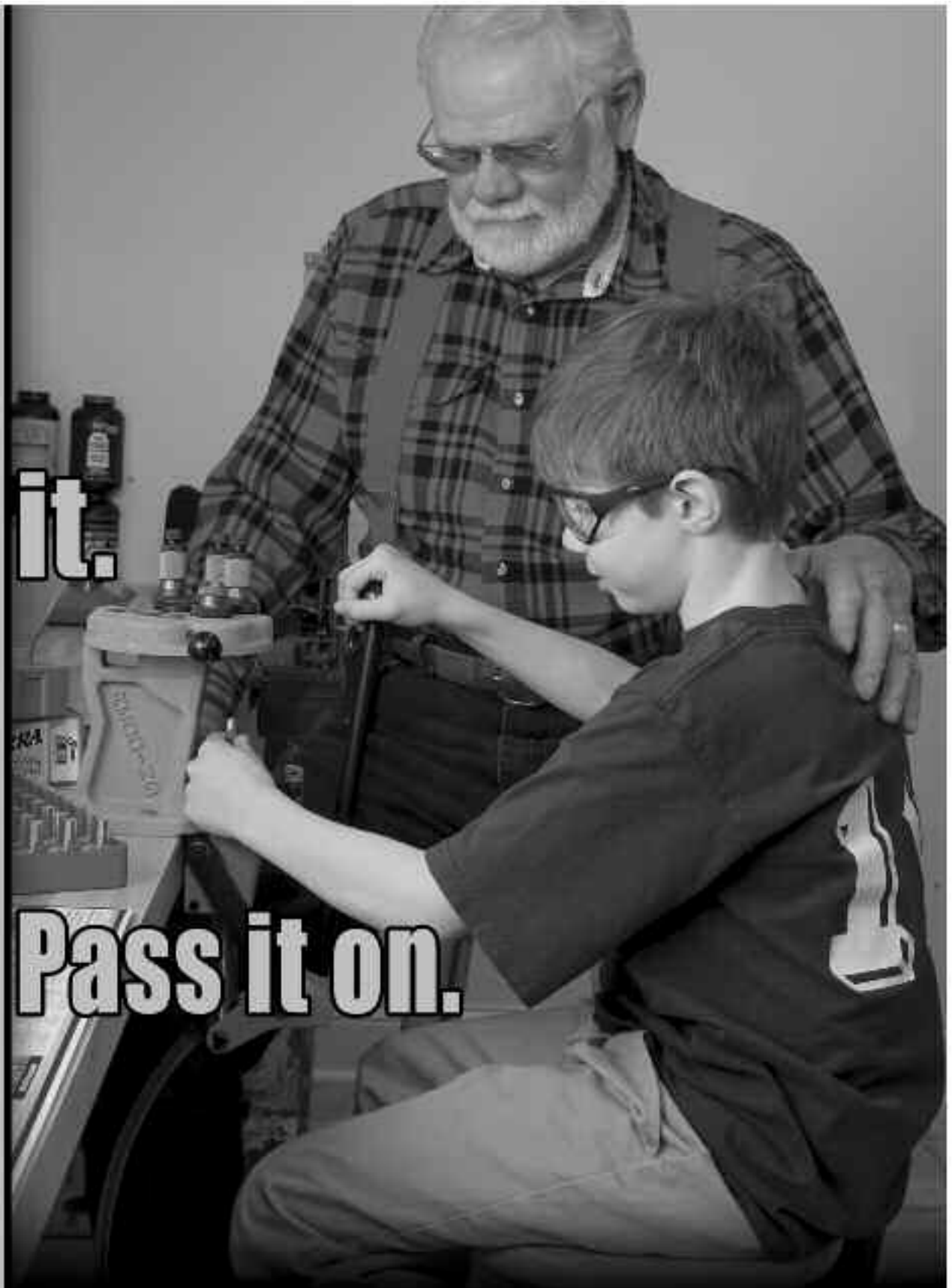
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# BERETTA'S FASTEST GUN ALIVE

**Fallon, NV** – Beretta's 2009 Fastest Gun Alive – World Championship of Cowboy Fast Draw results are in from Fallon, NV, and Gil Guerra Jr. a.k.a. "Master Gunfighter" (Cisco, SASS #7590), of Alta Loma, CA is the Overall Men's World Champion. Winning the Women's Title is Dinah Eilrich a.k.a. "Alotta Lead," of Fernley, NV.

The event was held over the course of three days with 144 of the top competitors from 20 states and Canada competing for the title of Beretta's Fastest Gun Alive. Cowboy Fast Draw is a fast growing sport that uses six-guns and holsters from the time period of the American Old West. Wax bullet ammunition is used that moves as fast as live ammunition, but is safely trapped by a backstop system. This allows championship contests to be held in a wide variety of venues. Gun safety is always the number one concern.

This is the second year the Fallon Tourism Board has sponsored and hosted the event at the Churchill County Fairgrounds – Rodeo Arena, with  
*(Continued on next page)*



*Rounding out the Top Five Men Finals were Howard Darby a.k.a. "Spinner" of Calgary, Canada; Jon Wilson a.k.a. "Trickshot" of Sierra Madre, CA; Mark Compton a.k.a. "Straight Shot" of Nampa, ID; and Bob Grilli a.k.a. "Frontier Bob" of Martinez, CA. The Women's Top Five included Annette Coffman a.k.a. "Miss B. Haven" of Caldwell, ID; Stormie Mernickle a.k.a. "Stormie Weather" of Fernley, NV; Shirley Coffman a.k.a. "Legally Loaded" of Caldwell, ID; and Donna Sundbye a.k.a. "Lady Drifter" of Caldwell, ID.*

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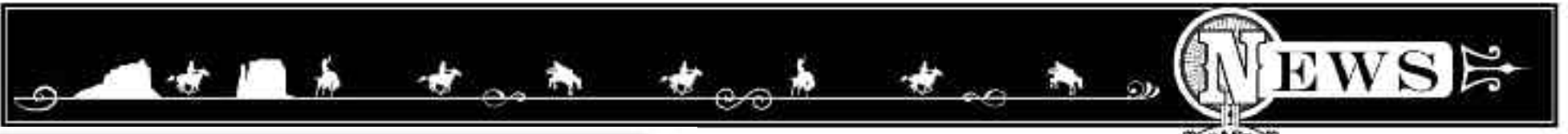
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# GREY FOX MAKES A MISTAKE!

By Grey Fox, SASS #223



The last line in the article about Boom Town appearing in the October Cowboy Chronicle should not have included the word "Western." It should simply be referred to as the SASS Canadian Regional. The Grey Fox apologizes for this inaccuracy and seeks forgiveness for anybody offended.

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| Winners                       |   |
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| <b>Overall Man</b>            | Cisco, SASS #7590 of Alta Loma, CA                    |
| <b>Lady</b>                   | Alotta Lead, SASS #20052 of Fernley, NV               |
| <b>Categories Traditional</b> | Peter Mattson of Superior, WI                         |
| <b>L Traditional</b>          | Annette Coffman of Caldwell, ID                       |
| <b>49'r</b>                   | Mark Compton of Nampa, ID                             |
| <b>L 49'r Senior</b>          | Alotta Lead Jim Vonfledt of Portland, OR              |
| <b>L Senior</b>               | Maggie Skoog of Pogosa Springs, CO                    |
| <b>S Senior</b>               | Buzzard Cooper, SASS #17937 of Star, ID               |
| <b>L S Senior</b>             | Joan Rigglesman of Fallon, NV                         |
| <b>Old Timers</b>             | Bob Gilli of Martinez, CA                             |
| <b>Shootist</b>               | Mississippi Marshal, SASS #48655 of Idaho City, ID    |
| <b>Junior</b>                 | Alex Armitage of Reno, NV                             |
| <b>L Junior</b>               | Erica Watkins of Los Banos, CA                        |
| <b>Billy the Kid</b>          | Oliver Johnson of Idaho City, ID                      |
| <b>Annie Oakley</b>           | Elyssa Long of Star, ID                               |
| <b>Top Couple</b>             | Quick Cal, SASS #2707, and Alotta Lead of Fernley, NV |
| <b>Top Club</b>               | Great Basin Gun Hawks of Fernley, NV                  |

(Continued from previous page)  
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Cisco began shooting the original type of Fast Draw in 1968 and has won several World Championships, including two previous "Fastest Gun Alive" titles. Cisco currently is starring in the Television Show called "Impossible Shots," which is shown each Wednesday on the Outdoor Channel. He performs various trick shots that showcase his talent with a six-gun. Even though he has had over 40 years of competitive experience, this was his first major tournament in the Sport of Cowboy Fast Draw. It is truly an incredible accomplishment to win the sport's biggest title on the first attempt!

Alotta Lead has been involved in the sport for over 18 years, and this is her 10th World Fast Draw Championship. She is also the current National Cowboy Fast Draw Champion winning that title in June in Idaho City, ID. She was this year's defending champion and is the first person to repeat back-to-back years for the title of Fastest Gun Alive. Alotta Lead is also an artist and has been commissioned to create hundreds of pencil portraits over her career.  
For more information on the fast growing sport of Cowboy Fast Draw or for complete results of Beretta's Fastest Gun Alive go to: [www.cowboyfastdraw.com](http://www.cowboyfastdraw.com). Or, contact the Cowboy Fast Draw Association at 775-575-1802.

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### WHO IS THE KILLINGEST GUN-FIGHTER IN THE OLD WEST?

There is an article in the History section on page 50 of the September Cowboy Chronicle by Seven Ladders. He put the following statement under the picture:

"Killin' Jim Miller ... is reputed to have at least a dozen kills, the most of any Old West Gunfighter."

What! Hasn't he heard of John Wesley Hardin, who killed something like 42 men?

I don't want to make a hero out of Wes Hardin, but it's obvious to me The Cowboy Chronicle should correct this.

Just Google John Wesley Hardin on the Internet. You'll find everyone agrees the number to be between 20 and 44.

In his autobiography, Wes Hardin himself claims 42. A recent biography (The Last Gunfighter - John Wesley Hardin) by Richard Marohn agrees Hardin's list is a "fairly accurate tally of the men

killed by John Wesley Hardin." (See page 299 and the list is on page 300.)

In "The Shooters" by Leon Claire Metz, Metz claims on page 258 Hardin had killed about 30 persons by the time he was 21.

An example from the Internet: [http://americanhistory.suite101.com/article.cfm/john\\_wesley\\_hardin](http://americanhistory.suite101.com/article.cfm/john_wesley_hardin)

John Wesley Hardin: The Gunfighter

The Meanest Man in Texas  
© Jim Osborn

In the 1800's in the American Wild West, John Wesley Hardin was an active and prolific cold-blooded killer who shot over 40 men.

Bottom line is the last thing I want to do is start a debate or glorify the killings of Wes Hardin or anybody else. But a statement like "Killin' Jim Miller ... is reputed to have at least a dozen kills, the most of any Old West Gunfighter" in a publication like The Cowboy Chronicle is going to get some attention. I'll bet I'm not the only cowboy to comment.

Tex Fiddler, SASS #10127  
Valencia, CA

### Seven Ladders' Response:

Yes the killings of John Wesley Hardin are controversial. I personally think they number about sixty. But what are we to believe? Hardin's autobiography? I think it was designed to *lessen* the murders, but others think it was designed to *enhance* the murders! An Englishman, Bruce Landers, who specializes in WW-II "ace" confirmed kills of fighter pilots sees only eight confirmed kills for Hardin.

One thing is a fact: we must not trust Hardin's autobiography.

So, what biographers Metz and Marohn say will always be different than me, but the basic point here is not what John Wesley Hardin admitted. A high or a low number doesn't matter. A higher number is Jim Brown's admission before he was swung off his feet by vigilantes in Ada, Oklahoma, in 1909, "Let the record show I have killed fifty-one men!"

I don't think he was in competition with his wife's distant cousin, John Wesley Hardin. I think he was admitting something closer to

the truth. The major difference between Miller and Hardin, however, goes far beyond that. Hardin's murders were belt buckle-to-belt buckle bar fights, usually drunk, whereas Miller's were mostly shot-gunning in the dark on a lonely trail. I feel Miller was a far more complex, deadly character than even John Wesley Hardin. I eagerly await a new biography on James Brown Miller, due out shortly.

Seven Ladders, SASS #75112  
Austin, TX

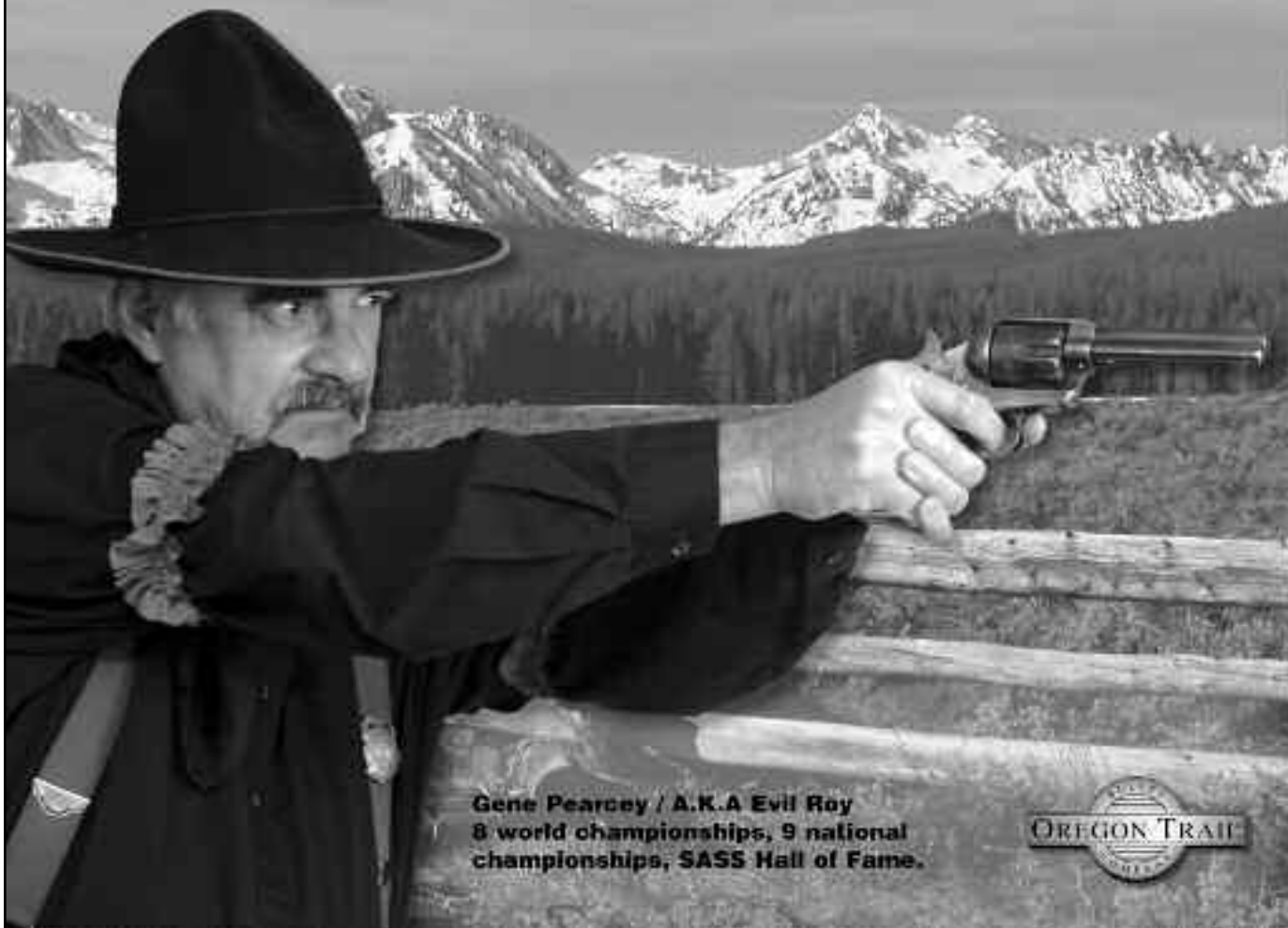
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Side Matches after Main Match

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### A CORRECTION FOR LITTLE KNOWN FAMOUS PEOPLE ARIZONA BILL

Joe Fasthorse has a small history article on page 55 of the October issue, about Raymond Hatfield Gardner. In it, he states, "In the late 1890s, he (Gardner) served as an Arizona Ranger ..."

This statement contains two errors. First, the Arizona Rangers were not authorized until 1901, and were disbanded in 1909. Second, only 107 men served as Rangers, and Gardner's name is not on the list. (Reference: "The Arizona Rangers," by Bill O'Neil, Eakin Press, 1987.) The list of names is on page 181 of the paperback edition.

This information can be verified at the Arizona Historical Society, Arizona Heritage Center, Tucson, AZ, Ranger file.

Now I know this is pretty trivial, but it does show some of us read *The Cowboy Chronicle* pretty darn close, especially when it comes to history!

Lawdog Ranger,  
SASS Life #9539  
Cheektowaga, NY

**Fasthorse's Response:** It gives me great pleasure to learn we have devoted fans that read "Little Known Famous People!" My reference material for the Arizona Bill article was from "Legends of America." I have further researched the Arizona Rangers and find that Lawdog Ranger is right about my time line. The reference material from "Legends of America" reads, "In 1892, he was an entertainer in Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show and would LATER, serve as a U.S. Deputy Marshal and an Arizona Ranger." My interpretation reads "In the late 1890's, he served as an Arizona Ranger and a U.S. Deputy Marshal." I thank Lawdog for pointing out my mistake.

Since I have not yet read *The Arizona Rangers* book I cannot comment on the list of names that appears on page 181. However, I did find a web site, <http://www.azrangers.org/graves.html>, that lists the Ranger Grave Sites of the 107 original Territorial Arizona

Rangers, and Raymond Hatfield "Arizona Bill" Gardner does not appear on this list. So, it looks like Lawdog is right again! 🤠

### GOOD EXPERIENCE!

After reading a letter in the last *Cowboy Chronicle* from Ex-Member from Dewey, AZ, I was surprised any group of Cowboys would be that way. Everyone should be welcome.

Speaking as a new SASS member with the Zen Shootists in Iowa, I was welcomed with open arms. Like most newbie's I struggled in certain areas, but Cap Horn, club President, and all the members of the club have offered the shirts off their backs to help out. Well, maybe not, as I don't think I want to see them shirtless!

My wife and I just finished our first State Shoot and only our 4th match, and brother, are we hooked! I want to thank all Cowboys and Cowgirls everywhere for making our experience a great one.

Alaska Jack, SASS #84574  
Bondurant, Iowa 🤠

### THANKS, AND CORRECTION

First of all I want to thank Sgt. Shuster for his fine review of the final book in my "Doc" Holliday trilogy, *Death Takes a Holliday*, in the October issue of *The Cowboy Chronicle*. His work is much appreciated.

Also, I'd like to make a correction to the above mentioned review which I'm sure was just a transposition of numbers. John Henry "Doc" Holliday died in the year 1887, not 1878.

Thanks again to all involved for yet another great issue of *The Cowboy Chronicle*.

Ash Wednesday, SASS #44581  
Pearce, AZ 🤠

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## NEW LOCATION, SAME GREAT PEOPLE

September 17-20 was the annual Ruckus in the Nations match hosted by the Indian Territory Single Action Shooting Society (ITSASS) in Sand Springs, Oklahoma. I have attended the last three Ruckus matches, but missed this one due to family health issues. However, I did drive to the match Saturday to see my friends and to see their new range.

A few months ago this club found itself without a range, but their spirit would not let them fade away like other clubs may have done. Thanks to the Red Castle Gun Club, they secured a range site, and thanks to the hard work and dedication of ITSASS's strong and hard working members, in a short time they have constructed a wonderful Cowboy Action Shooting™ range.

Just like the recovery from

the dust bowl a century or so ago, or the rebuilding after the most devastating tornado on earth, or the mental recuperation after the worst attack of domestic terrorism to ever foul American soil, Okies do what Okies do. They collect themselves, pull on their boots, roll up their sleeves, and go to work. Blood, sweat, and tears fell to the northeastern Oklahoma dirt like many times before, and from this nourishment grew a range any club would be proud of.

I love the people, and I love the range. Over a super bean and cornbread lunch (I'm not sure who made the beans, but they were wonderful), I got to catch up with folks I haven't seen in awhile and got to hear about future plans for the club and range. As I drove out the gate and headed home, I thought to myself that I had witnessed the birth of something special. You cannot suppress the "Spirit of the Game" or the "Spirit of Oklahoma."

Notso Slim, SASS #67301  
Norman, OK

## WHAT'S WITH ALL THE SMOKE?

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

I would like to thank Capt. George Baylor for his articles on shooting "Blackpowder." I just switched over to the "Smokey Side" and need all the help I can get. Capt. Baylor's hints have been quite helpful for me as I waded out deeper into the fog. Like the great majority of all Cowboy Action Shooters, he strives to help others achieve their best. Keep up the good work, Captain, and God Bless.

[creevicardave@hotmail.com](mailto:creevicardave@hotmail.com)

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# Cat's Corner



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

## WHAT WOMEN WORE: A PRIMER FOR COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING™ COWGIRLS

### Chapter 4 – The Natural Form Era: 1875(6) – 1882

By Miz Annie Ross, SASS #60919

**B**y the later 1870s, the wire-framed bustle had disappeared and the poufs in the skirts lowered to knee-length. *Flatness* and *straightness* were the latest buzz words. Asymmetry was reintroduced along with new approaches to draping and to trimming. Fashions featured a tight fitting silhouette with fullness as low as the knees. As the decade ended, skirts became narrower and narrower as bodices became longer and longer, reaching below the hips.

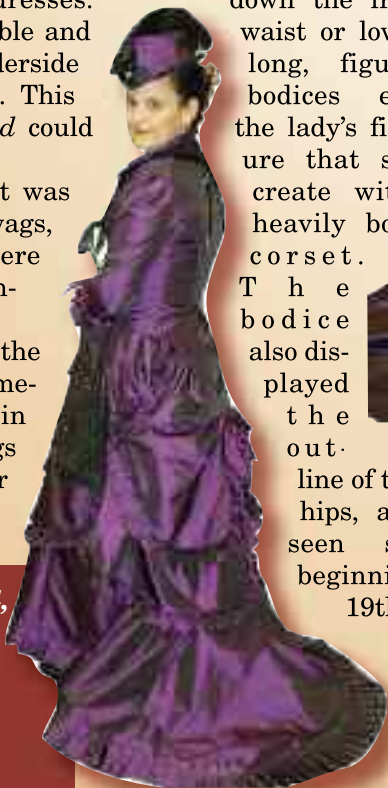
#### Silhouette/Skirts

The horizontal look of the early 1870's was replaced with vertical lines. *Tie-back* skirts became very popular. These skirts had string ties inside that were gathered to hold the front of the skirt close to the legs while allowing the back to remain full and flow into a train. Almost every dress was trained, even walking dresses. Trains were often detachable and were decorated on the underside with elaborate frills of lace. This was called a *balayouse* and could be removed for cleaning.

The detached overskirt was replaced with drapes, swags, and trimmings that were sewn directly onto the foundation skirt. Flowers and bows were added to hide the stitching. Skirts were sometimes asymmetrical in design with trims and swags high on one side and lower on the other.

By 1880 the skirts

*Tijuana Rose, SASS# 72944, models a purple taffeta dress featuring a fantail skirt with a knife-pleated hem, ribbons, beads, and appliquéd accents.*



were very slim, and trains began to disappear to be replaced by *pannier* drapes at the hips that added fullness.

#### Bodices:

Fashions of the *Natural Form Era* are characterized by the *Cuirass(e)* bodice. This bodice style (named for a style of French armor) was smooth fitting and extended below the waist. By 1878, the *cuirass* bodice had reached the thighs and continued to dip even deeper in both front and back, extending well below the hips. By 1880, the *cuirass* bodice reached the hemline, actually becoming the *Princess* panel dress, an exceptionally form-fitting draped sheath dress that was elongated even further by the train.

Bodices now featured more vertical trimmings, extending down the front to the waist or lower. These long, figure-hugging bodices emphasized the lady's figure, a figure that she helped create with a very heavily boned corset. The bodice also displayed the outline of the corseted hips, a sight not seen since the beginning of the 19th century.

The bodice shoulder line moved up

to the natural shoulder line for both day and evening wear.

Evening bodices usually had a square neckline. Necklines for daywear became more conservative, either high with a collar, or open in a small V. An open neckline usually featured a decorative collar with a *chemisette* beneath it for day wear.

#### Closure:

Hooks and eyes or buttons ran down the front of day dresses. Closures were often in the back for evening dresses and

back lacing was still popular.

Skirts were usually closed with a hook and eye or button at the waistline.

#### Accessories:

**Gloves** were a status symbol for a Victorian lady, and she wouldn't dream of going outside without them.

Short gloves were worn at the beginning of the era, increasing to mid-length (four-to-eight buttons) by its close. Gloves up to eight buttons in length were worn in the evenings.

#### Hats:

Hats of felt, wool, and straw became larger and covered most of the hair, often allowing only the front (or bangs) and a simple low bun at the back of the head to be seen.

Hats were now more often tipped backwards rather than forward as in earlier years.

Wreaths, flower sprays, or ribbons were worn in the hair in the evening.

#### Hairstyles:

Hairstyles were looser and fuller. A bun at the nape of the neck and bangs, a simple style influenced by the actress Lily Langtry, was often worn for day. For evening, the hair was up-swept with floral and/or ribbon accents.



*La Bandida, SASS #80163, wears a gown of navy blue satin and sheer with sequins, beading, and a brocade train. The gown is detailed with navy satin sashes and red and white fabric roses.*



*Cat Ballou, SASS #55, wears a scarlet satin and moire gown, created by Miss Tabitha of River Crossing, based on an 1882 design. The bodice features shirring in the front, but it is the skirt that is more elaborate with ruching, panniers embellished with beads at the hips, and knife-pleating along the hem.*



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# WHAT HAPPENED TO 2009?

By Coyote, SASS #201

I don't know what happened to this year. It seems as if it just rode off into the sunset like the hero of a classic western movie. It was gone before you got to say good-bye. I guess years are like that. It seems as if we just crowned Badlands Bud and Holy Terror as not only our new Overall National Champions at Winter Range, but also our new Overall World Champions at END of TRAIL. It is just amazing how

well these two "Kids" shoot. (I can call them kids because I'm much older than they are!) But now, a new year is approaching, and it is time to do it all over again.

In 2008 we survived four dollar a gallon fuel prices. This year we have survived some of the worst economic times in this country's history. Although SASS has not been immune to the economic downturn, we have seen some of our long-term projects come to fruition this year. We have made the move into the New SASS World Head-  
*(Continued on next page)*



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(Continued from previous page)  
 quarters in Edgewood, New Mexico. This project had been in the planning stages for over five years and was finally realized. The sad part of the move was we lost some great employees that did not make the move with us, but the up side is we have hired some great new employees and have a much more efficient office to serve members.

Also in 2009, the town at Founders Ranch has become more of what we all envisioned six years ago when work began. With the addition of the Copper Queen Hotel and the enclosure of the Bell Union Saloon, the "Cowboy Town" is taking on an identity unto itself. This year was a banner year for the SASS National Shooting Program. The program is stronger

Blackpowder State and Regional Championships. Next year there will be more, but next year is for next month's article. One of my projects literally came on line this year, the Members Only Web Page. It had a rocky start, but who could figure so many members would try to register at once? It is running smoothly now, and I hope all have had a

chance to visit it. If not, you are missing shooting tips for Action and Mounted Shooting along with other general videos. There are back issues of The Cowboy Chronicle for 2008 and 2007, with more to be added shortly. And, speaking of The Cowboy Chronicle, there is an on line version of the current issue just for members only. We also have a large collection of directions for building props, and there is also eight years worth of stages from END of TRAIL with more to be added. The stages alone could save you from writing monthly stages for your club for a year, and we have more planned for next year, but again, that is for next month's column.

2009 has been a good year, and we are going to make 2010 even better with your help. We are so thankful for all the members that make SASS successful. To every volunteer that helps at a monthly match, to Territorial Governors who take the time to come to Las Vegas and Territorial Governor's meetings around the country, and to every member that takes the time to help in any way ... you are the people that make SASS successful, and the Wild Bunch thanks you for all you do!

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#### Buckle Information:

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 World Championship  Territorial Shoot Out  State Shoot Out  
 Date & Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Colonel Dan,  
SASS Life #24025

# THE SECOND: UNALIENABLE OR INALIENABLE?

By Colonel Dan, SASS Life/Regulator #24025

Early next year, the US Supreme Court is scheduled to hear McDonald v. Chicago—a monumental case for gun owners everywhere. Why? It will address the critical question of the Second Amendment's applicability at the state and local level. For those who thought Heller vs. D.C. settled this, recall that Heller only considered D.C. gun laws. The anti-gunners position in the McDonald case revolves around the argument D.C.

is not a state but a federal district. Therefore, while the Second may apply at the federal level, it does not apply at the state and local level. The decision in this upcoming case will not only concern Chicago, but will also impact every state in the union. McDonald is therefore much more important than Heller.

Keep in mind the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals has already ruled the Second does NOT apply to state or local governments; ergo, the question is being reviewed by the Supreme Court.

I'll leave arguments on Constitutional law to those most

qualified and instead focus on a question I feel is at the very foundation of the Second Amendment—is man's right to bear arms an *unalienable* right—a Creator endowed right that cannot be infringed upon or is it an *inalienable* right subject to state control?

Let's define our terms. In many legal circles there is a big difference between unalienable and inalienable, and it could be significant in this and future cases. I consulted several legal references and came up with the following:

*"Unalienable: incapable of being alienated, that is, sold and trans-*

*ferred."* Black's Law Dictionary, Sixth Edition, page 1523:

You cannot surrender, sell, or transfer unalienable rights under any circumstances. They are a gift from the Creator to ALL individuals.

*Inalienable rights: Rights that are not capable of being surrendered or transferred without the consent of the one possessing such rights. Morrison vs. State, Mo App., 252 S.W.2d 97, 101.*

You can surrender, sell, or transfer inalienable rights by consent—consent legally coming via the vote of elected representatives, no doubt. Inalienable rights are

*(Continued on next page)*

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(Continued from previous page)  
 not inherent and can therefore be controlled by government. If you believe as our Founders did, that man was endowed by his Creator with certain *unalienable rights*, then those rights cannot be infringed upon or abrogated by man, court, or government at any level. Our Founders, many being lawyers themselves, chose their words with extreme care throughout the Declaration and Constitution, and the word they chose in this case was 'unalienable' "... men are endowed with certain unalienable rights and among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness."

Now that we have this sorted out, is the right to keep and bear arms one of those unalienable rights to which our Founders referred?

Even if you say the concept of unalienable rights cannot apply to guns because they are inanimate objects that were not around when the Creator brought mankind on the scene, you have to admit that the right of life does apply. Every animal, including man, is endowed with an instinct for self-preservation; i.e., life. All creatures have a wide variety of self-defense mechanisms they use to preserve that life. Some use teeth and claws, some use sharp quills, venom, horns, and hooves, and some of the higher species actually use tools. The great apes, for example, use clubs and rocks. Man being the highest species on the chain of life has created some very sophisticated tools. The gun is just such a tool—a self-defense mechanism used to exercise his unalienable right of self-preservation.

Given our logic thus far, I submit that while the gun alone, as an inanimate object, cannot be an unalienable right, to deny man the mechanism or tool he uses to exercise his unalienable right of self-preservation; i.e., life, is to seriously infringe upon that right. Without the mechanism or tool, his ability to defend himself is practically nullified. Take away an animal's teeth, claws, quills, venom, horns or hooves, and what you've done to their God-given right of self-preservation is to abrogate the Creator's intent. Take away the great apes access to rocks and clubs, and you've again annulled the Creator's plan for that animal. Take away man's access to arms, and you've infringed upon his

endowed unalienable right to preserve his life.

As an aside, I view most gun restrictions as "sham regulations," as they're known in legal circles. That is, dishonest government actions that deceitfully claim to be doing one thing, in this case "promoting public safety," but in reality have the actual objective of thwarting constitutional rights; i.e., the right to preserve and defend life.

Had the Founders used the term "Inalienable rights" in place of "Unalienable rights" the argument could be made that your right to keep and bear arms can legally be transferred from the individual to the state through a government established process of consent. But, that is clearly not the word they chose and words mean specific things ... particularly in law.

"But we don't want to take away your guns, we just want stricter controls to keep them out of the wrong hands," says the anti-gunners' next argument. Okay, since we're dealing with precise definitions here, let's look at another phrase specifically chosen by the Founders. "... shall not be infringed." According to the Webster Dictionary:

**SHALL:** "Determination or promise. Inevitability. Command. A directive or requirement. To have to. **MUST.**" **NOT:** "In no way; to no degree. Used to express negation, denial, refusal, or prohibition." **BE:** "Make: cause to become." **INFRINGED:** "To encroach upon something." Another way, then, to state the concept of the Second Amendment would be: "The right of the people to keep and bear arms must in no way or to no degree become encroached upon."

In summary, what does all this mean? In my view, it simply means the Founder's meant exactly what they wrote and wrote exactly what they meant. Our right to keep and bear arms is unalienable, not inalienable, as it pertains to our endowed right to the preservation of life. It, therefore, cannot be infringed upon by man, court, or government at any level. Just the view from my saddle ...

Contact Colonel Dan:  
[coloneldan@bellsouth.net](mailto:coloneldan@bellsouth.net)

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# 50TH CLEAN MATCH

By Chuckaroo, SASS #13080

**S**ASS and Cowboy Action Shooting™ have a little something for each of us. And, at the monthly match level, we each have different goals and expectations in mind for ourselves.

Some are going for the top spot or a category win; others, the top ten. Many want to do better than they have in the past. There are those that want to beat their spouse, children, or best friend. Some folks are

happy just to get on the first page of the score sheets!

Then there is another group. They are not concerned with beating anyone. Their goal is to shoot the match clean; that is, with no misses, procedurals, or safety's. Many have tried and many more have failed. Some shooters go for years before that first clean match. It seems like there is always something that goes wrong with our brain, a gun,

bad ammo, or that silly procedural that kept us from shooting a clean match.

So, when that day finally comes, you can hear the scorekeeper as they record your score while yelling, "And A Clean Match!" Everyone gives you a round of applause as your whole posse rejoices in your shooting skills. It is not uncommon to have a handful of shooters clean a match. What is uncommon is a competitor shooting their 50th clean match.

Now, you might say that is no big deal and may be not worthy of an article in *The Cowboy Chronicle*. I will now clarify by adding that the shooter, Shadow Carson, SASS #22660 only has one arm! Shadow lost his right arm above the elbow many years ago. He shoots everything the same as we do, using a side-by-side coach gun, a Marlin lever action, and pair of six-shooters. And, he is amazing to watch. His muzzle direction and shooting safe-

ty are remarkable and safe!

"I can't shoot for speed, so I go for clean matches," he says. To the many of us that know him, he is a fine example of Spirit of the Game. Whether it's running a posse, setting props and targets, or working hard to help his posse, he never shirks a task. It is always a pleasure shooting with him and to have him as a great friend.

As a surprise, and in anticipation of his 50th clean match (shot on Saturday, September 19, 2009), Hud McCoy, SASS #56721, and his friends had a wood plaque and a cart plate engraved to honor the accomplishment. We carried them along with a camera to every match in anticipation of him achieving his goal.

On behalf of all of us not so clean shooters, our congratulations to Shadow Carson on his 50th clean match! I'll start on his plaque for his 100th Clean Match ... say, next summer ... 🤠

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Jim Finch, a.k.a. Long Hunter, has been at the top of Cowboy Action shooting for the last 7 years. He has won both National and World titles as well as numerous regional matches. As a top shooter and Cowboy Action instructor, Jim has sent many thousands of rounds down range. His experience throughout his shooting and training career has provided him with an understanding of what works and what doesn't.



Always looking to improve his skills and equipment, Long Hunter came to us with a new holster idea. Instead of just making a one size fits all rig why not offer a choice that will cater to a shooter's individual style but still retain all of the features needed for a gun belt to be functional in the world of competitive shooting. With this in mind we created the new 2009 Long Hunter shooting system.

We introduced the Long Hunter gun rig in 2004. Comfortable, functional and very competitive, it has served many shooters well for the last 5 years. Since then we have made a few changes to improve the original design. The new 2009 version has a metal insert in the skirt to keep the pistol comfortably away from the body. This feature provides a draw unobstructed by the shotgun belt and presents the gun for a full shooting grip. Another feature is the retention screw and holster body lining. The tension screw allows modification of drag the holster has on the revolver and the lining insures the holster shape for years of use.

The Long Hunter rig is now available in 6 different configurations for both men and women. You can order the original Long Hunter or you can get a rig in a strongside with crossdraw, a double crossdraw (worn in reverse for muzzle forward cant), a B-Western model with more drop, a muzzle forward with crossdraw and even a 1911 rig for Wild Bunch competitions. All holsters are designed for the Long Hunter rig and will work on the original belt. Also, the new womens belt with contour for hips and adjustable length will interchange with any of the new holsters. Below are examples of the options available to fit your shooting style.

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# COWBOYTALK

By Whooper Crane, SASS #52745

*So, you want to talk "cowboy" ... well, here's a crash course to get you started!*

## OLD WEST SAYINGS MEAN/ANGRY

He was mad enough to swallow a horn-toad backwards.  
He's so mean he'd steal a fly from a blind spider.  
He was so mean, he'd fight a rattler and give him the first bite.  
He was mean enough to steal a coin off a dead man's eyes.  
He made an ordinary fight look like a prayer meetin'.  
When I'm done with you, there won't be enough left of you to snore.  
He was mean enough to eat off the same plate with a snake.  
He was so mad he could bite himself.  
He was mean enough to hunt bears with a hickory switch.

## UGLY

He was uglier than a new-sheared sheep.  
He has teeth so crooked he could eat corn on the cob through a picket fence.  
His face was puckered like wet sheepskin before a hot fire.  
Her face looks like a dime's worth of dog meat.  
He was ugly as a burnt boot.  
He was so ugly he had to sneak up on a dipper to get a drink of water.  
He looked like the hindquarters of bad luck.  
His lip hangs down like a blacksmith's apron.  
He looks so bad his ears flop.  
She's so ugly, she'd make a freight train take a dirt road!  
He's as ugly as homemade sin.  
She's so ugly she could bluff a buzzard off a meat wagon.

## CRAZY


He was crazy enough to eat the devil with horns on.  
He's kinda off his mental reservation.  
His intelligence shore ain't at this camp.  
He's as crazy as popcorn on a hot stove.  
He is as crazy as a shepherd.  
Somebody stole his rudder.  
He's crazier than a run over coon.

## STUPID

He's studying to be a halfwit.  
His brain cavity wouldn't make a drinkin' cup for a canary.  
He couldn't teach a hen to cluck.  
His knife's so dull it wouldn't cut hot butter.  
He don't know dung from wild honey.  
If all his brains were dynamite, there wouldn't be enough to blow his nose.

He couldn't cut a lame cow from a shade tree.  
He couldn't track an elephant in snow.  
He was so dumb he couldn't drive nails in a snowbank.  
He's as dull as dishwater.  
He don't know any more about it than a hog does a sidesaddle.  
He is plumb weak North of his ears.  
He can't tell skunks from house cats.  
He had a ten-dollar Stetson on a five-cent head.  
His family tree was a shrub.  
He couldn't track a bed-wagon through a bog hole.  
He didn't have nuthin' under his hat but hair.  
He couldn't hit the ground with his hat in three throws.  
He was as shy of brains as a terrapin is of feathers.

*(Continued on next page)*



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**SKINNY/FAT**

He is so thin he could take a bath in a shotgun barrel.

He was so fat, you'd have to throw a diamond hitch to keep him in the saddle.

If he closed one eye he'd look like a needle.

He is built like a snake on stilts.

**HAPPY**

He was grinnin like a weasel in a hen house.

He's as pleased as a pup with two tails.

He's grinnin like a jackass eatin' cactus

She was as chipper as a jaybird.

He was grinnin' like a baked possum.

**LAZY**

He's as slow as molasses in January.

He's too lazy to yell "Sueee" in a pigpen.

He moves as slow as a crippled turtle.

He's so lazy, molasses wouldn't run down his legs.

**LIES/CROOKED**

He's so crooked, he could swallow nails and spit out corkscrews.

He told lies so well a man would be a fool not to believe them.

He's as crooked as a dog's hind legs.

He's lyin' like a rug.

**VOICE/SINGING**

His voice sounded like someone forgot to grease the wagon.

His singin' was enough to make a she-wolf jealous.

He punished the air with his singing.

He had a voice like a burro with a bad cold.

**OTHER**

He didn't have manners enough to carry guts to a bear.

He couldn't hit a bull's rump with a handful of banjos.

He was as drunk as a fiddler's clerk.

She's as nervous as a long-tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs.

He'd been in the desert so long, he knew all the lizards by their first names.

He ain't fit to shoot at when you want to unload and clean yo' gun.

His mustache smelled like a mildewed saddle blanket after it had been rid on a sore back hoss three hundred

miles in August.

He was grittin' his teeth like he could bite the sites off a six-gun.

It was so dry the bushes followed the dogs around.

He's as dead as a can of corned beef.

He's as welcome as a rattlesnake at a square dance.

This saloon's so bad, a rattlesnake'd be ashamed to meet his mother here.

He lasted as long as a pint of whiskey in a five-handed poker game.

She's as pretty as a speckled pup.

He is as poor as a church mouse.

He's as rich as possum gravy.

He was as popular as a wet dog at a parlor social. 🐶



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**Swift Montana Smith,  
SASS #52720**

# THE PEN KNIFE

By Swift Montana Smith, SASS # 52720

Shaking his head, he found a place to park, took his hat from the passenger seat, preceded to the entrance of the building where a button and intercom system hung next to a glass door on a brick wall with a security camera mounted directly above it. He pushed the buzzer.

A scratchy voice from the small speaker asked, "Yes, who is it?"

"Arnold Hancock," came the reply to the question.

"Yes, Mr. Hancock, can I help you?" the voice asked.

"I'm here to see the principal about my son ... William."

"Please come in and report to the office on your left."

Arnold Hancock heard a soft buzzing sound and pushed on the door. It opened, and he entered turning to his left. He walked into the office marked Head Administrator and saw his son sitting off to his right in a separate room with his hands folded and his head down. He was just about to go into the room to talk to his boy when the Principal came from her office and intercepted him.

She held out her hand, "Carol Whimply," she said, her face unemotional.

Arnold looked down at her hand. He noticed a ring on her thumb and thought about how uncomfortable it must be to wear a ring on your thumb. Not taking the invited handshake, he stood with his hands at his side and said firmly, "What's this all about?"

The woman turned toward her office door and motioned Arnold to join her inside.

"Please Mr. Hancock, can we talk?"

Arnold followed her into the small office. The woman sat down behind her desk and motioned Arnold to sit in the small chair in front of the desk. "I'll stand." He said.

"Suit yourself," replied Ms. Whimply smugly, "Your son was found to have a knife on the Center's property."

"Oh really?" Arnold thought about the small penknife he had given his son only a few days ago on his birthday. It was the same penknife his father had given him on

his tenth birthday, the same penknife that had been handed down from generation to generation and was given always on a boy's tenth birthday.

Carol felt relieved believing that Mr. Hancock was upset about the affair and would understand not only did the boy need to be severely punished, but this weapon of pain needed to be immediately destroyed.

"Yes ... and you know we have a strict no tolerance policy here, Mr. Hancock. The boy needs to be reprimanded and the weapon needs to be destroyed!"

Arnold remembered telling his son the history of the knife and its importance in the family. He had told him to keep it in his pocket, not to use it for anything but maybe

whittling a piece of wood, or cutting a string or piece of fishing line. It was meant for utility, not as a weapon. He had also told him not to take it to school, knowing well of the current situation in the country, and although as a boy, he had used the knife to play mumbly peg with his friends on the playground when he was young, he had explicitly told his son to leave it home when he left in the morning to catch the bus.

"I suppose he was flashing it around showing his friends," Arnold said, a bit disappointed his son didn't listen to his advice.

"No, he wasn't doing that," Carol Whimply said.

"Well, then, how did you know he had it?" Arnold was puzzled.

*(Continued on next page)*

Finishing the conversation with, "I'll be right there," the middle-aged business man folded his cell phone and gently tucked it away back into the inner pocket of his suit coat. He stood up, adjusted his tie, walked over to the coat rack, and taking down his custom made Cowboy hat, put it on his head, then walking over to a mirror, adjusted the hat so it looked and fit perfectly. Opening the door to his office, he walked out briskly and while passing his secretary, he informed her he would be gone for the rest of the day. When he reached his BMW, he opened the door and as he entered the vehicle, he removed his cherished hat, sitting it upside down next to him on the passenger seat so as not to damage the brim. Sitting quietly in the car he reflected on the phone conversation he had just had with the Principal of his ten year old son's school, the newly renamed Barrack Obama Elementary Learning Center.

"Jesus Chistmas," he said out loud to himself, "they don't even call them schools anymore ... Learning Center ... ha, more like indoctrination center if you ask me!"

The message from the Principal was they had his son sitting in a special room, waiting for his father to pick him up as a small pen knife was discovered on his person and the boy was being suspended for three days pending an inquiry and possible ejection from the school itself. He pushed the start button on the car and engine roared to life.

As he entered the parking lot of the school, he glanced at the shinny new gold letters that had been mounted over the previous name of the building. A faint ghost of an imagine remained underneath them and could still be read as George Washington Elementary School.

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(Continued from previous page)

"One of his school mates saw it when the boy took out his lunch money. He must have reached into his pocket to get the money and when he did, he pulled the knife out as well."

"... and then he flashed it around." Arnold said trying to get to the bottom of the situation.

"No," the principal said firmly, "then he put it back in his pocket."

Arnold was confused, "So ... what's the problem?"

"What's the problem? The problem is your son brought a knife onto the Center's grounds, and you don't see a problem with that? I'd expect as much from a man who wears a Cowboy hat when there's not a cow in sight for a forty mile radius!" Carol hated westerns and Cowboys. She and her girlfriend thought the whole thing was just a bunch of macho crap that men liked.

Arnold Hancock could take a lot before he got upset, but now, not only was his son's integrity at question, but he was being insulted himself. "Well, let me tell you something missy, this Cowboy hat I wear stands for something. No, I've never herded cows nor do I want too. I work in an office building just outside of Boston, and you're right, there's not a cow in sight, but this hat has become a symbol in this country, and I'm proud to wear it, every day. Now, I'd like to talk to my son."

Arnold walked out of the door to the office and entered the room his son was sitting in. His son immediately jumped to his feet.

"I'm sorry Dad, I didn't mean to bring the knife to school. I forgot to take it out of my pocket this morning, and I didn't even realize I had it with me until I reached into my pocket for my lunch money. I know what you told me, I'm sorry, I won't let it happen again." The boy was panic-stricken.

The man walked over to his son and put his arm on the boy's shoulder. "Don't worry boy, it's no big deal," Arnold reassured.

"Yeah, but they said they were gonna kick me out of school," a tear came to the boy's eye dripping down the side of his face.

"Where's the knife?" his father asked as he held out his hand.

"The Principal has it." The boy said sniffing.

"Wait here," Arnold said as he turned leaving the room. He entered the Principal's office again where she was still seated behind the desk.

"Where's the knife?" he questioned, holding out his hand.

"Mr. Hancock," Carol Whimply said sternly, "We can do this the easy way, or we can do this the hard way. The easy way is, I take this knife ..." she continued holding up the small pen knife, then dropping it into a drawer and locking it. Putting the

key in front of her on the desk she continued, "... I'll destroy that horrid weapon, and I'll give your son three days suspension to make an example out of him as well as mandatory detention with no playground time for the rest of the term. The hard way is ... your son gets expelled from the Center and possibly the whole district, and I report you to Child and Family Services and have you arrested for giving your son a dangerous weapon to play with."

At first, Arnold was taken aback, but then he regained his composure, thought about the crude hat remark and began. "I'd hardly call a pen knife with a three inch blade a weapon. That knife has been handed down in my family from generation to generation and has been in my family for well over two hundred years. It was given to me by my father and was given to him by his father and so forth. That knife is very important ... maybe not to you, but it is to me and my son, so I'll take it back, please." He reached for the keys to the locked drawer and as he did, Carol Whimply grabbed them first and dropped them down the front of her shirt. As she did this, she smiled as if being satisfied that she had pulled a prank on someone and was successful.

"It's still a knife, and we still have a zero tolerance policy and you won't be getting that 'thing' back," she said. "Now, what's so important about a pen knife that can easily be replaced?"

"Well, as I said, that knife has been in our family for generations," Arnold said calmly, "it was first used by my great-great-great grandfather to sharpen his goose quill to sign an important document, so I'd like to have it back."

"Oh what's the big deal, what could be so important?" Ms. Whimply asked sharply.

Arnold straightened his back, adjusted his Cowboy hat and looked Carol Whimply square in the eyes. "The document was called The Declaration of Independence and my great-great-great grandfather ... maybe you've heard of him, maybe not ... his name was John Hancock, and he signed his name big and beautiful on that document as a sign of defiance over the tyranny he and his friends were suffering from knowing soon they would be fighting and dieing to abolish the crazy laws that were being set forth!" He paused for a minute, his eyes never leaving hers as he added, "Now, we can do this the easy way, or we can do this the hard way."

Up until then, Carol Whimply had not made the connection with the name Hancock. She reached into her blouse and found the key. Unlocking the drawer, she retrieved the penknife and handed it to Arnold Hancock.



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"Thank you." Mr. Hancock said flatly, "Now, I'm going to get my boy, and he'll be here tomorrow ... unfortunately, but he'll be here none the less, on time, for the start of a new school day. I'll talk to my son, and you Ms. Whimply, will drop the whole affair and treat my boy with the respect he deserves ... not because he's an ancestor of John Hancock, but because he's a decent human being who made a mistake. A small mistake as I'm sure you have done, and will do, many more times in your life."

He tipped his hat, walked out of the office and went into retrieve his son. "Come on boy, let's go!" His son took his father's hand as they walked out the door.

"Am I in trouble Dad?" the boy asked as they got into the car.

"No, son. Don't worry about it, but ... check your pockets in the morning before you leave the house. Okay?"

"Sure Dad!"

(S. M. Smith is a freelance writer and frequent contributor to The Cotaboy Chronicle. He can be found at his web site [smontanasmith.com](http://smontanasmith.com))

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# THE ADVENTURE OF THE HONORABLE SHOOTIST

## Part III

By Tennessee Jack Sledger, SASS #65872

*Synopsis: Tennessee Jack Sledger has met with P. Roland Esq., an enigmatic lawyer, who has explained that Kathleen Morningstar is in danger of being harmed in a Chinese Tong war with San Francisco reformers.*

San Francisco attorney, and former gunfighter, P. Roland, foresaw an inter-racial war brewing between the Chinese Tong gangs and White reformers. He was determined to do everything in his power to prevent that from happening. He went to the various missionary and temperance leagues with a plea to subdue their ardor in the interest of avoiding bloodshed. He argued for allowing just law to take its course and won a grudging agreement from all but a few firebrands—and of course, Fang Wo Chin.

Among the firebrands were two totally cause committed spinster ladies from Nob Hill. They were beautiful well-to-do heiresses of separate fortunes, one from logging, the other from gold. They lived together in a sumptuous mansion, and it was said, in politely discrete Victorian whispers, they were “the Strange Sisters.” Kathleen Morningstar had become very friendly with these ladies, and to Roland’s great annoyance, was another of the firebrands.

Kathleen had too much confidence in herself. She seemed to believe she was indestructible. Roland knew that any tong hatchet man could and would kill her in an instant, but could not convince her that by raiding the gang’s establish-

ments she was putting herself in mortal danger. Kathleen just promised to carry her Schofields to defend herself if the need arose.

It was at this point Roland wrote to Tennessee Jack Sledger. Kathleen had often spoken about Jack. She told how he had saved her from the horrors of Wichita and from assassination in New York. She talked about their great adventures on the plains in a futile search for suspected double agents in the Custer affair and the truth about her own parents. She even told Roland about Sledger’s marriage proposals. She had wanted to accept him very much, but knew because of each other’s personal nature, such a union would be doomed to failure. Still, she confessed, she loved Jack with all her heart. Roland thought Jack might be able to dissuade Kathleen from her hot-headed fervor against the slavers in the interest of a more reasonable approach.

But, there had not been time for a reasonable approach. The two spinsters from Nob Hill and Kathleen led a raid by unhappy police officers and zealous activists against one of the major Chinatown bagnios, one under the protection of Sum Yop, just as a sale of new slave girls was being conducted. The innocents were rescued, including a beautiful Cambodian Khmer dancer. This girl was a prize of incalculable value to the slavers. She and the others were whisked away to a Christian Salvation mission.



“Just then a visibly distraught young man and a police officer burst into the room.”

Roland was very emphatic.

“Those fools are calling Fang Wo Chin’s hand! Against all reason, they’re forcing his play.”

Just then a visibly distraught young man and a police officer burst into the room despite the houseboy’s vehement protests. Roland sprang to his feet, but instantly recognized the intruders.

“Calm yourselves, Mr. Statler, Lieutenant Schnabel,” Roland said, placating the houseboy and sending him on his way.

“This is Mr. Statler and Lt. Schnabel, two of my most *able* officers. Gentlemen, may I present Mr. Tennessee Jack Sledger, a close friend of ... Why *man*, what is *wrong* with you?”

Statler was deathly pale and seemed in eminent danger of fainting. Roland went to a table that held a carafe of brandy, poured a glass and handed it to Statler.

“Here. Steady yourself, then tell me what the difficulty is.”

The police lieutenant indicated he did not want a drink. After taking a stiff shot and shaking his head, Mr. Statler explained. The latest activist raid had forced Fang Wo Chin to take action of his own for the survival of Sum Yop. He had done so last night.

The spinsters’ mansion was burned to the ground. Their servants were all murdered, and the gold heiress was found strung up to the large wrought iron front gate, dead, and brutalized beyond

description. The Christian Salvation Mission was also attacked by the boo how doy of Sum Yop and the Khmer dancer retaken.

The logging heiress was not at home during that terrible calamity. Early that very morning, filled with indignant outrage, she led another raid on the same bordello accompanied by Kathleen Morningstar, a squad of cops, and a posse of reformers. They ran into a slaughter. Not one of the raiders survived the ambush Fang Wo Chin had set for them.

Tennessee Jack and Roland rushed from the hotel, took the cab that was waiting outside for Mr. Statler and the police officer, and the four men dashed down to the infamous San Francisco dock area, where the tragedy had occurred. What they found there differed only by degree from that Sledger had seen in the greasy grass near the banks of the Little Big Horn. Grimly, Roland put Jack’s thoughts into words.

“I’m told you were one of the first on the scene of the Custer debacle.”

“Ye-ah, lotts a dead folks. *Dangit!* Why cain’t folks keep their heads? This warn’t necessary. *She* deserved better.”

Kathleen lay with the other dead, an expression of horrified surprise frozen on her face. She had been run through by a sword that pinned a message to her. It was a

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)  
 business card that read *P. Roland, Esquire, Attorney at Law*, Fang Wo Chin's warning to Roland who was the real threat to his power. The dead reform raiders had been a mere nuisance easily eliminated.

Tennessee Jack grumbled under his breath.

"Now Ah gotta study on countin' coup on them Ce-lestial buggers."

Roland replied solemnly.

"It will have to be done in such a manner as to put an end to all of this."

"Looke here, Mr. Roland, *Esquire*, Ah'm gonna count coup on thet son-of-a- seacock, *my way*, for *her!* She shoulda been *my woman*, an' if Ah wuz a better man, mebe she woulda been, 'steada comin' t'this here. Mebe what Ah'm fixin' t'do ain't right t'all a'you *civilized* folks, but that's what Ah'm gonna do, *anyhow*, jus' so's Ah kin sleep at night."

Roland smiled humorlessly.

"I quite understand, Mr. Sledger. Until recently, I made a *very* comfortable livelihood by selling my skill and expertise with a gun."

He went on to say that the old times were becoming a thing of the past. The time of the honorable mercenary was drawing to a close as society became more organized. Very soon it would be unnecessary and inadvisable for individuals and groups to make and enforce their

own laws, which was the service Roland had provided, under another identity.

"The pen and spoken word are and *should be* mightier than the gun, and I intend to contribute to that end."

"You were a Shootist, a pistoleer?"

"Within very strictly defined limits, yes, I was."

"You goin' after this, this-?"

"Not if you claim the quest, er, mission. I *do* believe yours to be the stronger claim. I *would* like to suggest some tactics."

Roland suggested they responded to the Sum Yop outrage in the oriental manner. Tennessee Jack agreed to follow Roland's advice. Chinese calligraphers crafted vermillion colored notices that appeared on public bulletin boards throughout Chinatown. They challenged Fang Wo Chin to face Tennessee Jack Sledger in mortal combat at the Sacramento villa. The notices said Sledger would come alone and since Fang Wo Chin was a man of honor, he, too, would be alone in the fight, unaccompanied by his boy how doy or high-binder assassins. Roland did not doubt for a moment Fang would be surrounded by his private army, so he made preparations for one man to face many.

To be continued ...

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**Whooper Crane,  
SASS #52745**

Mug shot by Deadeye Al

# SIDEKICKS & HEAVIES

*Honoring the Saddle Buddies and the Bad Guys who helped make Saturday Matinees so Goldurned FUN!*

By Whooper Crane, SASS #52745

dozen years of movie work, Ben was still good enough to earn the 1953 PRCA's Team Roping Championship.

During the early 1940's, Ben kept busy wrangling horses and doing stunt-double work on many of the oaters that were cranked out at the time.

Ben's prowess as a top horse handler caught the eye of Director John Ford, who hired him as Henry Fonda's stunt-double in the classic western *Fort Apache* with John Wayne, Ward Bond, and a host of other "John Ford Players." This flick was the first of Ford's "Cavalry Trilogy," which included *She Wore A Yellow Ribbon* and *Rio Grande*, in which Ben also sidekicked.

In 1948, Ben played one of the posse members who chased The Duke, Pedro Armendariz, and young Harry Carey, Jr. across the desert in Ford's highly-praised *3 Godfathers*. It was during the filming of this fine flick that Ben and Dobe became close friends. They appeared in several more oaters for Ford and others in the years ahead, including *Yellow Ribbon* in 1949 and *Rio Grande* in 1950. (Who'll ever forget these two raised-on-ranches upstarts showing up Sgt. Maj. Quincannon in *Rio Grande* when they jumped on two horses each and flew around the parade grounds "Roman Style," standing tall on the saddles? What a great scene!)

In 1950, the boys also made *Wagon Master*, which showcased these two talented guys in the



**Ben Johnson**

Ben loved working with our own personal favorite movie hero, John Wayne. During the '70's, he again sidekicked The Duke in *The Undefeated*, *Chisum*, and the *Train Robbers*. He often said he could make a good living just working with The Duke. They both aged on the big screen before our eyes ... but their aging seemed to spotlight their talents even better than in their youth.

Ben went on to appear with other favorite cowboy stars, like Tom Selleck in Louis L'Amour's *The Sacketts* and *The Shadow Riders* (in which Ben played the notorious Black Jack Traven), and with Steve McQueen in *The Getaway* and *Junior Bonner*.

During the '80's and '90's, Ben semi-retired from Hollywood, preferring to operate his horse-breeding ranch near Sylmar, CA. (By semi-retirement, we're still talkin' 'bout making one or two picture shows a year!)

Ben rode over the horizon in 1996 at age 77 in Mesa, AZ, where he was visiting his mom. He's buried next to his dear wife, Carol, in Pawhuska, OK. I'm sure he'd appreciate a visit if you're in the neighborhood.

To recognize his achievements, there's a big star with his name on it on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Ben was inducted into the Western Performers Hall of Fame at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. With his cowboy/rodeo background, Ben was the *real* thing in a *reel* world!

Next month we'll look at one of Hollywood's better-known Heavies (and one of The Duke's better-known drinking buddies) who saved a fair damsel from a big, hairy ape! See you then.

Sources: [Wikipedia.org](http://Wikipedia.org); [imdb.com](http://imdb.com); [allmovie.com](http://allmovie.com); [jwayne.net](http://jwayne.net)  
Photos: Whooper Crane by Deadeye Al;  
Ben Johnson by DD Western World

As we've seen with some of our previous *Sidekicks & Heavies* guys, sometimes it takes a real cowboy to effectively play a reel cowboy.

That's definitely the route our old pal Ben Johnson took in becoming one of our most-recognized cowboy Sidekicks in dozens of western flicks and TV shows ... for over 50 years.

It seems Director Howard Hughes was looking to buy some horseflesh for his upcoming pot-boiler *The Outlaw* in 1940. He picked out a couple dozen from the Oklahoma ranch of Ben's dad, Ben Sr., and asked that they be delivered to his filming location in northern Arizona.

Guess who got tapped to deliver the nags? Young Ben, of course. As he was often quoted in later years, "I got to Hollywood in a carload of horses."

Now, Ben had earned his spurs long ago as a working ranch cowboy and rodeo competitor. He was a highly-rated bronco buster and roper. In fact, even later, after a

actual starring roles of Travis and Sandy. By the way, one of their supporting actors was a young guy named James Arness. (Where have we heard *that* name before?).

Ben became one of Hollywood's favorite western actors ... sometimes in starring roles, but most often as a Sidekick to the biggies.

He was also tapped to play cowboys in a host of episodes of TV westerns, including *Laramie*, *Have Gun, Will Travel*, *Gunsmoke*, and *The Virginian*.

He paled with Brando making *One-Eyed Jacks* and with Heston in *Major Dundee*. And ... as Tector Gorch (one of the infamous Gorch brothers), Ben made the scene with Pike, Dutch, Lyle, and the rest of *The Wild Bunch* in 1969.

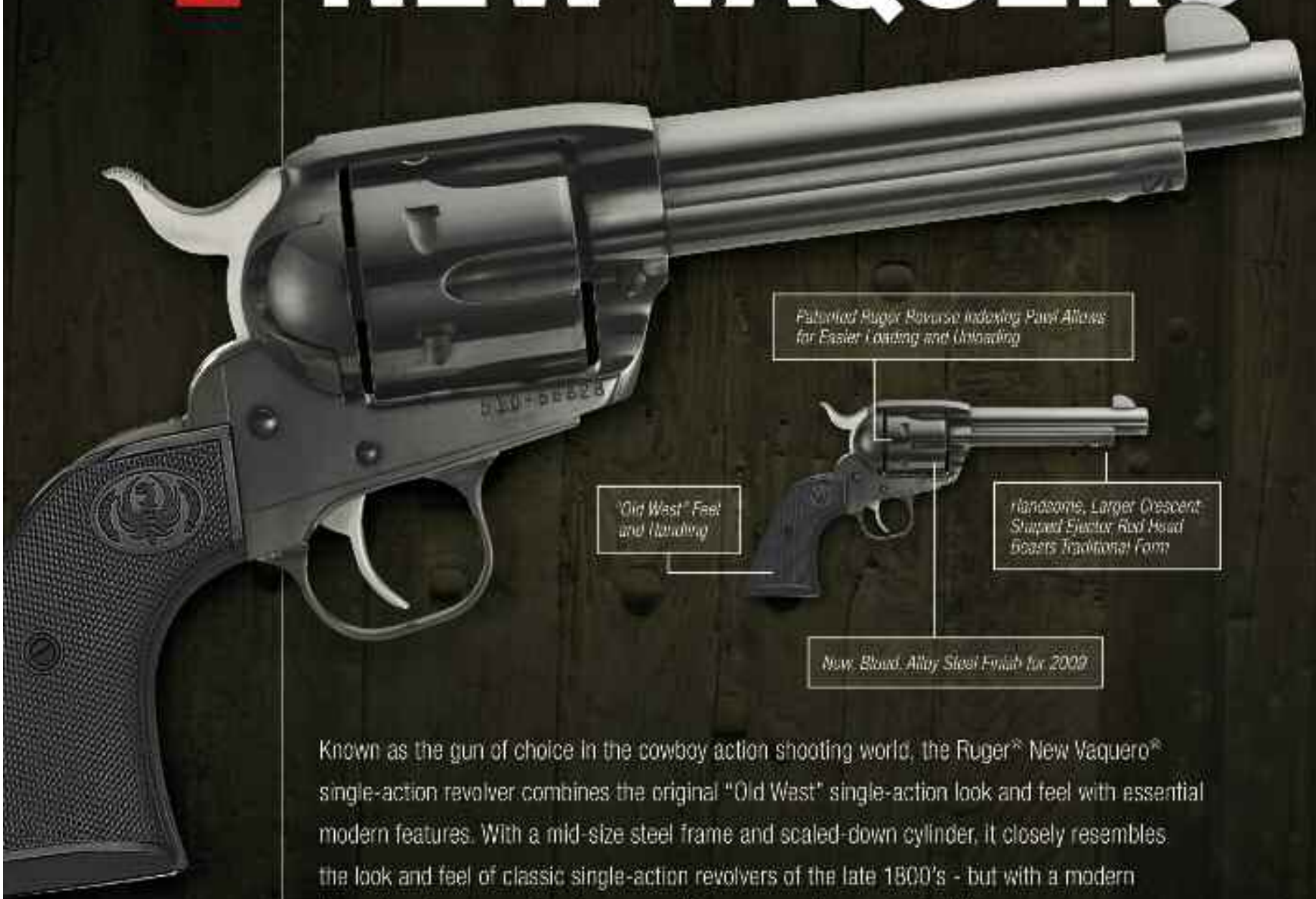
His brightest moment came at the Academy Awards ceremony in 1972 when he won the Oscar for Best Sidekick (Best Actor in a Supporting Role) for his portrayal of Sam The Lion in *The Last Picture Show* (which was adapted from a non-cowboy novel by none other than Larry McMurtry of *Lonesome Dove* fame).

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# THE BUCKHORN EXCHANGE

By Palaver Pete, SASS Life/Regulator#4375

*"It found its way home (the bullet) and the miscreant was quickly and handily dispatched to greener pastures."*



Several Hunting Trophies adorn the walls and rooms of the Buckhorn Exchange, but don't confuse this with San Antonio's Buckhorn.



Friendly service and happy customers makes the Buckhorn Exchange a great place to unwind.

**D**enver, CO - The first thing that hits you is the sound of laughter. When close to 200 people sit down to enjoy a tantalizing dinner over cocktails there's bound to be noise, but in this case, it's happy noise. The entrance to the restaurant is narrow, and probably caused John Wayne to walk in sideways, but that little hindrance soon gives way to upstairs and downstairs dining rooms and a few rooms upstairs and off to the sides that give the impression of a bordello. My wife apparently had a similar impression and gave me a look that said; "I know what you are thinking."

About that time the maitre d' signals us to follow him, and he steers us through the throng of people to our very small table surrounded by folks that are already two sheets to the wind, but happier than pigs in mud. We claim our table and the Waiter is upon us like a flash. He says something to us, but we can't hear him over the laughter. I give him the "can't hear" signal and he lip synchs, "what can I get you to drink?" "Something," says I "that will quickly get us to the same state of mind as these people surrounding us," and off he goes to fashion up two very dry gin martini's—the show is about to begin.

This World Famous Steakhouse opened its Denver doors in 1893, and is now in its second century of operation. The Buckhorn Exchange, which has liquor license Number One in the State of Colorado, was started by Henry H. "Shorty Scout" Zietz, a frontier scout that rode with Buffalo Bill. During his scouting days with the famous frontiersman, he met that great Indian Leader, Chief Sitting Bull, who dubbed him "Shorty Scout" due to his diminutive stature. He lived with this handle

until his death in July 1949, the last of Cody's famous scout band.

President Theodore Roosevelt ate here and then went hunting with old "Shorty Scout." Sitting Bull's nephew and a band of thirty Sioux and Blackfeet Indians came by one day and ceremoniously turned over to "Shorty" the military saber taken from the vanquished General George Custer at the Battle of the Little Big Horn. The sword remains in the possession of the Zietz family. Can you even begin to imagine the auction value this saber would bring? It's a retirement plan in hand for sure!

On December 8, 1900, a masked marauder burst into the restaurant waving a long horse pistol and demanding money and valuables from the Buckhorn safe and from the saloon's patrons. Collecting his booty, the desperate man was heading out the door when one of the barmaids screamed hysterically whereupon the cowardly gunman struck her a severe blow to the head causing quite a blood flow.

Knocking her down, the culprit lit out the door, jumped on his horse and headed north down Osage Street. This is where the evil marauder made his big mistake.

One of those present grabbed a rifle and burst out the door in pursuit of the renegade who by now had ridden halfway down the street. The rifle was carefully raised and a single shot fired. It found its way home, and the miscreant was quickly and handily dispatched to greener pastures. The final result of this dastardly incident has been to spread "Shorty Scout" Zietz's reputation among the denizens of the local underworld as a man not to be tangled with.

It was time to order our meal. We polished off our second martini and now could join right in on the neighboring jokes and laughter. When we told folks we were from Oregon, the laughter increased and everyone had to mouth-out Orygun and made sure they mispronounced it. We laughed at that too.

Hors d'oeuvre are listed on the menu as Great Beginnings and the first item listed is Rattlesnake, or Serpent A Sonnettes for the French guests. We skipped over that and settled for fried Alligator Tail. The main course, called Supper, featured Elk, Colorado Lamb, Cornish Game Hen, Quail, and your regular listing of fish entrees. Steak was offered on the menu by the pound, and three pounds for four guests was listed at \$134. We settled for and split a full rack of barbecued Baby Back Pork Ribs, a choice we are still complimenting each other on making. When finished, we left the restaurant with half of the rack in a box, and that served as dinner the next evening.

Prices are over looked at the Buckhorn. Any concern for price is more than over-shadowed by the ambiance offered at no charge. You get what you pay for, and the Buckhorn is a sterling example of that statement. For dessert, we split

*(Continued on next page)*



(Continued from previous page)  
 a double chocolate Rocky Road Brownie, and then decided it was time to roll-out-of-there while we could still negotiate the same door that gave John Wayne fits.

The Buckhorn Exchange is one of two famous restaurants with the name Buckhorn. Although similarly named, they are not related. They are world famous and heavily frequented by Cowboy/Cowgirl Shooters. I don't think I have ever talked to a SASS member who hasn't been to one or the other of these famous restaurants. The other Buckhorn, located in San Antonio, Texas features all the stuffed animals and hunting trophies. Like the one in Denver, the San Antonio restaurant is also noted for its quality of food. We were fortunate during this last road trip to be able to visit both within one week. This, of

course, accounts for the five pounds gained in transit (more on the San Antonio Buckhorn later).

Visiting and dining at the Denver Buckhorn Exchange is a must for any western history buff. It reeks with history and the western décor and ambiance makes one feel they are in the same saloon with William F. Cody, President Roosevelt, Shorty Scout, and Chief Sitting Bull. Dress casual, bring a huge appetite and camera, and join in the fun. You're a Daisy if Ya do!

Next issue, The Other Buckhorn.

**Footnotes:**

Ed., Sitting Bull's Nephew Gives Indian War Trophy To Last of Cody's Scouts, The Osage Gazette, Vol. D56, No. 11/08, pg. 4.

Ibid. Pg. 1.

Photos courtesy of the Buckhorn Exchange. ♪

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# THE OTHER BULLET: Re-enactors Review

By M. Lou Findley, Life #25192

*From an interview with Joe Miller AKA "Sixgun" of Lawbreakers and Peacemakers, Inc.*

The name, Fort Smith, Arkansas, conjures up the comeback of "where the west begins." Nestled in the Arkansas River Valley, between the Ozark and Ouachita Mountains, Fort Smith rests gently on the banks of the Arkansas River. It is a unique combination of the history of the "Old West" with the gentle charm of the antebellum "Old South."

This is where the legend of Judge Isaac Parker, the famous hangin' judge and the relentless pursuit of evil doers by the brave men of

the U.S. Marshal service, was played out. For twenty-one years, Judge Isaac Parker held the bench of the U.S. Court for the Western District of Arkansas, located in this border town of Fort Smith. His tenure was unique in the history of the federal judiciary in that Hanging Judge Parker heard thousands of criminal complaints involving disputes and violence between Indians and non-Indians. Over his fourteen years on the bench, he sentenced 160 people to death earning him the distinction of the Ft. Smith Hanging Judge.

Fort Smith has even been selected as the future site of the United States Marshal Service (USMS) National Museum. After three years

of promoting Fort Smith as the "home for the US Marshal Museum," the city received the news from Marshals Service Director John Clark that Fort Smith had been selected this year.

Bad men and women, land speculators, murderers, and thieves all hid out in this once Indian Territory, a huge expanse of land, and it was the job of Judge Parker and his deputies to clean it up. The legendary "Trail of Tears" cuts a path through this area that marks the expulsion of Native Americans from their homelands to government reservations.

This is the perfect location for a very active re-enactment group. The

Lawbreakers and Peacemakers, formed in November 2000, have a mission to have fun while representing the actual history of the Fort Smith region. With all the history in the area, they are pretty accurate in their historical re-enactments and often use court documents to develop written skits. The funny stuff is mostly a day in the life of the 1800's. The Lawbreakers and Peacemakers are a charitable organization, and all money collected over costs is donated to individuals in need or children's charities. For dues of \$10 a year, 35 members regularly participate in re-enactment performances for all types of events. These include street festi-

*(Continued on next page)*

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(Continued from previous page)

vals, bank robberies, train robberies, conventions, parades, shotgun weddings, funerals, fairs, plays, rodeos, and concerts. Gun safety is promoted before each skit and gun safety classes provided for schools. They recently completed a class for teachers at a regional teachers conference. In skits, factory made ammunition from the Swanson Company or Perfect Shot is consistently used.

The group, made up of members from ages 4 to 89, holds an event almost every weekend within an 80-mile radius of Fort Smith, except for the month of July. The schedule is pretty demanding, so it is difficult to participate in local SASS shoots and be involved in all their activities. Their most prestigious re-enactment performance each year is The Governors Conference on Tourism. Sixgun stated the hottest show, and he means temperature-wise, was the 3rd Sunday in July, 2008, when it was 106 degrees and 75% humidity, and the show, from setting up the town to tearing it down, was 12 hours long. That takes loyalty to the

group and their mission!

“So, Sixgun, what are some highlights of the skits you like?” “Well, the one we call the “Hat Trick” where a drunk shoots the feathers out of a lady’s hat is darn funny. “Mail Order Bride” is another where the town buffoon orders a bride by mail. When she arrives, she is disgusted to learn he has no money. The buffoon shoots the town agitator, who has a reward on his head, and then the buffoon has the reward money and a loyal bride. I do remember the time we did a train robbery and an elderly lady thought it was for real so she took off her jewelry and hid it in her mouth. That was just too funny. Boy, was she relieved to find out we were not for real!”

For more information on Lawbreakers and Peacemakers contact “Sixgun” at their web site: [www.Lawbreakersandpeacemakersinc.com](http://www.Lawbreakersandpeacemakersinc.com)

If you are involved in an Old West re-enactment group and would like to share information with SASS members, please contact M. Lou Findley through:

<<http://mloufindley.com>>. 🐾

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# HANG ON TO YOUR BOOT MONEY OR IF IT SEEMS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE

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

When the glittering new grips came in the mail, he promptly installed them on his matched set of pistols and sat in the glow of his shiny new back strap wraps until the next shoot. After several impatient days of anticipation, the time finally came for him to proudly show off his new acquisition to his pards at the monthly match.

But, wouldn't ya know it, the first cowboy he showed off the grips to said, "You might want to check, but I think they are not SASS legal." Sure enough, when he checked with SASS Headquarters, they informed him that

they are considered target grips. It says in Proverbs 23:12, "Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to words of knowledge." The best way I know of to keep from squandering your hard-earned money on illegal SASS items is to gain knowledge of the rules by reading the SASS Handbook, RO-I and RO-II materials, or by asking someone with words of knowledge.

If 'fen this article can keep Ten and/or Eight cowboys from losing their boot money, it will have been time well-spent sitting in the ole writer's saddle. Hope this article encourages ya all ta apply your

heart and mind to SASS instruction, or at least ask a few questions to the right cowboys before opening up your money bag.

Hope ta see ya on the trail  
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**I** received an E-mail a while ago from a sad cowboy lamenting losing his boot money. Seems he spent several hours' wages on two sets of genuine "John Wayne Fingered Grips" he found advertised in a magazine.

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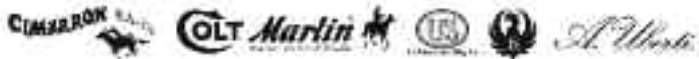
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# DISASSEMBLING A PISTOL CYLINDER ON THE CLOCK

OR

## Testing Loads, Earplugs, and the Trajectory of Metal



By Long Jim Hancock, SASS Regulator #47369  
Photos by author and Latigo Slim, SASS #23783

**B**lazing away on stage four, my cat-like reflexes the envy of all, squinty-eyed and nerveless, every move flawless, a study in ... KA-BOOM! Looking down at the .45 ASM Hartford in my hand, I realized I had never seen

the inside of a pistol cylinder before. Three chambers of one, in fact. Well, from THAT angle, anyway ...

My first thought was, crap, I've blown up my pistol. My second was

that I was the center of the posse's attention, and NOT in a good way. Then, I grounded the mangled corpse, and actually said to the T.O., "Do you want me to finish up the shotgun string?" "NO", he said, all 'WIDE EYED,' "I think that's good enough." "Are you OKAY though?" A quick examination revealed I had retained all ten digits, skin, hair, teeth, and MOST of my dignity. So, luckily, had everyone else in the posse, which I noticed was giving me a WIDE berth.

I gathered up my long guns, and

made my sullen way past the throng of ATTENTIVE, slack-jawed shooters to the unloading table. **Sobbing** ... (okay, too much literary license) ... Unhappily, I unloaded the rest of my guns, and, seeing that a curious crowd had gathered, along with a photographer, I had to pull the cylinder and extract the single unfired round, and pose for documentary pictures. None of the top strap, or cylinder debris were ever found, though I half-expected a goose, or single-engine plane to hit the

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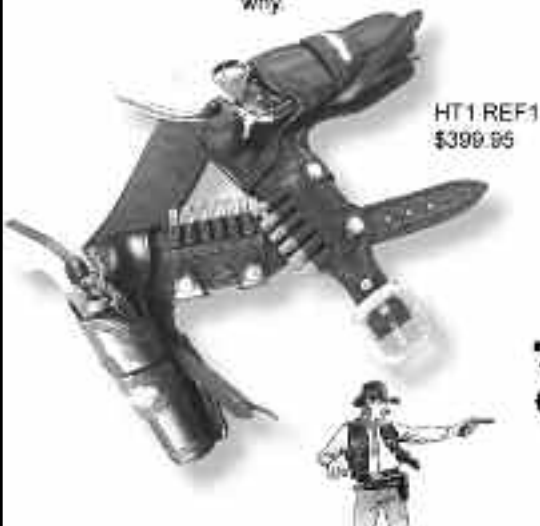


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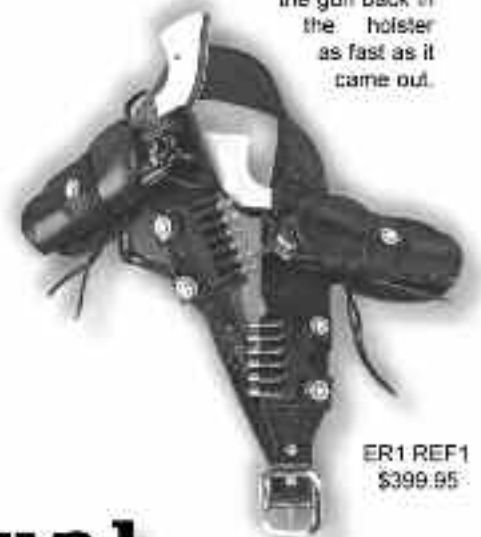
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ground near us. In looking back through the previous loading session, I remembered stopping the Dillon, and readjusting one of its stages, and then placing the rounds back in queue where I thought they should go, and resumed loading. Apparently a 160-grain bullet had stuck up in the seating die, and I had loaded a second one into the case.

This is referred to by those familiar with explosives as: "Making a bomb." My loading was 3.2 grains of Clays, so a double-load would have been at the top-end 6.4 of the Hodgdon loading data sheet. I never found any loose powder in the loaded

round bin, nor any squibs in the OTHER 300 rounds I PULLED when I got home. I do remember after the loading session finding I was one round short of a box of a hundred rounds. While unloading the rounds, I managed to shatter the plastic collet on the RCBS bullet puller into fragments that struck me in the side of the head—evidently in cahoots with the Dillon to exact some measure of revenge for the departed pistol.

Be careful dear readers, in your reloading. **Keep your bullet-seating die clean**, lest you suffer loss and possible harm by duplicating what happened to me. *J.*

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# A REVERSAL OF FORTUNES

## Reversing the Triggers on a Stoeger S&S

### Part II

By Larsen E. Pettifogger, SASS Life #32933

are looking at it. We are going to be removing and inserting both triggers several times. Rather than try to hammer the short trigger pin repeatedly in and out, use a drill bit (or nail, etc.) as a temporary pin.

**Photo 34.** A 5/64" bit or thereabouts



should do the job. You don't want to hammer the bit in; you want one that will slide in and out easily to facilitate fitting the triggers. If the bit's a little loose in the hole, it won't matter for our purposes.

Move the trigger up and down to make sure it is not dragging in its new slot. **Photo 35.** If it is, polish



the interior of the slot and/or the sides of the trigger. Now set the forward trigger in the other slot. (Make sure it is also not dragging.) Notice how it interferes with the rear trigger. **Photo 36.** We have to adjust



the triggers so they will move and trip the sears without rubbing on each other. **Photo 37** shows the for-



ward trigger sitting on top of the rear trigger. Take a scribe and make a mark where the rear end of the front trigger overlaps the rear trigger. **Photo 38.** Take a Dremel or die



grinder with a sanding drum and grind the lip on the side of the rear trigger level with the flat part of the trigger. Grind rearwards down the side of the trigger until you are a little beyond the mark you scribed on the rear trigger. **Photo 39** shows the ground rear trigger sitting in its slot. Next, take a look at the forward trig-



ger. It has a shelf running along the top of the finger portion of the trigger where it transitions to the flat that fits into the slot in the receiver. **Photo 40.** We are going to make that transition a smooth curve.

Set the front trigger into its slot on top of the modified rear trigger; notice how that square edged shelf is interfering with the rear trigger. **Photo 41.** Take your Dremel or die grinder and with a stone or small sanding drum make that shelf a smooth transition from the upper flat part of the trigger to the lower (finger) part of the trigger. **Photo 42.** Try not to remove material, or remove as little material as possible, from the upper flat part of the trigger. You want a smooth transition, but you don't want to thin that upper plate. Put the triggers in the gun (making sure they are in the proper slots) and adjust until they clear each other. **Photo 43.** **Photo 44** shows

Last month we disassembled our Stoeger and did a little fine-tuning. Now we can finish the job by reversing the triggers and reassembling the gun. **Photo 32**



shows the two unmodified factory triggers. The upper one is normally installed in the right hand slot in the bottom of the receiver and normally fires the right hand barrel. The bottom trigger fits in the left hand slot and fires the left barrel. As noted in Part I, this arrangement requires the right-handed shooter to move his/her trigger finger rearward and inward to fire the second barrel. (You lefties are already set up properly and don't need to worry about this mod.) Reversing the triggers will allow the shooter to move his/her trigger finger straight back to fire the second shot. Start by inserting the old "left" trigger (the bottom trigger in Photo 32) into the right hand trigger slot. **Photo 33.**



Remember, we are now looking at the bottom of the receiver so the "right" hand slot when the gun is upright is now on the left side as we





Photo 42



Photo 43



Photo 44

the modified rough ground trigger. Notice that there is a line of untouched material between the finger part of the trigger and the flat part of the trigger. As previously noted, you want a smooth transition, but you don't want to remove excess material from the flat part of the trigger. With a round stone you won't be able to completely remove that little line without dishing the upper flat part of the trigger. As long as the two triggers clear each other, don't worry about that line. Once done, polish where you have ground the triggers to get nice smooth surfaces. (They don't have to be mirror bright. You just want to remove all the rough edges.) Now it's time to reassemble our Stoeger.

Start by installing the right hand sear. Put the sear pin in from the right side of the receiver enough so it won't fall out, but not enough so that it sticks into the right hand sear channel. Insert the right hand sear and then push the pin through the sear and about 1/3 of the way through the center channel. This is where the sear springs go. Next put on the right sear spring. **Photo 45.**



Photo 45

Hook the spring over its retainer on the end of the sear to keep the spring from flopping around loose. Push the sear pin a little further into the spring channel and install the left hand sear spring and push in the pin so it just starts into the left hand sear channel wall. **Photo 46.** Install the left hand sear and fully seat the sear pin. Lift the sear spring and hook it over the retainer on the end of the left sear. **Photo 47.** The trig-



Photo 46



Photo 47

gers can be put in first, followed by the sears and springs. However, if the spring's slip off the sear retainers and drop between the triggers they can be difficult to get back out from between the triggers; I'm suggesting this procedure in hopes it will make things a little easier. Next, install the modified triggers in their new locations and use the drill bit to line everything up. **Photo 48.** Once lined up, tap the trigger pin in from



Photo 48



Photo 49

the right hand side. **Photo 49** shows the installed triggers with the forward trigger now mounted on the left side and the rear trigger on the right side. In Photo 49 you can also see the smooth radius and transition on the side of the front trigger below where the old straight shelf shown in Photo 40 used to be.

If you removed the locking bar

and spring, Photo 31, reinstall the locking block from the right side of the gun, Photo 30, and slide it all the way forward. Put the lever/locking block spring on the guide and use a needle nose pliers to shove it back into its hanger and inward until it engages the small hole in the back of the locking block. Photo 28. Next, cock the hammers. You can't put the forearm on if the hammers aren't cocked. To cock the hammers put the cocking levers on a hard surface and push the receiver downward. **Photo 50.** Reinstall the trigger guard.



Photo 50

With the pinned style trigger guard simply put the trigger guard into its holes in the receiver and reinstall the pins in their proper locations as shown in Photo 14. (Long pin in front, short pin in the rear.) For those guns with the screw-on style trigger guard start the forward trigger guard screw and turn it in until it contacts the trigger guard. **Photo 51.** Then put your thumb on the screw, press down, and use the trigger guard to tighten the screw. **Photo 52.** If that doesn't work, use an angle screwdriver like that shown in Photo 20 to tighten the screw. Install the rear trigger guard screw and then check for clearance on the



Photo 51



Photo 52

rear trigger. **Photo 53.** If the rear trigger is touching, you can give the front of the sheet metal trigger guard a little tap with a plastic hammer. **Photo 54.** This will give some clearance for the rear trigger. **Photo 55.** Replace the stock, put on the barrels and forearm and then open



Photo 53



Photo 54



Photo 55

and close the action and trip the hammers a few times to make sure everything is working correctly.

Your forward trigger will now fire the left barrel and the rear trigger will fire the right barrel. No big deal unless you happen to load one round for some reason and forget which trigger fires which barrel! But, the big difference is now you merely have to fire the first barrel and let your finger move straight back to fire the second barrel. You'll be quicker than greased lightning!! At least that's what I hear tell. 🐘

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**Purdy Gear, SASS Life #33315**

# No Fair

*By Purdy Gear, SASS Life #33315*

the Yankee-built rope has no attaching point to it, indicating that its owner was a dally roper.

The gaucho reata has a really nifty twist braid on its bitter end with a big ol' button. There's mighty little in print about the gaucho saddles and methods, so I can't say for sure whether this was a way to connect to the saddle, or whether it was a way to lash it to the saddle for carrying 'til needed.

One of the things I wish I had in my collection is a twisted reata. There's two ways of making a reata, y'see. The first is by just taking four or more strands and braiding them together. The other is to twist 'em similar to the way that rope is twisted. They say that the twisted type is easier to build, but harder to repair. Mostly nowadays you see

Some use a combination of braided and twisted rawhide. Some are just twisted. Nevada or buckaroo hobbles are made from leather, doubled and stitched with slots cut in the center to form up the required figure eight. Utah hobbles are a combination of two rings, a buckle, and leather, while a set of figure eight hobbles use a single ring. Dixie hobbles are sort of like Utah hobbles except instead of rings they use a couple of "twin loops."

There's another style called a "Union" or military-style hobble which has a ring in the center with each part of the figure eight being formed by a piece of leather and a buckle. Chain hobbles are similar to the Union style except they have a piece of chain in the center rather than a ring.

hailed from. Another tattler was his quirt. (Quista on some ranges.) This is the short, loaded whip of the cowboy. "Loaded" means the handle has something in it to give it body or weight or both. In some, this weighting is done with a core of rawhide bound up with string and rolled tight. On others, it is a fat, iron spike nail inserted in the handle, while others are built over a leather or canvas bag filled up with buckshot. The preference depends on the territory and the amount of flexibility desired.

The other thing that makes quirts different is the way the lash or popper is built. In old Mexico where horses were often handled in a rough or even cruel way, the lashes were narrow and nasty. Up north in saddle bronc country, they preferred 'em with thick handles and a wide lash—not to punish a horse, but to frighten him. If you popped a colt on the nose with a wide lash, it

**A**compadre and I were sitting around the shop quaffing our usual brand of poison—steaming hot Arbuckles strong enough to float a #8 horseshoe—when he up and bellered somethin' about how life is so unfair.

"How so?" sez I.

"It's just not fair. You got too many cool toys."

Those "toys" were a quirt, a couple of rawhide reatas, a stock whip, and a set of hobbles. Good cowboy



**The Aussie whip is most easily identified by the unique "ball joint" where the lash and handle join. American snake and bullwhips do not have this feature.**



**The San Juan style braided honda is still used by buckaroos and vaqueros all over the west. The iron ring honda is considered obsolete for reasons of safety to cattle and horses.**



**The handle of this quirt was made with a bag loaded with shot. It is heavy and very flexible. Its lash is typical of many cow ranges. The hobbles are braided in the vaquero and buckaroo tradition.**

working gear, the lot of it!

Take those reatas. Both are rawhide, one of 'em American-built and the other from the land of the gauchos. Both are finely braided. The American one is a solid four-strander with a fine San Juan honda at the loop-makin' end. The Argentine started life as six delicate strands spliced down to four. The loop end has an iron ring on it. Now, that's old! Today's cowmen frown on that sort of a business end to a rope on account of it maybe hitting and putting a critter's eye out. The "bitter" or non-working end of

the braided ones.

The hobbles? Simply put, they're horsie handcuffs. In the California and Southwest traditions, horses aren't picketed at night. They're restrained by hobbles on the front legs. And, if you're wondering about the effectiveness of that ... Yup, it works pretty well. Mind, there's always a smart-alecky horse somewhere who's learned to hop with his front legs and run with his back enough to leave their rider a-cussin' when he discovers his mount's unique talent.

Hobbles aren't all braided.

There's also hobbles made from an old gunnysack. I have talked to some old timers who insist those are the best hobbles that can be had 'cause they're free, and they won't skin up a horse's legs. That might have been so years back, but I know of mighty few feed sacks that aren't made of either paper or polymer nowadays, and that tradition is beginning to vanish from our ranges.

Back toward the end of the 1800's it was said you could tell a puncher's home range by looking at his gear. Hats and chaps and saddles all told tales of where a hand

really popped! Sort of like swatting a kid's diapers. They paid attention!

A quirt was a mighty handy tool. It was equipped with a loop at the end of the handle. It was most often carried over the horn of the saddle ready for action when need be. It was sometimes slung off the wrist, but it was NEVER used from this position. The proper way to hold the quirt was with the thumb and a couple of fingers on the end of the "wrist loop." This gave you the longest reach and the most action you could get. The other reason for never using the quirt with the loop



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around your wrist was that this was a great way to get hurt. Broken or dislocated wrists were not welcome back where doctors were few and far between!

Whips weren't often used by the cowboy. They were the tool of the bull whacker, stagecoach driver, and the feller who ran the pit ponies down the mines. If a puncher had a whip, it'd most likely be a bullwhip or a snake whip. The bullwhip had a rigid wooden handle, while the snake whip had a limber handle made similar to the handles of quirts built with bags of lead shot in 'em. A small snake whip could be conveniently coiled into a pocket or saddlebag. It was easy to hide there for a night on the town. While it may have been naughty to carry a gun in town, there were no laws against whips, and slinging one of those around your head by the lash, loaded end toward your opponent made for a crowd clearer! A quilt could also be used in this manner and also

made a pretty nice bludgeon!

Aussie-style whips were rarely used. They are marked by a knotted connection of the lash and handle which acts like a ball joint. To this day, Americans have a prejudice toward the Aussie whip and the Aussie's to the bullwhip. Don't ask me why.

Compadres, there's all kinds of cool cowboy stuff out there. You just have to open your eyes and see where it is and what it's used for. Sometimes it's not the piece itself that makes things cool. There's provenance, ownership, and a good yarn that make these items special. Keep an eyeball peeled for 'em. They add to our history, our sense of persona, and to our sense of cowboy.

As usual, I invite comments and/or crabbing. Gimme a holler at 706-692-5536 or [purdygear@windstream.net](mailto:purdygear@windstream.net) if you have anything to say or add. You can also reach me through the link on my website: [www.purdygear.com](http://www.purdygear.com).

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

*As a friend much smarter than I said recently, "there ain't no more science fiction."*

Picture a Hell Town Stage—a long street with buildings on each side runs down the middle of town. The town is totally deserted. The only thing moving is the saloon sign swinging in the breeze about half way down the block. You stand in the middle of the block, looking down the deserted street, and all you can see are four knockdown shotgun targets at the far end. Nothing else presents itself. The Timer Operator is to your right, and slightly behind you, and the three Spotters are positioned to see the entire street.

Your revolvers are loaded with five rounds each and holstered. Your rifle is loaded with nine rounds and staged straight up half way down the block, and your shotgun is similarly staged (open and empty) at the end of the block 10 feet in front of and slightly to the right of the shotgun knockdowns.

The scenario states as you walk the long street, two bad guys will jump you, at which time you dump five revolver rounds on each one. There are six bad guy targets situated on either side of the street. These bad guys are electronically operated and are set to pop-up in different locations for each shooter. The shooter doesn't know exactly where, or on which side of the street the bad guys will appear, but when they do appear, the Shooter has three seconds to plant his feet, draw his pistol, and dump five rounds on the metal bad guy target. After shooting the first bad guy, you holster and continue walking down the street. All this is done on the clock. The T.O. is walking and timing behind you as you move along.

You can't pick up either long gun until you get to them. When you pick up the rifle and use it, you must take

it with you so it's not pointed at your back after it's shot. Like the pop-up bad guys, you have no idea where the rifle targets are—they will appear as you move along, and when they do, you must again plant your foot, and sweep the three rifle targets from either direction for nine rounds. There is no time light associated with the rifle targets. After shooting the rifle, you can move more quickly to the shotgun, taking the rifle with you—you exchange the rifle for the shotgun and knock down the four shotgun targets (either direction), ending the stage.

"Is the Cowboy ready," asks the T.O.?

"Could you put the timer closer to my right ear please?"

"What did you say?"

"Could you put the timer closer to my right ear please?"

"Okay, I have trouble hearing also. Is the Cowboy ready now?"

"Yes."

"Stand by," Beep!

You start to walk the street. Nothing moves—10, 20 steps, and then ... Bad Guy No. 1, a full sized metal target springs up alongside the bank on the left side of the street. You stop, plant your feet, draw your first revolver and dump five rounds on the culprit ... You must do this within three seconds or a timed light affixed close to the bad guy goes on, and it's a five second penalty if you don't beat that clocked light. This time you beat the light with surprising speed—you are very happy with yourself. You holster your revolver and continue your movement down the long street.

"Watch for the second bad guy," advises the T.O. ... Heeding his advice, you are all eyes.

You can't tell where the next bad guy is going to pop-up because the stage is set so the pop-up targets vary from shooter to shooter.

So, on you go, suspecting the next  
*(Continued on next page)*

# INTERACTIVE SCENARIOS I WOULD LOVE TO SHOOT

By Palaver Pete, SASS Life/Regulator#4375



"Is the Cowboy ready," asks Mid Valley Drifter, the T.O.?

"Could you put the timer closer to my right ear please?"  
responds the shooter, The Legend.

"What did you say?" asks the T.O.

"Could you put the timer closer to my right ear please?"

"Okay, says the T.O., I have trouble hearing also.

Is the Cowboy ready now?"

"Yes." "Stand-by," beep!

(Continued from previous page)

bad guy will spring up from the right. But no, you are wrong. He's right in front of you, hidden behind a bale of hay, and you quickly note as he springs up his revolver is aiming right at you. As with the first revolver, you plant your feet, draw your second revolver, and dump five rounds on him ... but you note the light came on, indicating it took you longer than three seconds to react ... a five second penalty. You grit your teeth and plod on.

You now arrive at the location where the rifle is staged. You pick it up, but there's nothing to shoot at yet. You plod on with your rifle at the ready, and suddenly, from behind the shotgun knockdowns, three bad guys pop up. You plant your feet and quickly sweep the three from either direction, three times (these are tough bad guys, and they need to be shot more than once). Now you can add speed to your movement. You quickly move (read run) up to where the shotgun is staged, and exchange the rifle for the shotgun (once again, staged upright). Sweep the four shotgun knockdowns from either direction (all must go down), and as soon as the last one goes down, it's the end of the stage.

The T.O. looks to the Spotters who have trailed behind and all three agree the stage was shot clean, but there was one five-second penalty for being slow on the second revolver. "Time: 54.02 seconds," announces the T.O., "and one five second penalty for being slow on the second revolver, for a total of 59.02." The T.O. directs you to pick up your long guns and head for the unloading table. You think to yourself, "not bad for an Elder Statesman." You head for the unloading table, where the Scorekeeper is located. You smile at the Scorekeeper and check to ensure she has registered your time correctly at 59.02 seconds. "Not bad," she says, and then teasingly adds, "but Badlands Bud shot it in 28 seconds, clean!"

Okay, since you have some influence in the club, you make a mental note to request a future change to the scenario so it reads: all shooters under the age of 22 start the stage with a 30-second handicap. Now, that's my idea of stage fairness—nice try, Palaver Pete!

Devising targets with timing devices, as are envisioned in this scenario is becoming second nature to inventive cowboy minds. Delaware Coop, SASS #69691, tells us of the "Too Dang" targets he and the late Too Dang Frank designed that permit shooters to shoot the guns and hats off bad guys as was done in B-Westerns of yesteryear (June 2009 issue of *The Cowboy Chronicle*, page 50). Although the "Too Danged" targets are not electrically controlled or timed, they represent a step in that direction. I believe Interactive



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Stages, with reactionary targets as described here will soon be tried by more clubs in the near future. As a friend much smarter than I said recently, "there ain't no more science fiction." Whatever you can think of can be created and enjoyed, as long as it's safe and in accordance with SASS rules. As Bing Crosby said in several road movies, "there's no bout adotit." Be smart and be safe. You're a Daisy if ya do.

PS: Planting your feet and drawing either pistol in under three seconds ain't fast draw. SASS Competitors in our game today draw in less than 1.50 seconds after the "beep," and that's at a dead stand still ... maybe even faster. Think Badlands Bud, Evil Roy, Long Hunter, and Holy Terror, and you'll get my drift. *A*

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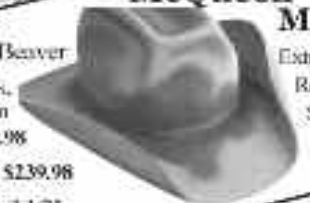


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**Capt. George Baylor,  
SASS Life #24287**

# DISPATCHES FROM CAMP BAYLOR

## The Engraving of Aspen Filly

*By Captain George Baylor, SASS #24287*

I've known Aspen Filly for several years. She is an active vendor at western SASS events (Aspen Filly's Merchandise) and a hard worker for the Sand Creek Raiders. In 2009 she was in charge of vendors. She also shoots B-Western and wears costumes matching her husband, Aspen Wrangler.

I had been admiring her work on engraving at her booth for some time. She did classic engraving, and also things I didn't see other engravers do, animal portraits particularly. I didn't think much of engraving my "working" guns, though. Then, Bighorn told me a



**The dive-bombing eagle is from an Air Medal.**



**A nickel plated, engraved '73**

story of one of his guns being stolen at an event and then dropped in the parking lot because it was engraved with his name on it, and thus harder to pawn than usual. I thought, "oh, an excuse to spend more money on guns! I'll do it." I asked Aspen Filly if she could put my alias on the barrel in something other than script. She said she could match the font Ruger used. So, I had her put my alias on the barrel and my SASS number on the bottom of the grip frame. I was extremely pleased with the results. Stainless steel is hard to engrave, and I really liked the looks of the font used.



**A MACV crest is on top of the grip frame. The palm from the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross goes down the back strap with a star at the bottom.**



**A classic buzzard**



**A stagecoach at full speed**



**A very detailed eagle**

Fast forward a year, and I had her put a MACV crest (Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, the unit I worked for in the late Southeast Asian Unpleasantness). Several of my 1911's had MACV emblems inlayed into the grips. The top of the grip frame seemed to be perfectly shaped for it.

That went so well we started thinking what to do with the rest of the guns. I managed to sell a gun I had won, and it provided seed money. Since we had the MACV emblem on the gun, we thought about other mementoes of my mis-spent youth. Some years back The Redhead had put some of those trinkets in a shadow box. So, I dug it out of where it's stored in the bus. Aspen Filly started sketching. She has an art degree and a Masters in technical theater. She has made a lot of costumes for theater companies, as well as costumes for SASS members. She has won several costume contests herself. I seem to remember her winning best-dressed vendor at Winter Range.

She showed me the sketches, and I let her run with it. The result was



**Aspen Filly at Winter Range in the winning costume she made herself. A judge's eye view ...**



**Frontiersmen want to be able to leave the same chamber unloaded every time. On the outside I had Aspen Filly engrave the last 3 digits of the serial number over the correct chamber. On the front of the cylinder, Aspen Filly engraved this circle with emphasis marks so I can keep it empty.**

magnificent. Items of "military heraldry" are engraved on two Ruger Old Armies. It is all tied together with traditional engraving. They're unique and very personal.

Aspen Filly decided she wanted to do gun engraving after she and her husband, Aspen Wrangler, became active in SASS in April 2003. She went to an engraving school by Glendo Corporation in Emporia, Kansas. The students were mostly jewelers. They worked 8 to 5, had dinner, and went back for more from 6 to 10. She bought a patented system for holding barrels and cylinders from Bill Falk.

"I use a Gravermax with carbide gravers. This type of engraver uses air and electricity to make it go. This  
(Continued on next page)



*Ruger Old Armies "Heaven" and "Hell" engraved by Aspen Filly.*

engraving. I've seen some "tap tap" guys handle the stainless just fine. But, I wanted to engrave now and not 10 years from now. I also drag my microscope around with me. I wear bifocals but can't see what I'm doing without my microscope."

Of the Rugers she said, "Engraving is something I really enjoy doing, and I really enjoyed doing these pistols. It was something totally different than anything I've ever done before. Guess I just love a challenge." Boy, did she ever meet the challenge.

*(Continued from previous page)*

helps on most of the stainless revolvers. Though I have to admit, I think these cylinders (the Rugers) are some of the hardest I've ever cut on. (Burned up a good portion of a carbide engraver keeping the point sharp). But, it is still a form of hand



*"I know I'll go to heaven ..."*

**Heaven and Hell**

The results speak for themselves, and a picture is worth a thousand words, so I've included pictures of several of her guns instead of more blah blah. As for the engraving on the barrels of the Rugers, the quote came from a particularly bad day in a swamp in Cambodia. My lieutenant said, "Boy, if you ever wanted to describe hell, this is it." I thought of a quote attributed to a



*A classically engraved pair of USFAs*



*"Because I've spent my time in hell"*

Marine at Iwo Jima, and I replied, "I know I'll go to Heaven, because I've spent my time in Hell."

Thus, the guns are named "Heaven" and "Hell." After I got the guns back at Outlaw Trail, I went 27 stages without a pistol miss that



*One reason to own a '66 is because they look so good engraved.*



*You can see a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. The laurel wreath from the Combat Infantry Badge encircles the cylinder.*

weekend. I give full credit to Aspen Filly's engraving. If you want your guns to look better than you shoot, you can reach her at:

[jfantom@aol.com](mailto:jfantom@aol.com).

Her website is:

<http://www.aspenfillys.com/>

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# WHAT'S THE CALL?

By Oracle, SASS #4854 Regulator, RO-III  
TG - The Bitter Creek Rangers

You are seeing an addition to "What's the Call?"—that of SASS #2495 Pale Wolf Brunelle's picture. He is on the RO Committee and has answered most of the questions asked.

Are we going to enforce the costuming guidelines we now have? Some of the comments about con-

suming I've seen ...

- 1 We are afraid we will lose shooters or not be able to enlist shooters to our game.
- 2 We will turn into just another steel clanking shooting game. Besides the firearms, our attire is what helps set us apart, is part of our uniqueness.

- 3 I am seeing less costuming more and more. Shoes are becoming more common than boots. Can a cowboy shoot bare headed and wearing a tee shirt?
- 4 Baseball caps coming on after a match for the award's ceremony.
- 5 I've attended a number of annual matches where the "winners" were advised to NOT come up to receive their awards 'out of costume' ... they could see the Match Director afterwards.



Pale Wolf Brunelle

Number 5 needs enforcement. The requirement to "remain in costume for ALL match events ..." was enforced.

Hint: See pages 3, 15, 16, 25, and 26 of the Shooters Handbook

Can a Match Director disqualify a participant for improper costuming? What's YOUR call?

"No call"

"Procedural" - 10 seconds

"Minor Safety Violation" - 30 seconds

"Stage Disqualification" - 999.99 seconds

"Match Disqualification" - 999.99 seconds for every stage remaining

Since we are on clothing, the next question is ... were wooly chaps made from sheep or goat? This answer will NOT be in SASS literature, but it is interesting.

Remember, if you don't know, or are unsure ... LOOK IT UP! If you can't find it, the benefit of doubt goes to the shooter. 🐾

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In the heart of the picturesque Hondo Valley is found one of  
 Lincoln County's  
 most historic and enchanted properties...  
**The Coe Ranch**



After witnessing Tunstall's brutal murder, Billy the Kid "reached the Coe place after dark. On hearing hoofbeats coming up the trail, Frank jumped from his bunk and grabbed his gun from the belt hanging over the head of his bed. By the time he reached the door, he heard Billy's voice. This incident was so indelibly imprinted on his mind that many years later he could recall what was said, word for word. "It's me, Frank, Open up quick. I've got terrible news. It means trouble for all of us." Frank unbarred the door and Billy came in. Then he struck a match and lighted a candle. "My God, Billy, what in the world has happened? What's wrong?" He barred the door again and returned to the center of the room where Billy stood dazed. "They've

got Tunstall. The damned sneaking cowards have murdered him like a dog. His body is over in Sanchez [now known as Tunstall] Canyon." Frank was shaken to the bottom of his boots. "Why in the name of God did they kill him? What did he do to make them shoot him down like that?" Billy was too nervous to sit down so he paced back and forth in front of the fireplace; he related what had happened, ending his story with the solemn promise that he would never stop until he had killed every last man who had ridden in the posse."

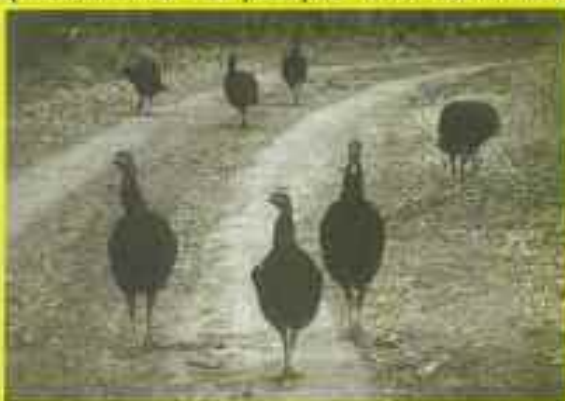
"RANCH on the RUIDOSO" written by Wilbur Coe

Bill Pippin Real Estate is pleased to be offering for sale to the public Lincoln County's most historic ranch, "The Coe Ranch". Established in 1882 following the Lincoln County War,

the Coe Ranch is rich not only in its abundance of water and beauty but the ranch is also rich with history. Owner Frank Coe was granted amnesty from New Mexico Governor Lew Wallace for his participation in the Lincoln County War. Billy the Kid helped Frank Coe cut oats on the ranch in 1877. The two became loyal friends and remained so, right up to the time Billy was supposedly shot and killed by Pat Garret in Fort Sumner, NM. The "Kid" was described by Frank Coe as being very loyal to people he befriended and/or worked for. The "Kid" was merry, always joking and full of tricks and he particularly enjoyed listening and dancing to the fiddle music of Frank and George Coe at the Coe Ranch.



What attracted the Coe's to settle in the Hondo Valley along the Rio Ruidoso-Hondo River so long ago are what still attract residents and visitors alike. The healthful climate, fertile valleys and thick forested mountains provide plenty of outdoor recreation from hiking, horse back riding, fishing, golfing, skiing, several casinos, the world's richest quarter horse race, and hunting for deer, elk, bear, turkey, mountain lion and smaller animals. The Cowboy Symposium in October is a special treat for people who come from all over the country. The Coe Ranch is located only 17 miles east of Ruidoso and 55 miles west of Roswell on U.S. Hwy 70 in Glencoe, New Mexico.



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 (575) 257-4228 or (800) 489-9289 or fax: (575) 257-9191





# THE CAPGUN KID RIDES

## Artic Fox and the Posse By Three Stroke of Organizational Genius

By The Capgun Kid, SASS #31398, and Artic Fox, SASS #39883



Happy Posse—they shot the “posse by three!”



Artic Fox, SASS #39883

Every so often a little pearl of an idea falls out of a tree on a body and really makes a day, or an event, or a shoot special. When I pulled my beetle into the parking area of the River Junction Shootist Society’s at the end of their descending gravel road, it was already assumed I’d have a great time at their annual Ambush.

Now shooting with these red-necks (according to the Obama administration and our own Congressman Murtha, those of us in Western PA are not bigots ... just red-necks ... and we rely addictively to our guns and bibles) for about four years, I realized while parking the car I had made some real valuable friends.

One of the first to welcome me to Pittsburgh was a coyote named Artic Fox. Yeah ... I know ... he left out the first “C” in his name. Bugs me all the time. We knew each other from past Pennsylvania matches where I pulled in with my New York or Connecticut pards, so you can say we go back about ten years.

Well, this weekend was Artic’s time to shine and drop that little pearl right on us. After all the hands were shook, coffee slugged down, morning posing was over, and Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer were said, we broke up into our posses and trudged up the gravel hill that led away from their little western town

### Action Order for Each Stage

| Posse by Three | First Segment | Second Segment | Third Segment |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| Group 1        | Shoot         | Work           | Off           |
| Group 2        | Work          | Off            | Shoot         |
| Group 3        | Off           | Shoot          | Work          |

and to their shooting bays.

Bullets were coming out of boxes, ear-plugs were being stuffed into the sides of our heads, and gunbelts were being buckled on when Arty cracked his idea on us. We were going to divide our posse into three groups rather than two.

Huh? Wha’d he say? Folks began pulling their earplugs to make sure they heard right. They did.

I dunno whether Artic Fox spent hours on this idea, or whether it came upon him in the car the way so many of life’s answers do for those of us in sales/service when we are alone in the car and the satellite radio just gets boring enough for the mind to wander, or whether he thought of it on the way into the shoot. But, I tells you what, matey ... it really made the weekend a lot more fun.

Arty figured out the two constant bugaboos that plague all posse’s are the idle time (or complete lack of it) and the gradual degradation of shooters in their duties when not shooting. This was the first posse I’ve ever shot with where those problems disappeared entirely. Nobody had to bear more work because others did not, everybody got time to themselves to fool around with their gear, go to the

blue room, or just chat with each other. The work parties kept everything moving, and we really moved along.

Here’s how he did it. Each group rotated from shooting to working to idle in the same sequence for each stage. By the end of the second stage, everybody got the hang of it, and we really whizzed along with no boredom, inactivity, shirking, or all the other foibles that come with a posse.

I suspect, but cannot prove, most of us were more alert, less prone to procedurals.

Artic Fox calls his idea ... “Posse-By-Three.” It is for those zones of organization when shooters show up and register and there are enough to make two big posses rather than three or four small, unsafe ones. The club can conceivably mandate it, or leave it to the Posse Leaders to use the idea when the shooter’s names are read and posses fall out on their way to the morning’s first stage.

Here’s how Artic Fox organized, ran, and wrote it up:

Posse by Three

Posse size:

15-30

Setup:

Divide large posse into three equal groups.

Select leader for each group and, if possible, include one or more RO’s capable and qualified to run a timer.

There are three RO’s

There are three loading/unloading officers

There are three scorers to share the clipboard and shooter sheets

There are three sets of spotters, brass pickers, and target setters

Operation:

Simple, one group shoots, one group works, and one group is off (resting, potty, or water break, etc.). This group must stay away from the line and loading/unloading areas so as to not interfere with the ‘work’ group.

It really makes a difference when the posse is shooting in a small or crowded bay. You rotate in the same order for each stage, so that each group knows when to shoot, work, and rest. When the scorer or posse leader reads the shooting order, you make sure everyone knows when to rotate.

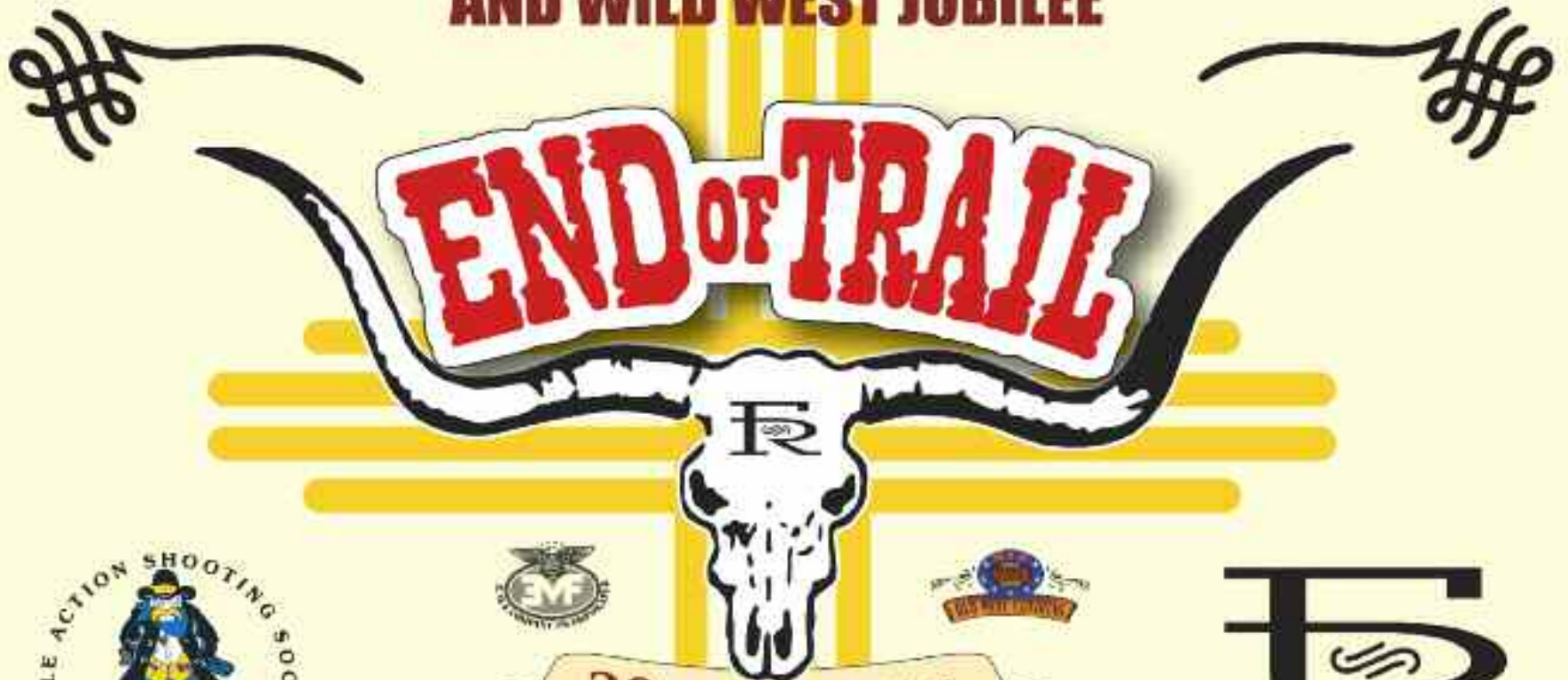
The Posse Leader is the chief RO, the posse ‘works’ with the Posse Leader as the final posse authority. Once you get this plan rolling, the ‘posse team’ nearly manages itself. Everybody works, and everybody has a chance to rest and relax a little bit on each stage. Team morale is high, energy is maximized, and the posse will be less tired at the end of the day.

I was quite surprised when Artic Fox announced this as we made ready to shoot, and even more surprised at how any grumbling quickly turned into an efficient workflow ... and how many people I got to chat with as we shot through. It was one of the fastest posses I’d ever been on.

As a stand alone, you can’t miss by going to the River Junction Shootist Society’s club to shoot, but Artic Fox, with minimal effort, really contributed a lot to this event.

Don’t shoot yore eye out, kid. 🐾

# THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP OF COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING™ AND WILD WEST JUBILEE



29TH ANNUAL



FOUNDERS RANCH ~ NEW MEXICO

## JUNE 21ST-27TH, 2010



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29TH AN

FOUNDERS RANCH

# JUNE 21ST-



FOR MORE INFORMATION P  
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### 6 STAGE MOUNTED MAIN MATCH

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# END of TRAIL 2010 ~ OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

## JUNE 21ST-27TH, 2010

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Camping is available for RVs and tents. No hook-ups, but chemical toilets are available. Camping is restricted to one RV or one tent and one car per site. Day parking for shooters is provided in a separate, adjacent area.

### FOOD & DRINK & GRUB

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner is provided at a reasonable cost from an excellent array of Food Vendors all five days. END of TRAIL is a BYOB event. Dinner available from END of TRAIL Vendors. You pay direct to Vendors at END of TRAIL. No one is permitted to wear firearms where alcohol is present. This rule will be strictly enforced.

### DIRECTIONS TO FOUNDERS RANCH EDGEWOOD, NEW MEXICO

1. Head east on Interstate 40 from Albuquerque
2. Exit 181-Sedillo Hill Road
3. Turn Left (east) on Old Route 66 (Hwy 333)
4. Turn Right on Highway 217
5. Drive approximately 5 miles and turn left at Juan Tomas Rd
6. Turn Left on Barton Road and follow to main entry gate



Mail entry payment and other fees with completed Entry Form. END of TRAIL will be held rain or shine June 21st-27th, 2010. Entry Deadline is May 28th, 2010. Refund requests must be received prior to May 28th, 2010 and are subject to a \$25.00 processing fee. No refunds will be made for requests after May 28th. A warm-up match is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, June 21st and 22nd. Shooter's packets must be picked up prior to the shooter's meeting on Thursday, June 24th. END of TRAIL is an Invitational event, SASS reserves the right to refuse entry to anyone.

STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTRY: \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

### REGISTRATION & ENTRY FEES

|   | FIRST ENTRY | SPOUSE ENTRY |
|---|-------------|--------------|
| <b>ACTION SHOOTING</b> MAIN MATCH FEE                 | \$200.00    | \$180.00     |
| <b>WILD BUNCH</b> MATCH AS MAIN MATCH FEE             | \$200.00    | \$180.00     |
| <b>MOUNTED SHOOTING</b> MAIN MATCH FEE                | \$200.00    | \$180.00     |
| <b>*WARM-UP</b> MATCH FEE.....NO. _____ X.....\$40.00 | \$40.00     | \$40.00      |

Separate entry fees apply for each warm-up match. Check all that you are registering for:  
 Monday Action AM Warm-Up     Monday Action PM Warm-Up  
 Tuesday Action AM Warm-Up     Tuesday Mounted Warm-Up

**\*WILD BUNCH** MATCH.....NO. \_\_\_\_\_ X.....\$75.00    \$75.00    \$75.00

<sup>4</sup> Warm-Up Match and Wild Bunch Match: Must be a registered Action or Mounted Shooter/No Conventioneers

### IN ADDITION TO MAIN MATCH

|   |         |         |
|---|---------|---------|
| BUCKAROO(13).....NO. _____ X.....\$50.00  | \$50.00 | \$      |
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| YOUNG ADULT(17-20).....NO. _____ X.....\$75.00  | \$75.00 | \$      |
| CONVENTIONEER.....NO. _____ X.....\$55.00   | \$55.00 | \$55.00 |
| GUEST BADGE (Spouse of registrant only).....\$35.00   | \$      | \$35.00 |
| CAMPING FEE: <input type="checkbox"/> RV <input type="checkbox"/> TENT RV Length: _____ \$50.00 | \$      | \$      |
| SIDE MATCHES: (All you can Shoot - \$20.00).....\$20.00   | \$      | \$      |
| Visit <a href="http://www.sassnet.com">www.sassnet.com</a> for a list of side matches           |         |         |
| <b>TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED</b>  | \$      | \$      |

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### FIRST ENTRANT:

ALIAS \_\_\_\_\_

REAL NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SASS NUMBER (Required) \_\_\_\_\_

COWBOY  COWGIRL  WRANGLER (36+)  LADY WRANGLER (36+)  DUELIST  LADY DUELIST  
 SENIOR DUELIST  FRONTIERSMAN  FRONTIER CARTRIDGE  LADY FRONTIER CARTRIDGE  
 FRONTIER CARTRIDGE DUELIST  ABER  LADY ABER  LADY FRONTIER CARTRIDGE DUELIST  
 GUNFIGHTER  LADY GUNFIGHTER  SENIOR GUNFIGHTER  CLASSIC COWBOY  CLASSIC COWGIRL  
 JR BOY(12-16)  JR GIRL(12-16)  SENIOR (60+)  LADY SR (60+)  ELDER STATESMAN (70+)  
 GRAND DAME (70+)  SILVER SR (65+)  LADY SILVER SR (65+)  \*B\*WSTRN  LADY \*B\*WSTRN  
 MNTD DIVA \_\_\_\_\_  LADY MNTD DIVA \_\_\_\_\_  JR MNTD DIVA \_\_\_\_\_  PIONEER CART  COMBINED  
 CART  SR LIMITED MNTD  LADY SR LIMITED MNTD  SR OPEN MNTD  LADY SR OPEN MNTD

SPOUSE: (For \$35 Guest Badge check this box

ALIAS \_\_\_\_\_

REAL NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SASS NUMBER (Required) \_\_\_\_\_

COWBOY  COWGIRL  WRANGLER (36+)  LADY WRANGLER (36+)  DUELIST  LADY DUELIST  
 SENIOR DUELIST  FRONTIERSMAN  FRONTIER CARTRIDGE  LADY FRONTIER CARTRIDGE  
 FRONTIER CARTRIDGE DUELIST  ABER  LADY ABER  LADY FRONTIER CARTRIDGE DUELIST  
 GUNFIGHTER  LADY GUNFIGHTER  SENIOR GUNFIGHTER  CLASSIC COWBOY  CLASSIC COWGIRL  
 JR BOY(12-16)  JR GIRL(12-16)  SENIOR (60+)  LADY SR (60+)  ELDER STATESMAN (70+)  
 GRAND DAME (70+)  SILVER SR (65+)  LADY SILVER SR (65+)  \*B\*WSTRN  LADY \*B\*WSTRN  
 MNTD DIVA \_\_\_\_\_  LADY MNTD DIVA \_\_\_\_\_  JR MNTD DIVA \_\_\_\_\_  PIONEER CART  COMBINED  
 CART  SR LIMITED MNTD  LADY SR LIMITED MNTD  SR OPEN MNTD  LADY SR OPEN MNTD

### FIRST FAMILY ENTRANT:

ALIAS \_\_\_\_\_

REAL NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SASS NUMBER (Required) \_\_\_\_\_

COWBOY  COWGIRL  WRANGLER (36+)  LADY WRANGLER (36+)  DUELIST  LADY DUELIST  
 SENIOR DUELIST  FRONTIERSMAN  FRONTIER CARTRIDGE  LADY FRONTIER CARTRIDGE  
 FRONTIER CARTRIDGE DUELIST  ABER  LADY ABER  LADY FRONTIER CARTRIDGE DUELIST  
 GUNFIGHTER  LADY GUNFIGHTER  SENIOR GUNFIGHTER  CLASSIC COWBOY  CLASSIC COWGIRL  
 JR BOY(12-16)  JR GIRL(12-16)  SENIOR (60+)  LADY SR (60+)  ELDER STATESMAN (70+)  
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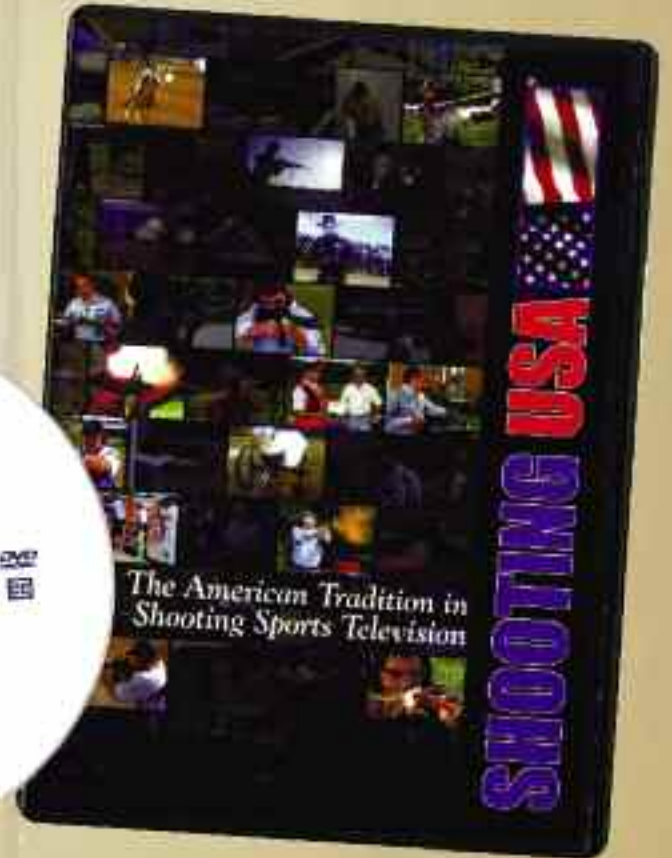
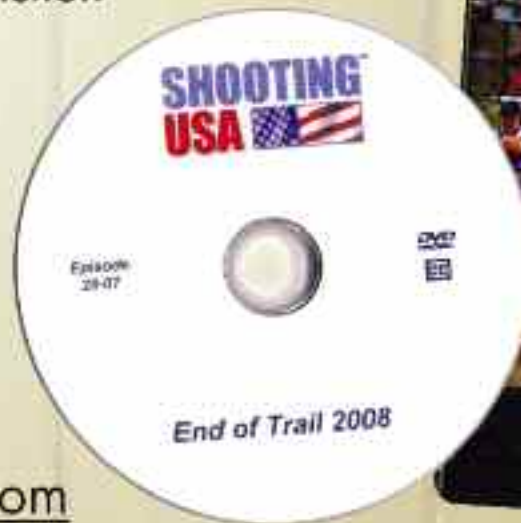


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# In Memory Of RIPSHIN, SASS LIFE #20556 TG, REGULATOR

By Horsetrader, SASS Life #20213, Regulator

I'm not sure how or where Mike Woods, aka Ripshin, SASS Life #20556, TG, Regulator, first learned of Cowboy Action Shooting™, but it was something he was extremely excited about. So excited that when I bumped into him at a local hardware store, he couldn't stop talking about it. I had never heard of Cowboy Action Shooting™, but Ripshin had already attended several matches in Charlotte, North Carolina, home of the Carolina Rough Riders, and wanted desperately for me to go with him to a match.

After several attempts at convincing me this was something I, too, would enjoy, I finally gave in and reluctantly rode with him to Charlotte one Sunday morning. That was ten years ago. We both loved Cowboy Action Shooting™ and with only two or three matches under our belts, we were returning

from yet another match in Charlotte when we both, practically at the same time, looked at each other and said, "We can do this. We can build a cowboy club." We were nearly halfway home, and for the remainder of our trip we tossed around potential names for this club we wanted to build. The Hibriten Guard and Caldwell Cowboys were considered, as well as several others, but as we crossed Castle Bridge over the Catawba River, I thought of Gunpowder Creek, which flows through central and southern Caldwell County. Thinking it sounded *cowboy*, I offered that up as a suggestion for part of our club's name. Ripshin thought for a few minutes and then tossed out Regulators, and The Gunpowder Creek Regulators was born.

For nearly a year we searched for a location to build our club, but since



Lenoir, North Carolina and finally, after being turned down for the third or fourth time by wildlife clubs, he decided if no one wanted to host our club, we'd just build it on his land.

So, in October of 1999 we held an informal gathering on Ripshin's property and invited several of our friends to attend. We provided the firearms and ammunition and tried, as best we could, to explain what Cowboy Action Shooting™ was all about. After shooting a couple of stages, we notified the group The Gunpowder Creek Regulators would hold their first official match on the second Saturday of November and, if those in attendance liked what they had seen, they were welcome to join us. When the second Saturday finally rolled around we were surprised to have ten shooters show up.

Cowboy Action Shooting™ had not yet been introduced to the area, no one was interested. We offered our idea to several established shooting clubs, but were turned down. Meanwhile, we spent our time selling raffle tickets and raising money to buy targets, writing bylaws and articles of incorporation, and laying the groundwork for our club. Ripshin owned some property in the Patterson community just north of

Excited about what we were doing, Ripshin and I set out on a labor of love that lasted for the next nine years. We literally spent every minute of our spare time at the range building stage props and doing everything possible to turn his small piece of ground into a little western town. We introduced things to our sport most clubs had never even considered. We were told over and over again two people could not possibly build a cowboy club by

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themselves, but we were determined and never stopped working.

Before long those ten or so shooters showing up at our matches turned into twenty, then thirty, and, almost before we knew it, this little ten man cowboy club had grown into one of the largest in the state. After a couple of years we were averaging forty to fifty shooters per match and saw as many as seventy several times, mostly because Ripshin never tired of "working the crowd." He barely had time to shoot our matches because he was so busy greeting new shooters and spectators and sharing his love of Cowboy Action Shooting™ with everyone that would listen.

For nine years Ripshin and I worked as a team, I as club president and he as Range Master. Then about a year ago, I stepped aside and Ripshin became president of our club. He continued to work tirelessly to make Gunpowder Creek a great place to visit and to bring new shooters to our sport.

Then tragedy struck. When Sixgun Shookster, SASS #44593, called me that Sunday morning and told me there had been an accident, dozens of thoughts rushed through my mind as to whom he could be calling about. As he explained to me Ripshin had died as a result of an industrial accident, it was like a bad dream. We had been best friends for more than thirty years, and I couldn't imagine not having him around. He was a man I respected, loved, and admired. He taught me how to build stuff and laughed with me instead of at me when I made mis-

takes. We loved to hang out at the range and "nail boards together" or just talk about what we wanted to build next. Once when we were building an outdoor toilet (long before we had the nice bathrooms he and his brother, Wes, built), I was struggling to get my part of the job to come out right. Ripshin just stood there looking at the mess I had made and said, "Who cares, it's only an outhouse." That quickly became our catch phrase for the next seven or eight years whenever we were building something that just didn't go together the way we wanted ... "Hey, it's only an outhouse!"

When we first began, Ripshin and I didn't know much about Cowboy Action Shooting™. All we knew was it was fun, and we wanted to do it. We literally began with nothing and put together a really nice little club that quickly became quite popular. But none of that could have been accomplished without Ripshin's willingness to take a chance and use his own land for the club's location. His personal sacrifice, giving of his time, money, and property, made it possible for hundreds, if not thousands of people to enjoy the game he truly loved. Over the years I often heard him jokingly say, "For the money I've invested in this club, I could have had a really nice bass boat." I think Ripshin said this to emphasize just how much he loved Cowboy Action Shooting™ and preferred it to any other activity in which he could possibly be involved. He went from knowing nothing about Cowboy

Action Shooting™ to being one of the most respected figures in the sport. I often traveled with him to other matches in and out of state, and the reception he received was fit for a king. Even though he was revered by those around him, you never saw a change in him. Ripshin wore the hat well.

Mike "Ripshin" Woods was certainly a wonderful ambassador for the sport of Cowboy Action Shooting™. However, playing cowboy was only a small part of his life. He was a loving husband and father. He loved his grandchildren dearly and was more than just a brother to Wes, John, Sanford, and Bonnie. To his many nieces and nephews he was absolutely the coolest uncle in the world. Ripshin had been a fine police officer and was respected by all those fortunate enough to have worked with him. Even though it's been nearly thirty years since he last pinned on the badge, his impact on others was clearly evidenced by the number of law enforcement officers paying their respect at his funeral.

Ripshin wasn't your "average Joe," as sometimes he'd do things we didn't expect him to do. For example, not too long ago he went back to school and received his degree. Very few people his age would have even attempted that, but it was something he had set his mind to do. He never thought of himself as a smart man, but he truly was. Those of us who knew him valued his opinion and sought his advice regularly. Some of my fondest memories are

of sitting around on the porch at the range engaging in "popcorn conversations" where I would listen to Ripshin and his brothers talk about everything from the history of the valley to current events. We called it "porch therapy," and everyone enjoyed sitting there talking, especially after matches. But if Ripshin wasn't able to be with us, we'd all usually just go home. It simply wasn't fun without him there.

On Thursday June 11, 2009 we gathered at Lenoir Community Church to say our final farewell to Ripshin. The service was a beautiful and fitting tribute to a great man. Hundreds of people came to help comfort his family and say goodbye to a cowboy and best friend whose equal will never be seen again.

Not too many people can claim to have brought as many shooters into our sport as Ripshin. Even fewer can say they provided the land, labor, and practically everything else needed to build a club, most of it at his own expense. Without Mike "Ripshin" Woods there could not have been a Gunpowder Creek Regulators and probably hundreds of current SASS members would never have known about Cowboy Action Shooting™. Those of us left to carry on will never be able to thank Ripshin enough for all he did to bring Cowboy Action Shooting™ to Lenoir, North Carolina. RIP, my dear friend, we miss you so much.

REST IN PEACE

Mike "Ripshin" Woods

We'll Meet You In The Morning. 🐾



# TALES OF EARLY CALIFORNIA

## Solomon Pico and the Story of Zorro

By Col. Richard Dodge, SASS Life #1750



Col. Richard Dodge, SASS Life #1750

hundred miles up the coast, an enormous distance in those days.

The road follows the coast westward from Los Angeles past the lovely, famed city of Santa Barbara, located on a beautiful stretch of coastline just a few miles east of where it makes its sharp turn to the north. A few miles up from that point, one passes the small town of Los Alamos. Thousands of cars sweep past Los Alamos every day without a thought or notice. Lying just to the east of the highway lies a line of low, rounded hills—the Solomon Hills, and therein lies a story, should anyone ever consider why “Solomon” Hills.

Not the Solomon of Biblical note, but the Solomon of the famous and powerful Pico family, a man whose

cousin, Pio Pico, was the last governor of Mexican California before it became American California. The Picos were probably the most influential *Californio* family in all California—and that is why Solomon is so little known.

Solomon Pico was the proud owner of a rancho in Central California in what is now Stanislaus County along the Tuolumne River, an area with some of the richest soil in California even today. As happened many times when the despised *Americanos* arrived and ran roughshod over the land in a mindless quest for gold, Solomon lost his rancho to an American who filed title on his land. Unable to provide documentation of his ownership, Solomon

was unceremoniously evicted from his home by the not too impartial American courts.

We’ve all heard of Joaquin Murietta and his vengeance on the *Americanos* for the injustices done to him and the death of his wife. Joaquin wasn’t the only *Californio* to turn to vengeance. A burning anger seethed in many of the *Californios*, their Spanish ire driven to maniacal proportions as they drew the blood of their tormentors. The first years of California’s statehood were as bloody as any in American history.

Since there was actually little agriculture established in northern California, where thousands of new arrivals were gathered, it became  
*(Continued on next page)*

U. S. Highway 101 follows the Pacific Coast along the old El Camino Real – the King’s Road – which was a heavily traveled path dating from the very earliest of the California Missions. As early as 1770, the Spanish established two presidios or forts: one at San Diego, the other at Monterey, some four

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## TALES OF EARLY CALIFORNIA . . .

(Continued from previous page)

necessary for the merchants in San Francisco to purchase cattle from the plentiful herds of the southern California ranchos and enormous cattle drives followed the El Camino Real over 500 miles to San Francisco. Enormous riches fell to the *Californios* who had managed to hold on to their land, but the situation also created an ideal situation for Solomon Pico to take his measure of vengeance.

Since gold was the currency of the day, it was necessary for cattle buyers to travel the King's Road, carrying the gold to purchase the herds. It is not recorded how many of them fell prey to Solomon along the stretch between present day Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo, but there were many. Solomon was ruthless in his depredations on these hapless travelers, routinely executing them with his knife or pistol and cutting off their ears, which he gleefully displayed on a leather thong hanging from the horn of his magnificent saddle.


At first, Solomon was regarded as a hero by the *Californios*. He freely distributed his booty to the padres and the poor of the area and—by the only existing account of him—he was a handsome and dashing *caballero*, splendidly mounted and armed with a brace of Colt Dragoons, no doubt relieved from one or two of his victims, and an

enormous Mexican knife.

Many of the old *Californio* families were not altogether opposed to American statehood. They had been disgusted with the rule of Mexico City for decades, imposed by a series of corrupt and unfit military governors. So it was with the Pico family, who were not pleased by the antics of cousin Solomon. As the American courts and “justice” system, such as it was, became more firmly established, the pressure to end Solomon's career began to grow. Many were the stories of Solomon's narrow escapes and even one escape with outside help from a jail where he had been imprisoned briefly.


In the end, Solomon was forced to reluctantly abandon California for Mexico. He remained near the border, and it is said he was even employed as a police officer for a time before he was murdered by a person or persons unknown.

Meanwhile, back in California, the Pico family set out to erase any record of Solomon, and they very nearly succeeded. One has to search long and hard to find any record he even existed, but there are clues—such as the Solomon Hills. Ask any local around Los Alamos, and they will tell you of the stories of Solomon Pico and how he may have buried some of his ill-gotten gold in that bucolic range of hills just to the east of town. They will also tell you he was the original Zorro.




# LITTLE KNOWN FAMOUS PEOPLE WAY OUT WEST -

By Joe Fasthorse Harrill, SASS #48769



**W**illiam “Will” D. Fossett served as a lawman for more than 50 years. His career started in the 1870's when he served as assistant marshal in Caldwell, Kansas during the cowtown's heyday. He became the City Marshal at Kingman, Kansas in 1881. In 1887, he signed on as a construction worker building the railroads. In 1889, he participated in the Oklahoma Land Rush and later went back to work for the railroad as a special agent.

As a U.S Deputy Marshal in 1897, Will helped Deputy Marshals Heck Thomas and Bill Tilghman capture infamous Doolin gang member, Little Dick West. That same year, Fossett was appointed Chief Deputy of Oklahoma Territory. When outlaws Bob Hughes and his gang tried robbing the Rock Island train at Pond Creek, Oklahoma, Will was waiting. He killed Bob Hughes, and the rest of the gang ran for their lives ... empty handed. The gang was rounded up a few days later by Deputy Marshal Chris Madsen. Fossett rode with Bill Banks and his posse to chase outlaws Zip Wyatt and Ike Black from their Gloss Mountain hide-out that resulted in their deaths. Will Fossett died at in 1940. 🐾



**Joe Fasthorse Harrill,**  
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And the odds are he was, indeed, the inspiration for the legend of Zorro. Johnston McCulley arrived in the Santa Barbara area probably around the turn of the 20th Century. He would have heard of the stories of Solomon, which were still told and retold in the area and, being a writer, was inspired to write.

He must have been touched by the injustice that caused Solomon's turn to murderous vengeance from being a peaceful *Californio*. The early 20th Century, however, had not reached a time of enlightenment and political correctness. There was strong prejudice against the Mexican population (and these were not illegal immigrants, but fourth and fifth generation *Californios*) and McCulley was reluctant to tell it like it was.

And so, he created a time for his hero that never existed.

He placed Zorro in Old California with the cruel Spaniards as the villains, replacing the evil Americans in a pueblo in Los Angeles—a pueblo that never existed. Solomon Pico had been in the Mexican army and had developed martial skills with both sword and firearms. He was a skilled horseman, as probably every *Californio* was. Also, he was a dashing and handsome man by all accounts—and so Zorro became America's first and longest lasting “super hero,” few realizing the real tragedy behind the story. He became the inspiration for future heroes who hid their identity

behind an unlikely alter ego like gentle Diego Vega: Superman/Clark Kent and Batman/Bruce Wayne are the most well-known,

McCulley's Zorro was a far cry from the one popularized by Douglas Fairbanks, Guy Madison, Anthony Perkins, and Antonio Banderas. Nor were the other characters of “The Mask of Zorro” anything like the bumbling characters created by Disney. They were *mean*. Zorro took great delight in grimly tormenting his opponent with tiny sword pricks all over his body before deftly carving his “Z” on the poor fool's forehead. Sergeant Garcia was a cruel and deadly foil for Zorro's blade and is eventually killed in a duel with his nemesis.

So there you have it—the true story of Zorro—one more legend of Early California, embedded into American literature as firmly as that of the American cowboy, reminding us of our sense of justice—and very subtly, of our own past.

McCulley, Johnston; *The Mask of Zorro, The Curse of Capistrano*, Tom Doherty Associates, Ind., New York, 1998

Dana, Don Francisco, *The Blonde Ranchero*; Published by South County Historical Society, Arroyo Grande, California

Tompkins, Walker A, *Santa Barbara History Makers*; Published by McNally & Loftin, Santa Barbara, California 1983 🐾



**Tuolumne Lawman,  
SASS Life #6127**

# GETTING STARTED IN COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING™ ON A SHOESTRING, REVISTED 15 YEARS LATER!

## Part One

By Tuolumne Lawman, SASS #6127

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That is a quote from one of the first Catuboy Chronicle articles I wrote fifteen years ago that was titled “Getting

you can still get started on a shoestring.

In 1994, a person could get a start in Cowboy Action Shooting™ for well under \$1,000 if they shopped carefully. When I started Cowboy Action Shooting™ that same year, I had a total of less than \$875 invested in my armory. I had a used Rossi Puma .44-40, a used Rossi hammered coach gun, a .44-40 1875 Outlaw (Remington clone), and EMF Dakota .44-40, both used.



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Started on a Shoestring.” Many shooters who have been around the sport as long as I have will tell you SASS itself has evolved away from its original roots as envisioned by the original “Wild Bunch.” Somehow the concept of “Spirit of the Game” has seemingly diminished in importance, and the “John Wayne Test” is a thing of the past ... That, however, is not the point of this article. The purpose of this series of articles is to tell you how

Unfortunately, in today’s market, you will not even come close to that now!

Through the last fifteen years, much has changed. The horrible exchange rate between the US Dollar and the Euro (about 1 Euro to \$1.50 US) is certainly not helping, as most Cowboy Action Shooting™ guns come from Europe—especially Italy. Prices on domestically produced firearms like Marlin and Ruger have not only been hurt by the interna-

tional money market, but also several factors here at home. Post election hysteria has driven demand up exponentially. Anyone familiar with basic economics knows rising demand means decreased available supplies and rising prices. Credit card rates going up also has an effect, as people are reluctant to put rather expensive (and un-necessary) toys like Cowboy Action Shooting™ guns on high interest plastic. Another factor is the absolutely exponential growth of Cowboy Action Shooting™ since I started in it, which has caused supply and demand problems from time to time.

The increased cost of getting started really struck me late in 2005. I was at a River City Regulator match at Yolo when a young guy, wife, and kids stopped and talked to me. He had a cowboy hat and cowboy boots on. Both were new and did not seem to be his normal wear. They were probably bought for the occasion. He told me he had been reading about Cowboy Action Shooting™ in several gun publications, had become interested, and wanted to join SASS and start shooting.

He asked me about my guns and cost. That day I had the following ordnance with me in the gun cart: a .44-40, charcoal blue

1860 Henry Military Model, an Armisport .56-50 Spencer Model 1865 Carbine, a .44-40 1873 Uberti Deluxe 24" Sporting Rifle, a Liberty II coach gun, and a pair of charcoal blued Cimarron Richards-Mason .44 Colt conversions. When I gave him the run down on the cost of each gun, he looked faint! I explained he could spend about half that buying used, getting Vaqueros and a Rossi, etc., but the shine was gone from his eyes. He looked like his dog had just died. Maybe it was just his dream dying ...

I realized back then I had about \$4,000-plus of shootin’ irons in my gun cart. Now thinking about it, that total would be closer to \$5,000 to \$5,500 for the lot! These rifles alone are retailing well over \$1,000 each! That really got me thinking: “Is this sport getting expensive, or what?” If you add in the cost of action jobs, trick short stroke kits, and the like, it gets even worse.

Can you start on a “shoestring?” At first glance a newcomer like that poor guy may say, “NO!” Even I was beginning to think you couldn’t any longer. Recently, however, I decided to examine the possibilities. After all, it is worse now than it was then. After looking deeper into

it, however, I think you still can "shoestring it" if you are careful. In this article, I will talk about rifles.

For the main matches, you need a lever action rifle (or slide action) in a pistol caliber. I believe, just as many of the old time cowboys did, it is simpler to have your pistol and rifle be in the same caliber. Winchester, Uberti, Marlin, and Rossi are currently producing the majority of their guns in .45 Colt. I prefer .44-40, however, as from a purely historical standpoint, there were no production rifles in the later half of the 1800's in a .45 Colt chambering.

**USED RIFLES**

With prices of new rifles being what they are, shopping for the best buy is important. Prices on new Italian replicas of the 1860 Henry, 1866 Winchester, and 1873 Winchesters have gone through the roof in recent years. They now retail for over \$1,000, and even up to \$1,300 for the most part. Even the used ones seem to start at \$900 and up anymore. That's more than I invested in my whole armory 15 years ago. A new 1866 was less than \$600 back then. You will pay hundreds more than that now for even a used one! The cheapest way is to go with a used rifle.

Probably the best buy in the used rifle category is still a used, non-Cowboy configuration, Marlin Model '94 in either .38/.357 or .44 Magnum.

These can still be had used in the standard, round barreled carbine version for around \$350-\$450 if you shop around. If you like the .44 Magnum or .38/.357, this is a good way to go. The caveat here is that these have become almost impossible to find anymore. The more period looking, newly manufactured Marlin Cowboy II's, generally in .45 Colt or .38 Special and sporting a 20 or 24 inch octagonal barrel will easily run you almost twice the price of the "non-Cowboy" Marlins. New, these Marlin Cowboy versions run around \$700, so they are not at all cheap. They would still be below the Italian imports as far as cost, but they are hardly what you would call affordable!

A good buy, but even harder to find than the used, standard (non-Cowboy II) Marlins, are the older, used Rossi Puma clones of the 1892 Winchester. They can be had in .38/.357, .44 Magnum, .44-40, or .45 Colt. If you can find one, it will still cost you at least \$400 for a used rifle. These Rossi '92's can occasionally be found in a gun shop, at a gun show, or even on rare occasions on online auction sites like Gun Broker or Auction Arms. Don't hold your breath, though. I have been watching for them online for some time, and rarely find one at a reasonable price.

**NEW RIFLES**

In my estimation, the only new rifle that qualifies for the "shoe-

string" classification is EMF's Hartford Model 1892 made by Rossi. The good news here is that EMF has them in a wide variety of calibers and versions. These newly made rifles retail for around \$500+, while offering a variety of choices for the shooter. They are much less expensive than either the Marlin rifles in the "Cowboy" octagonal barrel configuration, and far more affordable than the expensive Uberti made Winchester lever gun clones. You can even save more money by getting a "Blem," which is nothing more than a trade show sample that has been handled, or perhaps an author sample.

**EMF 1892's**

Boyd Davis at EMF contacted Rossi and asked them to build an improved and nicer version of their original 1892 to be marketed under the EMF "Hartford" name. EMF has introduced the Hartford 1892 line in .357, .44-40, .44 Magnum, and .45 Colt. They have carbines with 20 inch barrels and rifles with full octagonal barrels in both 20" and 24" lengths. They also offer a choice of finishes: blued finish (with a choice of either blue or color case hardened receivers), and all stainless steel models. (The .44-40, however, is available only blued with the case hardened receiver.) Many variations and calibers are generally in stock and available. The EMF 1892 variation that I evaluated in this article is one of their

really nice saddle ring carbine variations, with a 20" round barrel in .44-40. (Somehow, shooting a non-rifle caliber (like .45 Colt) out of a pre-1900 just seems like blasphemy!)

It is not anything like the original Rossi .44-40 carbine I had when I started Cowboy Action Shooting™ in 1994! This EMF .44-40 sample has a very nice color case hardened receiver, hammer, and lever. The case hardening is about on a par with the Uberti made rifles. The bluing of the barrel, carbine butt plate, and barrel band is very deep and even, showing almost black in the sunlight. This 1892 Hartford has a very nice duplicate of the original Winchester semi-buckhorn rear sight, rather than the stamped rear sight commonly found on original Rossi 1892s. It even has a close replica of the original Winchester front sight that is dovetailed in the barrel.

The overall fit finish on my example is excellent. The action is very smooth. In fact, it is much, much smoother than the average Rossi of the past. On my original Rossi, I spent long hours working the action with polishing compound to smooth it out. Out of the box, my EMF Hartford 1892 specimen was smooth as silk. The trigger is an excellent 2 lbs, with no creep or grit. I don't know whether Rossi is doing an extra special finishing job on the

*(Continued on page 62)*

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*(Continued from page 61)*

rifles for EMF, but they are really well above average.

The wood to metal fit on the EMF 1892 is also very good to excellent. The forearm and butt stock are certainly as good as most (and better than some) of the Winchesters and Marlins I have seen. The furniture appears to be very dense Walnut, but is actually a walnut stained South American hardwood. It is nice enough that it fooled me. Rather than a modern varnish finish on the wood like Marlin and Uberti rifles, the EMF 1892 has an oiled type non-gloss finish like the originals. It looks like a burnished boiled linseed oil finish, and is done very nicely.

The left side of the EMF/Rossi sample's receiver I received has a blued "saddle ring" and staple. This is an attractive feature for me. In the Old West, these were used several ways. One was to use the standard issue 3" wide single point, over the shoulder sling and snap link that was used by cavalry troopers to carry their Sharps, Spencers, and other carbines. These were used before, during, and after the Civil War, and continued to be used into the Indian Wars. Since many of the folks that migrated west

had fought in the war, or did stints as post-war frontier troopers, it is not surprising these saddle ring staples were commonly found on 1866, 1873, and 1892 carbine models.

The second way these rings were used was more common in the later period of the west. In this method, a leather thong loop was knotted through it that was then looped over the saddle horn. It helped keep the carbine from being lost if it slipped from its place across the seat of the saddle between the rider and pommel. I know that was a common way for carbines to be carried at the ready, as I have seen examples of period carbines with the bottom of the hand-guard worn in this way.

The only negative thing I can find on the EMF/Rossi 1892 is the newly added safety. Unlike Winchester's tang safety, they added to their limited production 1892's, Rossi mounted their safety on top of the bolt on these EMF guns. This is good for those wanting to mount a tang sight on the rifle. The safety is a flat disk with two wings on it at a 90-degree angle from each other. When in the fire position, a red "F" is showing. When on safe, a green "S" is exposed. It is not a bad system, but I question why it is even on the gun.

None of the Uberti made Winchester lever guns have a safety. When will manufactures learn to keep the dang safeties off of Cowboy Action Shooting™ rifles? It may be a Brazilian export requirement, as others import guns from Italy without safeties.

### AT THE RANGE

I used Black Hills factory .44-40 loadings, and even fired some of my Hodgdon's Triple 7 reloads from the 1892. The shooting was done on my property outside of Jerseyville, in Southern Illinois, at my 25-yard range down by the creek. After firing over 50 rounds from the EMF 1892, I had no malfunctions or failures to feed. The EMF 1892 ate everything that I fed it flawlessly. As to overall balance and pointability, the 20" 1892 carbine is great. I think it is very well balanced, and for me is a natural "throw up to the shoulder and point shoot" type rifle. It is no wonder that the various Winchester carbines have been popular for almost 140 years!

As to accuracy, it was very consistent. With minor sight elevation adjustments, the EMF 1892 shot great right out of the box with both loads. It has an excellent sight picture and a delightful trigger. I had no problem at all keeping the groups at about one inch from a casual rest at 25-30 yards. I got one group with Black Hills that was one ragged 3/4-inch hole! These groups were obtained using the factory supplied semi-buckhorn rear sight,

not a tang sight.

Off-hand shooting, the EMF 1892 performed equally well. I sighted it in with my "pop can" sight picture—that is 1 to 1 1/2 inches above point of aim at 25 yards. It will be about 2" high at 50 yards, 1" high at 75 yards, and about 1" low at 100 yards. I call it "pop can" sight picture, because if I set the pop can on the front sight in the sight picture, I can hit it from 0 to 75 yards without correction. I did a session of "bounce the cans" with the EMF 1892, and never seemed to miss out to about 40 yards, shooting off hand. That is more than accurate enough for Cowboy Action Shooting™!

I have always personally liked the 1892 Winchester carbine as a hunting firearm. At about 5+ pounds in carbine trim, it makes a dandy brush gun for pig and deer, especially in .44 Magnum. I am sure that original 1892's in .44-40 have killed more than their share of game in the last 118 years. I have some great .44 WCF hand loads using a 200-grain JSP with IMR 2400 powder to be used in MODERN 1892's and 1894 Marlins. They clock out at about 1950 FPS from a 20 inch barreled 1892. I guess my problem with the 1892 Winchester was that, at least until recently, I just never thought of the 1892 as a true "Old West Cowboy Gun."

### 1892 WINCHESTER HISTORY

During and just after the Civil War, Oliver Winchester's original  
*(Continued on next page)*

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(Continued from previous page)

Henry .44 rim-fire lever actions spread westward across the continent. Continuing west with his improved 1866 model (which finally carried his name), early settlers started carving out the wilderness with these rifles. Winchester later upgraded the line with the steel framed 1873 in the more powerful .44-40, .38-40, and .32-20 WCF cartridges. Using the same basic action, Winchester continued on with the larger frame 1876 "Centennial Model" in more powerful blackpowder calibers like the .40-60 and .45-75.

In 1886, they released the sensational John Browning designed 1886 Model in several popular calibers, including the .45-70 Government and the new .50-90 WCF. Instead of the earlier collapsing toggle links, the 1886 Model utilized a pair of lateral, vertical locking lugs, located on either side of a large, rectangular bolt. These hardened steel lugs engaged the forged steel frame and the bolt, traveling downward and releasing the bolt when the action was cycled with the familiar lever.

With the advent on "smokeless" nitrocellulose based powder around 1890, Winchester decided to use this action to make a scaled down 1886 for the same pistol cartridges already used in their tremendously popular 1873s. The new rifle could be loaded with the stronger smokeless powder

rounds. This design, coupled with more modern steel, created a much stronger action than the toggle link system used by the old iron framed, 1873s and 1876 Models.

The 1892 Winchester was a huge success. Besides being much stronger than the 1873's, they were much lighter, averaging between 5 ½ and 6 ½ pounds. The 1892 was initially introduced in the three already popular 1873 calibers: .44-40 (.44 WCF), .38-40 (.38-WCF), and .32-20 (.32 WCF). In 1895, Winchester introduced their new .25-20 (.25 WCF) caliber in the 1892. The 1892's were so strong, that for a time, some ammunition manufacturers marketed special "High Velocity" loads of .38-40 and .44-40 rounds, for use ONLY in 1892 Winchesters and 1894 Marlins. Instead of the 180 or 200 grain bullet at 1250 FPS, you would get about 1700 to 1800 FPS! Using these "high velocity" rounds in any 1873, however, would have blown the rifle into expensive and lethal fragments. Because of unfortunate mishaps and lawsuits, these "High Velocity" loads were discontinued many years ago.

Winchester's 1892 Carabines were originally sold with 19" barrels, switching to 20" barrels after about serial number 250,000. Rifles were standard with 24" octagonal barrels, though round barrels and alternative barrel lengths could be special ordered. Fancy stocks, finishes, color

case hardening, engraving, and other options were also offered on special orders. In October 1893, Winchester introduced a takedown model of the 1892. In 1924, a version of the 1892 was also offered as the Model 53. It was modified to a lightweight, half magazine, 22" barreled hunting rifle. Not being very popular, this model was discontinued in 1932.

All totaled, there were 1,004,675 Model 1892 Winchesters manufactured between 1892 and 1941. Production stopped with the advent of World War II. Over half of them, more than 600,000, were in .44-40 caliber. The balance were made in the other three calibers, with .38-40 WCF being the next most popular. Interestingly enough, the 1873 Winchester that the 1892 was supposed to replace still continued to be manufactured alongside the 1892 until 1923! Even though Winchester and Browning have done limited runs of the Model 1892's since then, newly manufactured 1892's have not been widely available since before World War Two.

The 1892 Winchester really did participate in the "Taming of the West!" If you think about it, there were still many outlaws like Harry Tracy, Butch Cassidy, and the Sundance Kid on the "Owl Hoot Trail" as late as 1905 or so. The Daltons were still plying their trade in the 1890's. The then new 1892 Winchesters were recorded to have been used in the violent and deadly Johnson County, Wyoming range war in 1892. Many an old time sheriff, marshal, constable, or Texas Ranger packed a '92 in a saddle scabbard or leather boot in a Model A Ford horseless carriage. It was a favorite tool of lawmen and badmen alike in the lawlessness of early 1900's Oklahoma Territory.

Original specimens are not really too hard to find since Winchester produced over 1,000,000 of them. Many, however, are generally in fair to poor shape. Because of the strength of the 1892's action, many of the really good ones were re-chambered to .44 Magnum years ago. The ones generally seen now are old movie guns, their

bore are usually rough as a cob, suffering from too many rounds of black-powder "5 in 1" blanks, and not enough cleaning.

Twenty-five or thirty years ago, the Brazilian firm of Amadeo Rossi began making their "Puma," almost an identical copy of the 1892 Winchester, in .357 Magnum, .44 Magnum, and .44-40 WCF. Early ones had a very tacky Puma head embossed on the receiver. Eventually this ornament was deleted. With the advent of Cowboy Action Shooting™, Rossi eventually produced the 1892 .45 Colt. More recently, Taurus acquired manufacturing rights and machinery for the Rossi line.

### CONCLUSION

The EMF Hartford Model 1892 is a great re-birth of the 1892 Winchester, and it is an honest to goodness cowboy shootin' iron. I give the EMF 1892 rifle my "BEST BUY FOR THE BUCKAWARD." It certainly qualifies for the getting started on a shoestring category. For much less than half the price of an imported Uberti 1873 Winchester, and two-thirds the price of a Marlin 1894 Cowboy, you can have an accurate and distinctive looking piece of Cowboy firepower. If an 1892 was good enough to use chasing Butch Cassidy or the Daltons, I guess it is good enough for me! I had originally planned on returning the EMF author sample 1892 after I wrote the article, but I grew kind of fond of it!

Even though they add to the fun, you don't have to have a replica or original 1873 Winchester rifle or Model '97 pump 12 Gauge. Nor do you have to have a "real" Colt Single Action Army or a Schofield or Merlwin and Hubert Pocket Army to have a great time at a match. To me, half of the fun is the buying, selling, horse trading, shopping, and research that goes into the sport, and the creating and outfitting of your own character. What other shooting sport gives you the potential for so much enjoyment when you are not actually at the range shooting?

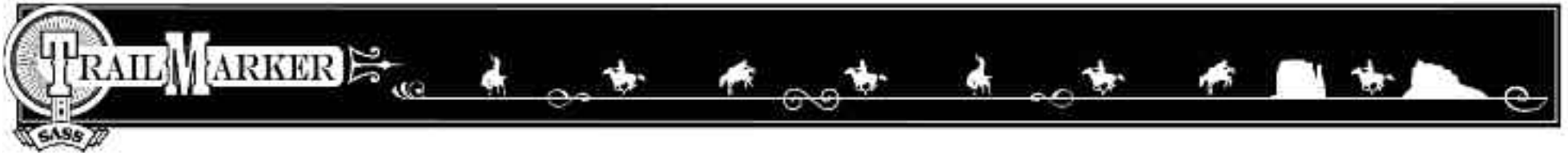
I'll see you in my next article where I talk about pistols on a shoestring. 🤠



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## PRAECEPTOR, SASS LIFE #54783

January 26, 1932 – August 26, 2009

By Harry Longbaugh, SASS Life #29977

Newport News, VA – Praeceptor, SASS #54783, aka Dr. John E. “Jack” Anderson passed away August 26, 2009 of complications of Wegener’s Granulomatosis, a rare disorder that causes vasculitis, or inflammation of the blood vessels.

Praeceptor was a member of KC’s Corral in Mechanicsville, Virginia. He served two years on the KC’s Corral executive board. Praeceptor was an active shooter in various SASS affiliated clubs in Virginia. He was a competitive athlete as well as a shooter. Some of his accomplishments include 3rd Place Elder Statesman at the 2005 Virginia State Championships, 2nd place Elder Statesman at the 2006 SASS West Virginia State Championship, and 2nd place Elder Statesman at the 2006 KC’s Corral Annual Thunder in the Brush.

Praeceptor was a very unpretentious person. Most of his fellow shooters did not know of his many professional accomplishments: PhD. in Psychology from Ohio State University; acting President of Columbus College, Columbus, Georgia; and Past President of Christopher Newport College, Newport News, Virginia. After serving as President of Christopher Newport College, he returned to the classroom and his students at Christopher Newport University.

His cowboy name, Praeceptor, really captures his true nature because it means the “teacher of the masses.” Praeceptor was my friend, and I don’t say that



lightly. Our friendship of 28 years began on a professional basis. It didn’t take long, however, to realize we were bonding into a friendship that would last a lifetime. His passing leaves a void in all of our lives, but we take comfort in the many things he taught us, as well as the good times we spent together.

Praeceptor is survived by his loving wife Joyce, of 53 years, three children, and three grandchildren. My family had the good fortune of being close friends and part of his extended family.

All of us are connected forever by being part of the patchwork quilt sewn by Praeceptor. We all are kindred souls in our connection with him, and I can’t help but think this was his plan. Praeceptor has now crossed over the river and sits in the shade of the trees. He will remain in our hearts and part of our souls forever. 🤠

## VIGILANTE, SASS LIFE #6077

February 10, 1938-August 26, 2009

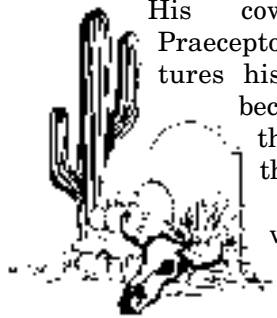
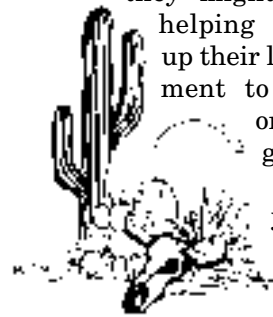
By Belle Mimi, SASS #71810

Disney, OK – Vigilante (Verle A. Dyar) was from Peoria, Illinois where he worked 31 years for Caterpillar Tractor Company as a machinist and painter. He also served in the U.S. Air Force for four years. When he moved to Oklahoma, he started shooting with the Indian Territory Single Action Shooting Society in 1998.

Vigilante was a quiet unassuming man who was ready to help new shooters with anything they might need—from helping someone set up their loading equipment to instructions on how to hold guns correctly. For several years he and his friend, Shawnee



(Jim Horn), were self appointed mowers and grounds keepers at the range. This meant a long (Continued on next page)



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**VIGILANTE,  
SASS LIFE #6077 . . .**

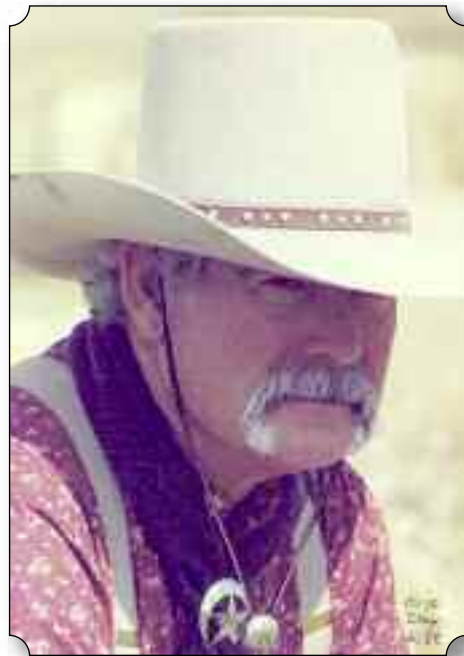
*(Continued from previous page)*  
drive of approximately one hour each way to the range to accomplish this task. He did so without ever expecting anything in return. It was his love of the club and the game that was his reward.

Even though Vigilante was unable to shoot much the last couple of years of his life due to poor health, he wanted to stay informed with all the ITSASS news. He even got a little grumpy when he didn't get his newsletter. Vigilante will be greatly missed by the ITSASS club members. ♪

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Last March we lost one of our Lendowment members, Jerry Hendrick, AKA Concho, SASS #16, to congestive heart failure. Concho always impressed me as a "sure enough" cowboy ... he was a "hand" ... he could ride, and he could work cattle ... because of his heart condition, in his later years, he did all of his work from horseback ... leaving all

**Concho, SASS #16**

**6/21/36 – 3/7/09**

*By Tex, SASS #4*

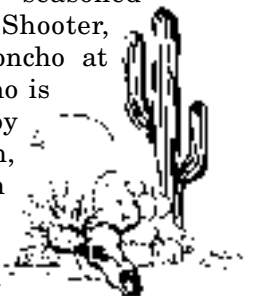
that dirty ground work to the kids!

In the early days when we were first introducing horses into Cowboy Action, Concho was one of the riders. During opening END of TRAIL ceremonies one year we had a "grand procession" with a couple dozen mounted riders in the arena ... and two young ladies riding hell-bent-for-leather in the opposite direction carrying huge US and California flags. Concho was riding just in front of my horse, Pistolero Pete, and me. Concho's horse saw the racing flag first, quickly followed by Pistolero. His horse was the first to break and run! The last I saw of Concho, he was flat of his back on the horse's rump with his legs straight up in the air ... and eyes the size of saucers! Pistolero then also broke and ran ... ultimately ending in a huge train wreck of our own! Concho survived unscathed, of course, to ride again.

Concho had a wonderful sense of humor ... he penned a number of hilarious articles for *The Cowboy Chronicle* ... all dealing with his little brother, Johnnie Concho, SASS #2926. The boys were raised in Oklahoma where it would appear Johnnie Concho was eternally in trouble for one reason or another or the butt of some joke ... it's a wonder the kid ever grew up! Concho was truly a man to "ride the river with."

Concho married Mounted Shooter, Cassie Redwine, SASS #2856, in July 1996. Cassie went on to become a seasoned Mounted Shooter, always with Concho at her side. Concho is also survived by his son, Kenneth, and stepson Kurt Stunk.

Concho has been missed ... ♪



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# PENNSYLVANIA 2009 STATE BLACKPOWDER CHAMPIONSHIP Smoke 'N Fire at Indian Creek

By Chalkdust Kid, SASS #17559

**D**onegal, PA - The 3rd SASS Pennsylvania State Blackpowder Shootout went off without a hitch. Well almost, if you don't count the "gullywasher" that delayed the match for forty-five minutes until sunny skies once more shown over the town of River Junction. The championship was contested by thirty-three eager cowboys and cowgirls, participating in sixteen categories. This year's shootout was designed by Match Director Deputy Keck and called "A Cowboy's Lament."

The town of River Junction had been spruced up for weeks waiting for vendors, participants, and spectators. It didn't disappoint. There were plenty of places to spend your "sock money" and lots of places on the boardwalk to sit and rest those weary bones.

The six-stage match had plenty

of smoke 'n fire to go around in all of the scenarios. Shooters held off bank robbers in "Ranger Joe's Bank and Store" by shooting through the bars of the telegraph office window. And, they rode with the supply wagon in "Buffalo Hump's Revenge" keeping a wary eye out for Buffalo Hmp and his braves. Once the attack began, shooters had to move around the wagon, picking off the raiders from a number of vantage points.

Nothing makes a cowpoke thirstier than a long trail drive. Shooters got more than a drink when they had to tangle with local townsfolk in "A Sodbuster's Saloon." Speaking of cattle drives, shooters also had to hold off cattle rustlers in the stage called "The River Junction Homestead."

"The Neck Stretching Party" had the shooter climbing up onto the gallows. Fortunately, the neck being stretched was not the shooters'. A notorious Bandito was to be strung up on the River Junction gallows. The shooter had to be careful not to hit any of the "crowd" (no-shoot targets) who were positioned close to the actual steel targets. (Everybody shows up for a good hangin'!) These "no shoot" targets were a hoot and appeared quite often throughout the stages. They also kept the spotters on their toes.

"Morning Chores" found your reading interrupted in Davey's One Holer. Shooters had to race out of the outhouse to the barn and shoot through the barn (in front window and out the back window) to drive off a gang of cattle thieves.

When the smoke cleared, everyone retreated to the town to clean guns, "chew the fat," and wait for the awards ceremony. Chuckwagon Sam, the River Junction Shootist Society president, kept the cookstove hot and the drinks cold.

As the time drew near to "head up the trail," everyone vowed to be back next year and hopefully bring a few more cowpokes with them. As with any major match, there are

many people who work behind the scenes to make it a success. Mucho thanks to all who contributed their time, energy, ideas, and sweat helping the River Junction Shootist Society host another successful Smoke 'N Fire.

The 4th annual Blackpowder Shootout at River Junction is already in the works, and the devious Match Director, Deputy Keck, plans to dust off the evil "Texas Star," the "swinging target," and more "no shoots" for next year.



## Winners

|                     |                                      |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <i>B-Western</i>    | Dancing Dan,<br>SASS #35681          |
| <i>C Cowboy</i>     | Doc Argyle,<br>SASS #12847           |
| <i>Cowgirl</i>      | Sunshine Marcie,<br>SASS #64900      |
| <i>Cowboy</i>       | Punch, SASS #4368                    |
| <i>Duelist</i>      | Durango Dave Hickok,<br>SASS #60394  |
| <i>49er</i>         | Dirty Dale,<br>SASS #61545           |
| <i>Frontiersman</i> | Long Tall Texan,<br>SASS #22449      |
| <i>F Cartridge</i>  | Colorado Smith,<br>SASS #18861       |
| <i>F C Duelist</i>  | Smoky Hill Thompson,<br>SASS #7923   |
| <i>Gunfighter</i>   | Colorado Coffinmaker,<br>SASS #14513 |
| <i>L B-Western</i>  | Gemstone Janet,<br>SASS #74014       |
| <i>L Senior</i>     | Margarita Lil,<br>SASS #19521        |
| <i>Senior</i>       | Harry 3 Fingers,<br>SASS #53021      |
| <i>S Duelist</i>    | Wild Bill Peterson,<br>SASS #48420   |
| <i>S Senior</i>     | Dutch Henry Brown,<br>SASS #80362    |
| <i>Wrangler</i>     | Slowpoke John,<br>SASS #45304        |

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# ON PRESIDENT GRANT'S SECRET SERVICE

## Agents Jim West and Artemus Gordon Ride Again!!

By Sweetwater Jack, SASS Life/Regulator #28885

Photos by Jefferson State Regulators Members

Well, in SPIRIT, anyway. Turn back your clocks to September 17, 1965, turn on your television set, sit back, grab a handful of buttered popcorn, and munch away while watching the plot unfold on one of the most innovative of the TV Westerns of the day: "THE WILD, WILD WEST." Secret Service agents West and Gordon not only "outfoxed" the bad guys, they also dealt with some of the most "deadly and ingenious" GIMMICKS you ever saw. The years depicted were the early 1870's and U.S. Grant was the President. We all loved that show and hated to see it end after only 104 episodes.

I REALLY loved that show. Years later I contacted the gentleman who was the head "prop master" for the series and had him make me a copy of Jim West's "inside the sleeve spring-gun" gadget that, with a twitch of the elbow, would release the attached derringer and slam it into your hand! Worked like a charm! Well, there WAS this really loud "ZANG!" noise as it presented the derringer to my palm. Oh, and it DID rip the right sleeve out of a couple of my best Wahmaker "Gambler" shirts before I sold the thing to somebody else. But, I digress.

One of the charter members of the Jefferson State Regulators in Southern Oregon, Just Bill, SASS #16394, has been brooding about the demise of his favorite TV Western since the last show aired on April 4th, 1969. For the past ten years or more, Just Bill has been proposing to the Jefferson State Regulators to create a Cowboy Action Shooting™ match to commemorate "The Wild, Wild West," with all the gimmicks he could fit into a five-stage match to be shot in a single day, without exhausting the shooters. Finally fast-talking the Jefferson State Regulators' president and board of directors into agreeing to the match, Just Bill was off and running ... I think the **work-ing word** here is "off."

Over the next few weeks, smoke bombs were purchased, ore carts and trackage refurbished, a portable mine entrance and tunnel (don't ask

created, and other preparations for the big day were made. Odd noises came out of Bill's shop at all hours of the day and night. At one point he stuck his head out of his shop door and exclaimed, "Well, I've finished the CANNON!" and promptly disappeared back inside. Our nervousness increased ... planning meetings were held ... MORE planning meetings were held ... And, finally, the day of the big event arrived.

Shooters from all over the area signed up in one of the categories made up from the following choices: Male or Female, Smokeless or Blackpowder Pistols shot One-handed, Two, or Gunfighter style. Forty shooters braved the 97-degree heat to come out and receive a canvas "rigger" bag filled with goodies and items they'd need to keep with them to complete the match.

Everything from colored-smoke bombs, lengths of cannon fuse, shot glasses, mystery vials with cork stoppers, a couple of strange tablets, a half stick of dynamite (more smoke bombs), and a small throwing knife were included in the bag, along with snacks and Gatorade—everything the well-equipped Secret Service Agent would need for thwarting the evil plans of a mad scientist, power-mad dictator, or an especially evil gnome ... Dr. Miguelito Quixote Loveless comes to mind, as well as the equally evil Count Manzeppi.

The first stage involved going down the "mine shaft" where you placed your "dynamite stick" into a steel bucket and lit it. Then, with white smoke pouring out of the bucket, you returned to the entrance, shot two poppers and clay birds, and pushed an ore cart down into the "mine," stopping twice to shoot more shotgun targets. At the end of the track, you took your rifle (staged in the ore cart) and shot an "exploding powder keg," which, when hit in the large "bung hole," set off a blank blackpowder shotgun charge. Emerging from the mine you fired away at the pistol targets to finish the stage.

The wind became a major factor

as the shoot went on, as it kept blowing out the "strike anywhere" matches we were using to light the cannon and smoke bomb fuses. Gusts eventually took down the entire "mine-shaft," but had the decency to wait until the last shooter had finished. A note on those fuses ... a couple of shooters having trouble lighting them in the wind attempted to gain time by lighting the fuse in the MIDDLE, instead of the end, and found out something about cannon fuse. It's waterproofed, and won't LIGHT anywhere but at the end!

All five of the stages in the match had similar "tasks" to be accomplished, on the clock, in addition to shooting your revolvers, rifle, and shotgun as usual. Lots of movement was involved in all the stages.

Shooting rifle, revolvers, and shotgun from inside the "Lithia Springs Water Delivery Wagon" was a requirement on one stage. (Actually our "water wagon" started life as a MANURE spreader, but we made a new sign for it ... you can hardly tell the difference anymore unless the wind's JUST RIGHT). As the Jefferson State Regulators' range is located on land that incorporates an actual mineral spring, the club's annual shoot has always been named "Shootout at Lithia Springs" for good reason. The mineral water bubbling from this spring is guaranteed to "put hair on your chest" ... (Most of the ladies don't really care for it, possibly for that reason.) Be that as it may, one of the requirements on Stage 2 was for you to pour a LARGE shotglass FULL of the Lithia Springs water from a large bottle and, when the timer beeped, DRINK the glassful, throw specially-weighted poker cards at a "cheating cowboy" dummy, shoot two shots from a derringer into another cheating gambler, then stand and start shooting your other guns.

A few years back at a monthly Jefferson State Regulators match, a stage required you to pour TWO shotglasses full of Lithia Water before the timer went off. Then, at the beep you slugged down ONE



glassful, shot the stage, and, if you wanted a ten-second BONUS, you drank the OTHER shotglass of "spring water" ... first time I ever saw thirty shooters opt to NOT go for a ten second bonus!!!

When all was said and done ... Oh, the CANNON? Yep, stage four required you to break out of jail by setting off a colored-smoke bomb in the jail door, then fire the cannon by lighting your length of cannon fuse, and wait while it burned down to the touch-hole. The blast actually fired a 1" rubber "cannon ball" down range!

When the last round went down-range, and the last smoke bomb had gone out, and we could see again, Treacherous Jack, SASS #64691 and his wife, Derringer Donna, SASS #64692, laid out a fantastic cowboy spread for lunch, with burgers, hot dogs, chili, fruit salad, and three different Dutch-oven pies with ice cream. The awards ceremony was held as everyone was still scarfing up the delicious desserts (and some seconds on the burgers and stuff). I think it was planned so we'd still have our mouths full, shortening the "acceptance speeches" by quite a bit. In short, a fine time was had by all.

Was it a "typical" cowboy match? NOT BY A DARN SITE! A lot of today's matches have become "Stand and Deliver" affairs, where you don't



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have a lot of movement. You shoot your revolvers, rifle, and shotgun in the prescribed sequence and move out of the way of the next shooter. No lines to be said, nothing "extra" to be done "on the clock," and, in some clubs, no "scenario" to explain what you are doing at all. I understand the really big clubs that see 90 or 100 shooters competing in a monthly match CAN'T make the stages too "complicated" or they'd be shooting a five or six stage match for well into the night. This match brought us back to shooting a Cowboy ACTION Match the "Old Way" ... clear back to September 17, 1965. I think West and Gordon would have approved ...

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# CANADIAN REGIONAL

*(Continued from page 1)*

quarters and Boomtown were extensive; however, the leading man and lady for this double feature were Haweater Hal, SASS #55287, and Victoria Diamond, SASS #60952. This man and wife team turned in academy award winning performances at both events.

Viewing the shootists collectively from both events, you could almost hear the *William Tell Overture*, *Happy Trails*, the music from *Bonanza*, or the theme from the *Good, the Bad and the Ugly*.

The best news is the SASS Canadian Regional will be hosted once more in 2010 by the Valley Regulators of Boomtown, and Headquarters will be the week before, another double feature worth attending.

Your intermittent correspondent wishes to convey his appreciation to some dedicated photographers, both amateur and professional, for their fine contributions. Their contributions make *The Cowboy Chronicle* shine. *J.*

**The Canadian Regional continues to attract competitors from all over North America and determines the “best of the best” in Canada.**



## Bustup at Boomtown Winners

- Top Gun*           Haweater Hal, SASS #55287
- Men's 49er*       Territorial Rider, SASS #31939
- Buckaroo*         Sharp Shooting Sam, SASS #85250
- B Western*        Crotchety Old Grouch, SASS #51188
- Cowgirl*          Victoria Diamond, SASS #60952
- Duelist*          Hawken Tom, SASS #74274
- E Statesman*     Minto, SASS #56175
- F Cartridge*     Sunwapta Haze, SASS #63407
- F C Duelist*     Porcupine Quill, SASS #78510
- Gunfighter*     Too Dusty, SASS #5447
- L 49er*           Dallas Dancer, SASS #42365
- L Duelist*        Sassy Six Shooter, SASS #72687
- Grand Dame*    Sure Shot Shirley, SASS #83131
- L Senior*         Pistol Packing Laine, SASS #82686
- L Silver Sr*      Miss Mary Spencer, SASS #55147
- L Young Gun*    Senorita Itchy Finger, SASS #80037
- Senior*          Captain Capps, SASS #57513
- S Duelist*        Kananaskis Kid, SASS #62402
- Silver Senior*   Kokanee Kid, SASS #54531
- L Wrangler*     Mrs Watchit, SASS #74275
- Wrangler*       Antelope Id, SASS #60817
- Young Gun*     Low Country Amigo, SASS #80038



# HEADQUARTERS



Headquarters is the oldest Cowboy Action annual match in Canada.



## Headquarters Winners

|                               |                                       |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Top Gun</i>                | Hawewater Hal,<br>SASS #55287         |
| <i>Top Lady</i>               | Victoria Diamond,<br>SASS #60952      |
| <i>Buckaroo</i>               | Will T                                |
| <i>B-Western</i>              | Teacher C,<br>SASS #72703             |
| <i>Cowboy</i>                 | Kid Carson,<br>SASS #75960            |
| <i>Dualist</i>                | Little Edgy,<br>SASS #64366           |
| <i>E Statesman</i>            | Minto, SASS #56175                    |
| <i>F Cartridge</i>            | Dennis Strobe                         |
| <i>F C Duelist</i>            | Grey Fox, SASS #223                   |
| <i>Gunfighter</i>             | High Country Amigo,<br>SASS #49198    |
| <i>Junior</i>                 | Low Country Amigo,<br>SASS #80038     |
| <i>L 49er</i>                 | Victoria Diamond                      |
| <i>L Junior</i>               | Senorita Itchy Finger,<br>SASS #80037 |
| <i>L S Senior</i>             | Miss Mary Spencer,<br>SASS #55147     |
| <i>L Wrangler</i>             | Miss Bedazzled,<br>SASS #72424        |
| <i>Senior</i>                 | Saskatoon Barry,<br>SASS #70295       |
| <i>Wrangler</i>               | Prairie Buck,<br>SASS #52033          |
| <i>Schutzen Target Winner</i> | Al Page                               |

# THE SASS NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL The Great Nor'easter

July 23-26, 2009

By Iron Pony, SASS #36769

**P**elham, NH - Combine ten great stages, outstanding props, 250+ shooters, approximately 400 visitors with huge amounts of rain, hot steamy temperatures, and what do you get? The 2009 SASS New England Regional, The Great Nor'easter, of



*A handsome threesome*

course. For good measure though you'll have to throw in dance lessons, great food served up by the Boy Scouts, caterers and vendors alike, side matches and the three stage warm-up "The Squall" that went off without a hitch, along with a shoot-off featuring local and national talent. Yep, that's The Great Nor'easter for you; organizers aimed to please, and they hit the center of every one of those targets for a clean match.

The match, hosted by Fish and Game Club, Inc. in Pelham, New Hampshire, along with the help of several New England clubs, celebrated the Concord Stagecoach and the Overland Trail that made those coaches famous. To set the "stage,"



**There was good weather, and there was bad weather. There was enough fun shooting to satisfy even the most determined of shooters. And, through it all, the competitors' enthusiasm showed through! Doc McCoy is seen here sending fire and brimstone down range ... by all accounts, it was a wonderful match.**

the Concord Coach Society brought out, displayed, and educated shooters and visitors alike with restored Coach #XIV. No Hollywood prop, this was the real deal pard; all \$250,000 worth of horse drawn high tech transportation from right out of our favorite time period. For good measure, a beautiful two-horse team drawn surrey (with the fringe on top) gave rides to all who were interested.

Just for fun, on Saturday morning we staged what may be, depend-

ing on the Guinness Book of World Records, the largest stagecoach robbery on record to help celebrate the National Day of the Cowboy. As one of the masked desperados, I can tell you, my outlaw partners were way, way out numbered.

Events started on Tuesday with Evil Roy, SASS #2883, giving his shooting school for seventeen eager cowboys and cowgirls who ranged from novices to long time shooters. For the past two years, the Nor'easter has hosted another mem-

ber of the family to run the shooting school. Apparently, getting married, graduating college, and starting a new life in the working world have kept Holy Terror, SASS #15362, busy. We all missed her, but from what I'm told, her granddad did a real fine job of standing in. No one in the class appeared intimidated by the man in black's reputation, and all were impressed by his knowledge, work ethic, and abilities after two days of instruction.

Thursday brought side matches and our normal warm-up called "The Squall," but unlike last year, the weather was near perfect. No lightning, no microburst storms, no 100 by 100 temperature/humidity ... just great shooting weather. To set this year's event apart from others, organizers decided to recognize our different shooting categories. Speed events were divided, as a match would be; smokeless separate from blackpowder, one handed shooting from two handed or gun-fighter. Had every permutation been shot in men's, ladies, and junior's, the total certificates handed out would have been prodigious, but doing it that way just seemed right and fair.

We weren't so lucky with weather Thursday night into Friday morning as shooters awoke or arrived to rain from a genuine nor'easter! Then, it rained some more and for good measure, it rained just a little bit more on top of



*"Wild West Sweethearts" top sixteen female shooters*



*"The Showdown" top sixteen male shooters*





**The pirate flag of Match Director Capt Morgan Rum flying high.**

Sheriff Rusty “just call me Moses” P. Bucket, SASS #44721, and Windjammer, SASS #35984, the newest member of the miraculous group nicknamed the Soggy Bottom Boys, the waters were parted, the newly formed ponds drained, and shooting commenced after a short, two-hour delay. The amount of work that went on continuously that day and Saturday demonstrat-



**2009 SASS New England Regional Champions— Appaloosa Amy and Cartwheel. Congratulations!**

Photo courtesy of P T Litewell's Heliographic Emporium



**Darksider, SASS #80637, with a “Bootie” award.**

that. Match Director Capt. Morgan Rum, SASS #6859, consulted weather maps, our resident weather jinx, Dead Head, SASS #29768, and even the aching bones of fellow shooters, and then he made the difficult but necessary decision to postpone the start of shooting for the day. Though all of us got a late start, the safety of folks who came long or short distances outweighed all other considerations.

With the heroic efforts of

ed how a few good and dedicated people could bust their humps to make a match go on, literally, rain or shine. Just to round out the New England weather experience for all attending, Saturday was hot and humid as it should be in late July.

Great credit must be given here to the Toledo Kid, SASS #35150, for creating stages with movement, challenging but not confusing action sequences, and fun from start to fin-

ish. The starting lines “Yum ... smallpox” and “You ain’t flogging this bishop” only needed explanation if you hadn’t read the history lesson accompanying each of the stages. Thirty-nine participants ran the table clean, including fast shooters like Jimmy Spurs, SASS #65014, and not so fast shooters like Wild Bill Blackerby, SASS #34989. All of this attests to good stage design and excellent stage instructions. There were no procedural traps, and as far

(Continued on page 74)



**Top Gun Shoot-off winners— Stormy Shooter and James Samuel Pike. Outstanding Shooting!**

Photo courtesy of P T Litewell's Heliographic Emporium

**Winners**

**Top Overall & Regional Champions**

**Man** Cartwheel (NY), SASS #57342  
**Lady** Appaloosa Amy (CT), SASS #63949

**Top 16 Sweethearts Shoot-off**

Stormy Shooter, SASS #57333

**Showdown Shoot-off**

James Samuel Pike, SASS #53331

**Top Gun Shoot-off - Overall**

James Samuel Pike

**Categories**

**B-Western** Darksider, SASS #80637  
**C Cowboy** Just Plain Larry, SASS #13965  
**Cowboy** Cartwheel  
**Cowgirl** Sunshine Marcie, SASS #64900  
**Duelist** Gospel Gunslinger, SASS #39738  
**Frontiersman** Patchogue Mike, SASS #8626  
**F Cartridge** Doc Perry, SASS #42552  
**F C Duelist** Buffalo Brady, SASS #24830  
**FCGunfighter** Dead Head, SASS #29768  
**Gunfighter** Grazer, SASS #38845  
**49'er** Punch, SASS #4368  
**Wrangler** James Samuel Pike  
**Senior** Geronimo Jim, SASS #21775  
**Sr Duelist** Lucky Lennie, SASS #22244  
**S Senior** Evil Roy, SASS #2883  
**E Statesman** Geriatric Kid, SASS #28872

**L B-Western** Emma Goodcook, SASS #49743  
**L Duelist** Nantucket Dawn, SASS #15681  
**L F Cartridge** Eviline, SASS #80638  
**L 49'er** Annabelle Bransford, SASS #11916  
**Cowgirl** Sunshine Marcie, SASS #64900  
**L Wrangler** Appaloosa Amy  
**L Senior** Calico Jan, SASS #61842  
**L S Duelist** Terrible Terrill, SASS #32278  
**L S Senior** May Rein, SASS #45274  
**Grande Dame** Bonnie Dee, SASS #28413  
**Buckarett** Lil Miss Sassy, SASS #80579  
**Buckaroo** Dan The Man, SASS #80527  
**L Young Gun** Snazzy McGee, SASS #66689

**Side Matches**

**Derringer (Speed)**  
**Man** Pittsburg Mac, SASS #20796  
**Lady** Ruby Blast, SASS #74331  
**Derringer (Accuracy)**  
**Man** Pittsburg Mac  
**Pocket Pistol (Speed)**  
**Man** Doc Silverfinger, SASS #3444  
**Lady** Annabelle Bransford  
**Junior** Jose Poco, SASS #79764  
**Pocket Pistol (BP Speed)**  
**Man** Doc McCoy, SASS #8381  
**Pocket Pistol (Accuracy)**  
**Man** Just Plain Larry

**Speed Shotgun (Pump)**  
**Man** Quaker Hill Bill, SASS #61021  
**Lady** Sunshine Marcie  
**Speed Shotgun (Double)**  
**Man** Lost Rider, SASS #50731  
**Lady** Wild Sage, SASS #40879  
**Speed Shotgun (BP Double)**  
**Man** Gun E Bear, SASS #5557  
**Speed Shotgun (Lever)**  
**Man** Chuck Would, SASS #53289  
**Lady** Ruby Rose Longshot, SASS #67697  
**Speed Shotgun (BP Lever)**  
**Man** Barley Pop Bill, SASS #53019  
**Speed Shotgun (Hammered Double)**  
**Man** Nutmeg Ryder, SASS #74966  
**Speed Shotgun (BP Hammered Double)**  
**Man** Critter T Longshot, SASS #53188  
**Speed Rifle**  
**Man** Cartwheel  
**Lady** Appaloosa Amy  
**Speed Rifle (BP)**  
**Man** Doc McCoy  
**Speed Pistol**  
**Man** Cartwheel  
**Lady** Sunshine Marcie  
**Speed Pistol (Gunfighter)**  
**Man** Grazer  
**Lady** Hawley McCoy, SASS #59558  
**Speed Pistol (BP Gunfighter)**  
**Man** Barley Pop Bill  
**Speed Pistol (Duelist)**  
**Man** The Virginia Kid, SASS #35492  
**Lady** Nantucket Dawn

**Speed Pistol (BP Duelist)**  
**Man** Critter T Longshot  
**Long Range Single Shot (200m)**  
**Man** B. P. Gunns, SASS #23578  
**Quigley Match Offhand (200m)**  
**Man** Dead Head  
**Lady** Three Barrel Chris, SASS #70513  
**Lever Rifle (Rifle Caliber - 150m)**  
**Man** Blackhands, SASS #70512  
**Lady** Dallas Rose, SASS #52943  
**Lever Rifle (Pistol Caliber - 100m)**  
**Man** B. P. Gunns  
**Lady** Dallas Rose  
**Long Range Pistol (50m)**  
**Man** Pittsburg Mac  
**Lady** Montana Anna, SASS #23579  
**Long Range Pistol (BP - 50m)**  
**Man** Wild Phil Coyote, SASS #20124  
**The Squall**  
**Man** Geronimo Jim  
**Lady** Appaloosa Amy  
**Juniors** Dan The Man & Snazzy McGee  
**Posse Shoot (Stage 0)**  
Posse 5  
**4-Person Team Shoot**  
Snazzy McGee, James Samuel Pike, Stormy Shooter, Sheriff A B Dupree, SASS #17690  
**Trap**  
**Man** Dealing Justice, SASS #62653  
**Lady** Lou Graham, SASS #26112

# THE SASS NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL

*(Continued from page 73)*

as I can tell, the idea of “moving to the gun” has won almost universal approval in the area.

Posses averaged twenty-four shooters each, which allowed work tasks to be spread between A and B squads as well as spelling RO's so they wouldn't be over taxed and affect their shooting. Even with these numbers, shooting on day two ended on time with all who wanted or needed having the time to clean up for an outstanding meal wrangled by Ida Mae Holliday, SASS #48419. Given the amount of barbeque on hand, the caterer knew what he was up against with hungry cow-



*Lil Miss Sassy, SASS #80579, shucking hulls ... and a clean shoot!*

boys, and no one left wanting more. Some left with the need to pop the top button on their pants and give thanks for suspenders.

The Pelham Club has two primary shooting areas with five main match stages set up on each one. Posses spent one day in each area shooting stages 1-5 or 6-10; then switched the following day. It just so happened that vendors' row was right on the path from one area to another, so having people stop and browse or buy was part of the plan. Lots of folks could be seen going to or from lunch with new purchases. Many patronized the Re-Shoot Shop filled with used gear brought in by participants. Run by Birdie Cage, SASS #32773, Wylie Harp, SASS #21158, and Marshal Mo Hare, SASS #45984, twenty percent of the proceeds went to support the SASS scholarship fund. The generosity and patronage of our shooters raised



*Callous Clyde, SASS #4677, drinking from “the Bucket,” rumored to posses magical shooting powers!*

\$1,400 for the fund.

In addition to great times shooting, there were great times had by all the folks who came out and camped for either a short or extended period of time. Walking around what became camper village, accommodations ranged from tents and lanterns to RVs and custom rigs long enough to qualify the owners as bus drivers. In the evening a cowboy could walk from camper to camper partaking in food or drink of all kinds. Many of us have come to regard this time as holding some of the best memories from any event. Sure, we come to shoot, but there's more to be done than just that, as we want to socialize with our friends, too. A piece of advice, make sure you let Wild Bill know you're coming early for next year 'cause it's going to get even more crowded as this event continues to grow!

Sixteen shooters from the men and women's ranks proved themselves worthy for Sunday's

shoot off. While these select few steeled themselves for heads up shooting, the team shoot was taking place along with the .22 gallery where you could win highly sought after prizes and a charity event. This last event got you 8 shots at a falling plate rack with .22's for a \$5 donation. Every hit added a raffle ticket to the bucket



*The best way to drain a swamp is to use a (Sheriff) Rusty P. Bucket, SASS #44721.*



*Miss Delaney Belle, SASS #6860, aka Eviline, SASS #80638, beside scale version of the Concord Coach by Amos-T, SASS #4852. Yes, that's correct, she has TWO SASS aliases!*

on a chance to win a donated .22 derringer. Generous cowboys added another \$127 to the kitty in vying for tickets.

The men's shoot-off, “Show-down,” was won by James Samuel Pike, SASS #53331, and the ladies shoot-off, “Wild West Sweethearts,” was won by Stormy Shooter, SASS #57333.



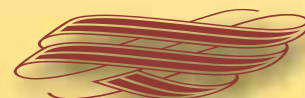
*You could even get a ride in “the Surry with the fringe on top.”*



*Restored Concord Coach #XIV from the Concord Coach Society out front of the clubhouse.*

Congratulations to the newly crowned SASS New England Regional champions, Cartwheel, SASS #51342, and Appaloosa Amy, SASS #63949, and all the Category winners.



Special thanks to the Concord Coach Society for sharing Concord Coach #XIV with us and to Match Sponsor Jimmy Spurs of Cowboy Gun Works and all the presenting sponsors along with all the hard working GNE staff ... all of which made “The Great Nor'easter 2009” a great success. 🤠





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Site of the world's largest stage coach robbery, July 25, 2009





# GOOD GUYS POSSE'S FIRST ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP SHOOT

By Jeweler Jim, SASS #50409

**R**ockford, IL - As the flyer said, "Help SASS help our shooters get a edumacation!" but, putting on our first charity shoot proved to be an education for us as well ... what with the "global warming" (the coldest August on record for decades), the fact that we've had our range washed out three times this year (Dry Gulch Ranch hasn't been real dry), and it rained for four days leading up to the shoot! So, we ended up not being able to play in the mud. We rescheduled the shoot and managed to get it in two weeks later. Yes, it was competing with the U.S. Open in Sparta and other shoots, but we wanted to get it in before it started to snow, which would have been the next thing to hit us.



**Recent SASS Scholarship winners—(l to r) Leadfoot Lizzie, Sicilian Kid, and Pumpkin. Congratulations!**

Pair-A-Dice, SASS Regulator #5966 and RO-II Instructor, and I decided this shoot was a necessary thing to do as both our girls were awarded SASS scholarships this year (Pumpkin, SASS #45033 and RO-II, and Leadfoot Lizzie, SASS #50411 and RO-II). Previously my son had also been granted a scholarship (Sicilian Kid, SASS #50410 and RO-II). We, along with many other deserving youngsters, are beholden to SASS for all the help given over the years.

So this "Yankee" and the "Southern Gentleman" called a truce to develop our first charity shoot. Our landlord, Thunderbird Kid, SASS Regulator #5266 and RO-II, said he thought it was a great idea, and he

reminded us no funds collected should be earmarked for him. 100% of all monies collected would go to the SASS Scholarship Fund. A good start ... and then our education started!

Seems most larger companies that might donate to a charity like to be contacted almost a year in advance of the event. Well, we were already committed and with only a couple of months to get it done, I threw a thread up on the "TG Wire" to get suggestions and comments on how to proceed. From the Wire and with what other board members suggested, it was decided a few side matches would be our best money maker. We settled on three side matches to include a "Poker Shoot," a "String

| Winners             |                                   |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Over All Man</b> | Asleep At The Wheel, SASS #47187  |
| <b>Lady</b>         | Legs, SASS #66921                 |
| <b>Clean Match</b>  | Arizona Slick, SASS #68062        |
|                     | Charles Goodnight, SASS #7244     |
|                     | Chicago Outlaw Sider, SASS #63575 |
|                     | Deuces Wild, SASS #11492          |
|                     | Dog Eared Dan, SASS #42099        |
|                     | Huckleberry, SASS #43860          |
|                     | Shotgun Bandit, SASS #23647       |



**Match Directors Pair-A-Dice (l) and Jeweler Jim (second from r) with Blind Bullseye winner, Snidely Whiplash (r), and second place finisher, George Emmett (second from l).**



**The Blind Bullseye match was all luck ... so the best prizes were allocated to this event!**

Shoot," and a "Blind Bulls Eye."

### Blind Bulls Eye

Being one hundred percent luck, we put our biggest prize there. Snidely Whiplash won that one and walked away with the gold nugget that had the ten diamonds in it (fabricated by Ken Keehn of Keehn's Jewelry Algonquin, IL, and another anonymous jeweler). Second prize was the lady's pin watch made in Switzerland about the time of the Civil War. George Emmett won that beautiful time piece. Eight other "coffee table books" on Winchester Cartridges written, autographed, and donated by Dog Eared Dan,

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**Poker Shoot**

We made it too easy and too close because we had seven passes through that match that managed to get "Five Aces." So, I dealt seven hands of stud showdown to see who got the prizes and ... Johnny Popper won with a lousy pair of tens and took one of Dan's books. Huckleberry took the "Comp" for the steakhouse. Cornbread Lawman got the "Comp" for the buffet. The "Comps" were from Grand Victoria Casino in Elgin, IL (that seemed to be appropriate for a Poker Shoot.)

[www.grandvictoria-elgin.com](http://www.grandvictoria-elgin.com)

There's a better explanation of the side matches in our August issue of the "Gazette" that you can download at:

<http://www.goodguysposse.org/forum/s/index.php?showtopic=6491>

Without turning this into a non-stop commercial, by the time you're reading this, you should be able to go to our SASS Scholarship Thread and see a complete listing of our sponsors.

[www.goodguysposse.org/forums/index.php?showforum=37](http://www.goodguysposse.org/forums/index.php?showforum=37)

Most of our regular sponsors chipped in with all kinds of goodies we added to the shooters' packets and the door prize table. We were able to write a check for \$1,225 and pass that along with a few other checks people threw into the contribution jug set out at the match.



*First prize for the Blind Bullseye match was the gold nugget with 10 embedded diamonds! Wow!*

SASS #42099 were added to the mix of prizes for all the side matches and pre-match packet drawings.

[www.wcfpublications.com](http://www.wcfpublications.com)

**String Shoot**

No one was able to cut the string, but we had two shooters, Zip Zander and George Emmett, who hit and moved the strings twice each. We gave them each a one hundred dollar gift certificate from Eagle Grips.

[www.eaglegrips.com](http://www.eaglegrips.com)



*The Poker Shoot was "too easy!" A real hand of Poker was required to finally determine the winner!*



*The String Shoot was "too difficult!" No one could cut the strings ... so a couple of co-winners who actually HIT the strings were declared.*



Competition from other shoots in our area the day of our shoot found us still having an attendance of forty-three registered shooters. All had a good time, and we're already looking forward to next year.

Thanks to all our sponsors and the shooters who turned out for our first efforts! As Chicago sport's fans always say, "Wait till next year!"

A full listing of the scores can also be found on our website under:

<http://www.goodguysposse.org/forum/s/index.php?showtopic=6626>

I guess you'll need a computer after you read this article! 🐾



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# CITY BANK NEW MEXICO'S Billy The Kid's Breakout

By Sgt. Shuster, SASS #60835

**L**incoln County, New Mexico - There are many legends and a modicum of truth based upon the exploits of William McCarty, who later became William Henry McCarty-Antrim, who changed his name in Lincoln to William H. Bonney, but was mostly known as the Kid. And, Billy the Kid was the subject of the Lincoln County Regulators first annual Cowboy Action Shooting™ extravaganza, Billy the Kid's Breakout, sponsored by City Bank New Mexico. The event took place on the weekend of August 7 - 9, 2009 with Sgt. Shuster, SASS #60835, founder of the Lincoln County Regulators, serving as Trail Boss and Lincoln County Regulator John Steele, SASS #82159, serving as Match Director. Timing and Scoring was supervised by Lincoln County Regulator, Rowdy



*SASS cowboys marched in the Lincoln County Days parade right down Lincoln's main street. It was difficult to determine who was most pleased ... the cowboys or the spectators!*

Lane, SASS #82087.

The Regulators built props, cut and welded targets, moved earth, spread gravel, painted buildings, gathered bits of Western ambience

that ranged from elk antlers and coyote hides to lariats and lanterns, did historical research, found sponsors, and did a year's worth of work in a relatively few months.

Just as popular with the 92 competitors and their guests as the side matches and the main match based on the career of Billy the Kid were the Friday evening get-acquainted cocktail reception at the Sierra Blanca Lodge, the Saturday evening Cree Meadows Country Club Old West Banquet, featuring historian Drew Gomber, and the Sunday spent in the historic village of Lincoln, site of the Lincoln County War. "You just can't get more cowboy than all that," according to Regulators Special



*Costume Contest Winners— Match Director John Steel and wife, Ginger Malloy.*

Constable Frank Coe. And the 92 cowboys and cowgirls who came to Ruidoso, New Mexico from as far as the states of Washington, California, Louisiana, and Ohio, agreed. Shooters came from all over New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, Oklahoma, and Colorado, as well.

The Lincoln County Regulators first annual shoot began with side matches written and honchoed by John Steele. The side matches were held at the Cowboy Action Shooting™ Range and Old West Town located at the Ruidoso Gun

| Winners            |                                |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Overall</b>     |                                |
| <i>Man</i>         | Mica McGuire, SASS #18526      |
| <i>Lady</i>        | Texas Tiger, SASS #74829       |
| <i>Buckarette</i>  | Ricochet                       |
| <b>Categories</b>  |                                |
| <i>Buckarette</i>  | Ricochet                       |
| <i>Cowboy</i>      | Mica McGuire                   |
| <i>Wrangler</i>    | John Steel, SASS #82159        |
| <i>49er</i>        | Pecos Cahill, SASS 75623       |
| <i>L Wrangler</i>  | Texas Tiger                    |
| <i>L 49er</i>      | Annabelle Peacock, SASS #50114 |
| <i>Senior</i>      | English Lynn, SASS #74828      |
| <i>L Senior</i>    | Rosie Rash, SASS #42709        |
| <i>S Senior</i>    | Tail N Kid, SASS #43802        |
| <i>L S Senior</i>  | Cat Ballou, SASS #55           |
| <i>E Statesman</i> | Dry Creek, SASS #2755          |
| <i>Duelist</i>     | Fast Hammer, SASS #60707       |
| <i>S Duelist</i>   | Hondo, SASS #21                |
| <i>S S Duelist</i> | El Viejo Cougero, SASS #43225  |
| <i>Gunfighter</i>  | Tex, SASS #4                   |
| <i>F Cartridge</i> | Life-r, SASS #44051            |
| <i>B-Western</i>   | Brushy Bill, SASS #44261       |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <i>L B-Western</i>                          | Hot Tamale, SASS #78531  |
| <i>C Cowboys</i>                            | Doc Baker, SASS #50032   |
| <b>Side Matches</b>                         |  |
| Long Range Rifle                            |  |
| Pistol Caliber                              |  |
| <i>Man</i>                                  | Life-r   |
| <i>Lady</i>                                 | Annabelle Peacock  |
| Speed Pistol                                |  |
| <i>Man</i>                                  | John Steel   |
| <i>Lady</i>                                 | Annabelle Peacock  |
| Speed Rifle                                 |  |
| <i>Man</i>                                  | Mica McGuire   |
| <i>Lady</i>                                 | Texas Tiger  |
| Fastest Regulator                           |  |
| <i>Man</i>                                  | Life-r   |
| <i>Lady</i>                                 | Texas Tiger  |
| <b>Clean Match</b>                          |  |
|   | Rusty Fillins, Rosy Rash, Dry Creek, SASS #2755, Hondo, John Steele, Brushy Bill, Tomahawk, Ed Shortround, SASS #78338 |
| <b>Best Dressed Costume Contest</b>         |  |
| <i>Man</i>                                  | John Steel   |
| <i>Lady</i>                                 | Ginger Malloy, SASS #821960  |
| <b>The Cowpoke Farthest From Home Award</b> |  |
|   | Life-r (from Columbus, OH)   |



*Sunday morning Cowboy Church was well attended in historic Lincoln's Pageant Arena.*



*Trail Boss of the Lincoln County regulators, Sgt. Schuster, handles the MC duties during the Saturday evening banquet.*



*Lincoln County Historian and TV personality, Drew Gomer, retold the story of Billy the Kid and the Lincoln County War to a rapt audience. Some of the historic sites can still be located for those on a quest to "find Billy."*



*The Wortley Hotel where Deputy Bob Olinger had his last meal. Billy shot him dead with his own shotgun during his famous escape from Lincoln.*



*Lincoln recruits talent from the surrounding area for its Billy the Kid Pageant. This troop recreates the Billy the Kid story, keeping the Old West and its legends alive.*

Club range in Ruidoso Downs.

After all that moving and shooting, the cowboys and cowgirls were ready for some relaxation and socialization at the Friday evening get-acquainted Cocktail Reception. The party was held in the beautiful lounge of The Lodge at Sierra Blanca

in Ruidoso, renowned for its breathtaking view of Sierra Blanca, the sacred White Mountain of the Mescalero Apaches. Once the canapés were devoured, lots of new friends got together for dinner at restaurants all over town.

The shooting started in earnest



**Both John Tunstall and Alex McSween are buried behind the Tunstall Store. Mrs. McSween lead a long and adventurous life following Alex's death and is buried in nearby White Oaks.**

on Saturday morning as 60 competitors armed with six-guns, lever guns, and scatter guns converged on the Lincoln County Regulators Cowboy Action Shooting™ Range and Old West Town in Ruidoso Downs to shoot six exceptional stages based on the daring misadventures of Billy the Kid. The competitors were divided into three posses. After the Raising of the Colors, accompanied by Lincoln County Regulator Kiowa Mike on the cavalry bugle, and the Pledge of Allegiance, a Safety Briefing was held by Frank Coe. Members of the Rockin' H 4-H Club shooting team got ready to retrieve brass.

Depicting the first time young Henry Antrim really got into trouble on September 23, 1875 in Silver City, Stage One, "Stolen Laundry" was won by Fast Hammer, SASS #60707, from Las Cruces, NM. The stage was shot through wash hung out between City Bank New Mexico and the Celestial Laundry.

Mica McGuire triumphed while shooting over the adobe wall in Stage Two, "The Ambush of Sheriff Brady." This stage depicted the shooting of Brady on April Fools Day, 1878, and because Billy got winged and had to drop a rifle, the shooter had to start holding a rifle, but lay it down before continuing with revolvers.

Stage Three, "Buckshot Roberts," portrayed the battle at Blazers Mill where legend has Roberts shooting up the Regulators from the outhouse. This stage, which started with shooters sitting on the "facility," was bested by Mica McGuire.

City Bank New Mexico's Billy the Kid's Breakout paused for a Brisket and Beans lunch from the Allen Family Caterers. Lincoln County Regulator Scarlett Lane, SASS #84914, supervised the field kitchen.

Stage Four, "Trapped," saw Texas Tiger attain the top spot. Pat



*Match Winners— Texas Tiger, John Steel, and Ricochet. Congratulations!*

Garrett's posse had tracked the Kid to remote Stinking Springs and, because a shot horse blocked the gang's exit, competitors had to stage long guns on a horse in front of the door.

Stage Five depicted the Kid's escape from the Lincoln County Courthouse. Billy managed to get the best of Deputy Bell and, when Deputy Bob Olinger heard the shot, he ran across the street from lunch at the Wortley Hotel to the Courthouse. Waiting for him with his own shotgun was Billy whose famous greeting was, "Hello, Bob." Mica McGuire was the victor of "The Breakout." Competitors had to shoot up the "target stairs" and through



*Billy seemed a pleasant sort as he gaily rode into Lincoln ...*



*The Tunstall store is all that remains of the McSween/Tunstall complex consisting of their homes and the mercantile.*

the jailhouse window and door.

Stage Six, "Empty Chamber," depicted Billy's run-in with Joe Grant in a Fort Sumner saloon. Grant brags that he's going to kill Billy, and Billy, unrecognized, asks to see his gun. The Kid rigs the gun not to fire, hands it back, and introduces himself. John Steele came in first. Shooters not only had to shoot down the plates on the racks, they also had to knock down the activators with

*(Continued on page 80)*

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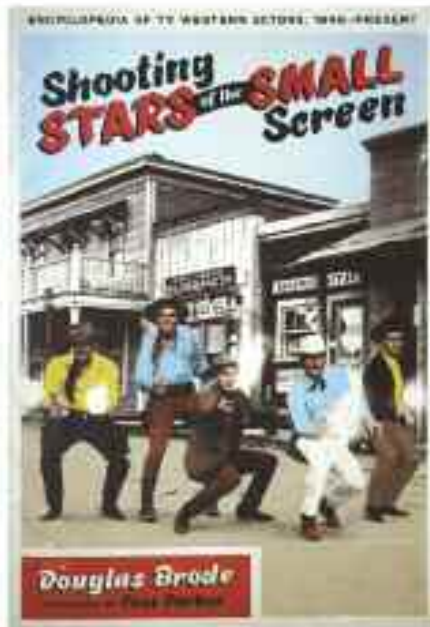
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### CITY BANK NEW MEXICO'S . . .

(Continued from page 79)

their shotguns and possibly get a bonus on the flyers. Two in a row!

And, that's right, Pat Garrett didn't get Billy in the final stage! The Lincoln County Regulators had to leave something for next year, to be sure.

Once all the shooting had died down and the smoke cleared, everyone headed for the mountain village of Ruidoso and Cree Meadows County Club for the Old West Banquet, featuring historian and author, Drew Gomber. Gomber, an

expert on the Lincoln County War among other Western lore, has appeared on the History Channel and Discovery Channel. His interesting talk separated most of the legend from the still fascinating facts and was enjoyed by all. So was the dinner, featuring carved-to-order Chateaubriand and a whole passel of fixin's for the baked potatoes.

Lots of door prizes were given away. The Deck of Cards Raffle netted Dry Creek a Remington Cowboy Action Shooting™ double-barreled shotgun, donated by Larry Wimbrow

of Firepower in Ruidoso. And speaking of luck, Dry Creek also won the next Deck of Cards Raffle for a custom made hat valued at \$300 from Bronco Sue Custom Hats of Ruidoso, a SASS affiliated merchant! He graciously donated the hat back to the Lincoln County Regulators.

Sunday saw the Cowboy Action Shooters in historic Lincoln for Cowboy Church and a bit of that Old Time Religion at the Pageant Arena. Presided over by Sgt. Shuster, an ordained Catholic deacon, the old-fashioned worship service featured Praise and Worship music led by Scarlett Lane, with a solo of Amazing Grace by Miss Emily Vickers. All of the hymns dated from the Old West era. Frank Coe read the scripture, and Lincoln County Regulator Miss Kitty Kaffeine, SASS #82174, led the intercessory prayers.

After church, the cowpokes in Old West garb and packin' iron participated in the Old Lincoln Days Grand Parade. Those who couldn't walk all the way down that famous street rode with Lincoln County Sheriff Rick Virden in his horse-drawn wagon. The parade watchers really enjoyed the SASS Old West look, and the participants really enjoyed walking the same street and seeing the same buildings as those legendary Lincoln County War characters. Lincoln is perhaps the best-preserved town in all the West.

Everyone then spent the day touring the historic Lincoln State Monument's buildings, including the Tunstall store and the Lincoln County Courthouse. Winding up the day in Old Lincoln for the participants in City Bank New Mexico's Billy the Kid's Breakout was the annual pageant, "The Last Escape of Billy the Kid."

The community really got behind the Lincoln County Regulators in their quest to bring visitors to Lincoln County, especially the

Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce, Steve Talley, director of Tourism for the Village of Ruidoso and Lonnie R. Nunley, the Mayor of the Village of Ruidoso.

The major sponsor for Billy the Kid's Breakout was City Bank New Mexico, whose President, Lincoln County Regulator Usurious Dave, SASS #80436, worked as a Waddie for the entire event.

Stage and Target sponsors were Best-Corn Ranch, offering custom guest ranch vacation packages and Firepower Gun and Pawn of Ruidoso. Foxworth-Galbraith provided all the shooters prizes and Copy-Rite of Roswell and Ruidoso printed the Shooters Program and lots more.

Loading and unloading tables were sponsored by Golden Yarn Flooring, SASS Affiliated Merchant Bronco Sue Custom Hats, Dylan Midkiff, DDS (Rusty Fillins, SASS #82379), C & S general commercial, residential and remodel contractors (John Steele), Sierra Contracting, and Zia Natural Gas, all in the Ruidoso area.

Other local sponsors included Adam C. Rafkin, Attorney at Law, Southwest Securities FSB, BuyRuidoso.com, Wal-Mart, Pioneer Bank, Ben Passmore, MD (Doc Lecter, SASS #81609), Blended Essentials (Ginger Malloy), and two more SASS Affiliated Merchants: Laced and Kona Cowboy Coffee Company (Sgt. Shuster), and every cowpokes best friend, Anonymous.

Shooters are already marking their calendars for August 6-7-8, 2010 to join the Lincoln County Regulators in their Second Annual Billy the Kid's Breakout ... Same History, New Stages ... in historic Lincoln County. Plan now to have a real Cowboy Action Shooting™ adventure in the tall, cool pines of Ruidoso, New Mexico. Who knows, maybe in next year's match Pat Garrett will get Billy! 🤠

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# TALE OF THE YELLOWSTONE VALLEY Buffalo Stampede

June 26-27, 2009

By Doc Weed, SASS #60818

Photos by Doc Weed, Lilly Blossom, SASS #26517

Statistics by Muggin's Angel, SASS #19622

**B**illings, MT - Billings is named for Frederick H. Billings, President of the Northern Pacific Railroad. It is the largest city in a 500-mile (805 km) radius that includes Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, South Dakota, North Dakota, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. It serves as a shopping and accommodation center for area residents and highway travelers. It is a great place to have a sport like Cowboy Action Shooting™ since there are at least four sporting goods and gun shops in town, including Sportsman's Warehouse, Cabelas, Shipton's Big R, and Scheel's.

Being close to Yellowstone National Park, Pompey's Pillar, and the area where the Battle of the Little Bighorn was fought is also an attraction to competitors. Competitors enjoy our Friday-Saturday Stampede format so they can tour the local sites.

Friday dawned clear and bright for a full afternoon of side matches. Competition was tough. Eight main



A.E. Irons takes Angle for a ride ...

match stages are shot on Saturday. There is a mandatory lunch break after the first four stages to give shooters and spectators a break to refuel and re-hydrate before returning to the fray. Since the club only has four shooting bays, the leg-work to shoot eight stages is not bad. Each posse completes two stages before moving on to the next range. Do you have any idea how many ways there are to negotiate the same set of props and targets? Let's

just say that no one got bored by the scenarios and shooting sequences!

It was well known the workday of the cowboy was dirty, hard, and long with only the occasional day off. Those rare respites were spent doing everything from mending their clothes to attending traveling shows. This match gave us a taste of many of the enjoyable activities a cowboy did on a rare day off.

Stage 1 - "Mending." One of the most important of the off duty jobs was to mend their clothes and, in this case, darn them "darn" socks. Knowing how to use the darning egg, the sewing basket, and the needle and thread saved many a bronc-



Match Winners—  
Buckskin Lily and  
Montana Prairie Dog.  
Congratulations!



Wyoming Drummer and his  
grandson, D Behind the Deuce,  
both are winners!



Mudhen Millie, SASS#36525,  
gets ready to do some fly fishing.



Running Iron, SASS #28700,  
baits up!



Ringer thinks that fish is not  
dead yet!

**Winners:**

|                     |                                     |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Overall Man</b>  | Montana Prairie Dog,<br>SASS #46666 |
| <b>Lady</b>         | Buckskin Lily,<br>SASS #51707       |
| <b>Categories</b>   |                                     |
| <b>49er</b>         | Chama Bill,<br>SASS #36524          |
| <b>Buckaroo</b>     | D Behind the Deuce,<br>SASS #82810  |
| <b>Cowboy</b>       | Yellowstone Nerd,<br>SASS #84195    |
| <b>Duelist</b>      | Deadeye Doug,<br>SASS #8208         |
| <b>E Statesman</b>  | Clearwater Kid,<br>SASS #8886       |
| <b>Frontiersman</b> | Wyoming Drummer,<br>SASS #5797      |
| <b>F Cartridge</b>  | Lilly Blossom,<br>SASS #26517       |
| <b>F C Duelist</b>  | Rattlebury,<br>SASS #27366          |

|                          |                                    |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Gunfighter</b>        | Missouri River Kid,<br>SASS #38088 |
| <b>L 49er</b>            | Curley Sue,<br>SASS #46667         |
| <b>L Duelist</b>         | Rawhide Riata,<br>SASS #18060      |
| <b>L Senior</b>          | Missouri River Lo,<br>SASS #55271  |
| <b>Senior</b>            | Montana Prairie Dog                |
| <b>Young Gun</b>         | Big Sky Ranger,<br>SASS #84196     |
| <b>Side Matches</b>      |                                    |
| <b>Pocket Pistol</b>     | Missouri River Kid                 |
| <b>Derringer</b>         | Clearwater Kid                     |
| <b>Speed Shotgun</b>     | Chama Bill                         |
| <b>Speed Rifle</b>       | Jughead,<br>SASS #55756            |
| <b>.22 Rimfire</b>       | Joe Cross,<br>SASS #13848          |
| <b>Long Range Pistol</b> | Caliber<br>Chama Bill              |



partake in the gentlemanly sport of cow pasture pool. We were given a chance to taste this sport. The start of this stage was the attempted sinking of a putt at 10 ft. using a ball of string and an axe handle for the club. I don't think Tiger played it this way!

Stage 6 – “Cowboy Baseball.” This introduced the competitors to the relaxing sport of baseball. After church on Sunday, a game of

Baseball was in order to relax from the rigors of the previous week. But remember to take the guns away before starting a “rhubarb!”

Stage 7 – “Cowboy Tennis.” If there was time on this weekend, some of the cowboys got into a game of tennis. This would give them a good workout, especially when using a small spade for the racquet and ball of yarn for the tennis ball!

Stage 8 – “Cowboy Laundry.”

Some of the cowhands saved their personal chores for the end of their day off and still had their laundry to wash. All the equipment, such as a washtub, Lorenzo's Best Lye Soap, and scrub board, was provided for the shooters that made it through all stages.

With their clean clothes on, the competitors felt refreshed at the end of the shooting match and were ready for the presentation of awards. 🐾

## ODE TO THE YELLOWSTONE VALLEY BUFFALO STAMPEDE

By Yellowstone Nerd, SASS #84159

'Twas the dawn of the Stampede  
And all on the range  
Were the props and the tables  
So neatly arranged.

The signs had been hung by the highway  
with care  
In hopes that the shooters soon would be  
there.

The cowboys were nestled all snug in  
their beds  
While visions of trophies danced in their  
heads.

Angel passed out the loot and the prizes  
we had,  
She went into town and she got us all  
fed.

Lilly Blossom was sayin' to her dear  
Backstrap Bill,  
“I hope there'll be younguns,” and he  
answered, “There will.  
“Calamity, Deuce, and that young lad,  
Big Sky  
“Will be shootin' with us, be the water so  
high.”

The sun was a-risin' a clear great big sky  
And Grizzly was wipin' the sleep from  
his eye.  
When what to our wonderin' eyes did  
appear  
But a big ole fifth wheel with eight  
10-point mule deer.

At the reins of the deer was a tall, silent  
man  
And we knew it was surely our guv,  
Brother Van.

The shooters had come from near and  
afar  
Buckskin Lilly, Noah, and Yakima R.  
Clearwater Kid won the derringer call  
And Mo River Kid the pocket pistol haul.

The speed shotgun prize went to  
ole Chama Bill  
While Joe Cross took Rimfire over the  
hill.  
Jughead got two prizes, Speed Rifle was  
one  
And he shot the Long Pistol, that was  
t'other one.

Deadeye Doug got Speed Pistol, which  
made his crew proud  
Chama Bill's Long Range Rifle spoke  
hard and spoke loud.  
Mudhen Millie watched Chama with  
pride in her eye,  
Or maybe just smoke was makin' her cry.

The Nerd gave the prayer in the briefing  
so grand:  
“Don't shoot over the berm, over thar be  
state land!”  
Then off to the shootin' the posses they  
rode.  
Aimin' for prizes from our own Mother  
Lode.

Doc Weed took our tintypes in his hat  
so tall  
And a good time was had by the gang,  
one and all.  
Prairie Dog brought his friends from the  
town of Great Falls  
And the campers was lined up like  
horses in stalls.

There was dear Lilly's bloomers from out  
of her drawers;  
They was hung in the way and they got  
some new holes.  
Bugler's shirt was all blue and his  
stripes was of gold  
To remind us of soldiers from days long  
ago.

Black powder smoked and the counters  
all choked  
From the fumes of the frontier cartridge  
folks.  
(If you think this is easy, yer welcome to  
try.  
Cowboy couplets that rhyme ain't like  
tysin' a fly).

We had Pack Rat and Ringer a blazin'  
away.  
And Muggins was pingin' the steel all  
the day.  
Riata said somethin' about Rawhide's  
shootin'  
But no one could hear for her rootin'  
and tootin'.

Rawhide won Lady Duelist and  
Mo River Lo was the top

Lady Duelist of ... Well, 30 or so.  
Yote was knockin' 'em down with his  
shotgun so merry  
And Calamity Jane was dainty yet scary.  
(She outshot the boys with her eye that  
was true  
But the Deuce and the Ranger shot  
pretty good too.)

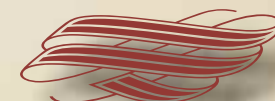
Prairie Dog slung the steel fast and hard  
And he brung home some bacon;  
the ace was his card.  
The Mo River Kid had his eye on the  
prize  
And whatever he shot never did rise.

Huckleberry hounded the range but no  
Squib  
Was heard from her six-gun, whatever  
she did.  
We had Bonehead and Jughead and  
Clearwater Kid;  
Runnin' Iron and Deadeye who Doug  
what we did.

Bullets Bobbed on Bluegrass and Joe  
Crossed the line;  
And we ducked when we heard  
ole Rick O'Shay's whine.  
Wyoming Drummer was top  
Frontiersman  
Rattlebury was Black Powder's top  
One-Hand Man.

Curly Sue was the hottest as the 49 lady  
When we met at the end in the cool and  
the shady.  
Two Gun called all for all the winners to  
meet  
And the joint was all full, wasn't hardly  
a seat.

At the top of the heap, straightest  
cowboy and filly,  
Were the dude Prairie Dog and the gal  
Buckskin Lily.  
AE Irons exclaimed, as his horn he did  
toot,  
“Safe journey to all! A mighty good  
shoot!” 🐾



buster's feet. But, don't let your  
pards catch you in the act!

Stage 2 – “The Cowboy Theater.”  
We all got a taste of the importance of  
theater to the cowboy in the movie  
“Tombstone.” The production of a  
Greek Tragedy at Royal Lynn's  
Saloon was soon brought to a rip-  
roaring conclusion when a cowpoke  
enters the saloon spouting Latin to  
impress the ladies—it didn't work!

Stage 3 – “Cowboy Fly Tying.”  
The cowboys living in Montana had  
the benefit of taking some time off to  
do some fishing. Montana has  
numerous streams and lakes for fish-  
ing such as the Madison, the  
Jefferson, the Yellowstone, and the  
Missouri and lakes such as Flathead,  
Canyon Ferry, and Yellowtail. They  
learned how to tie flies out of rope  
and the odds-and-ends of broken  
tools and were very good at using  
them. The competitors were afflicted  
with the fine art of fly tying before  
the fishing could begin. If the cow-  
boys and cowgirls could not tie a con-  
vincing fly, then they may have had  
to go hungry that night!

Stage 4 – “Cowboy Fishing.” It  
was noticed some of the fishermen  
threw their flies and poles away and  
jumped into the stream to get their  
fish with their hands. This was not as  
successful as fishing in a pail of plain  
well water, as that's where the big  
ones were hiding. Those lucky enough  
to catch a fish whichever way they  
preferred had a great supper of fresh  
fish that was cooked by a campfire.

Stage 5 – “Cowboy Golf.” In  
Montana there are many fine golf  
courses, and cowboys were able to



If I hit it over the fence ... do I win?



# AMBUSH AT HAT CREEK

By Jasper Agate, SASS #11697

**B**urney, CA - BeeBad, SASS #25307, and I have been hearing about this shoot for a few years, and everyone who has attended said it was a beautiful place and a good shoot to boot! We are home after seven years on the road and could schedule in this shoot, and we are sure glad we did!

The drive up was beautiful, as we have never been up to that area of Northern CA. The range was set back into the woods with camping either on the flats below the range, with an outstanding view, or up in the woods at the top of the hill. We chose the later. We both like smaller annual matches, and with 83 shooters it was the perfect size for us. It seems you can get to know most everyone at a more intimate match.

We arrived on Thursday afternoon and had a great Mexican potluck with a group of our friends that evening. The Management was very friendly and seemed to make it to all the different camps to say hello. Friday was a side match day

with a wonderful long range seminar put on by Red Blaze, SASS #5313, and Old Curly, SASS #3351. BeeBad took the class and ended up beating me at long range. She learned a lot from those boys! They also offered Cowboy silhouette, a wonderful Shotgun frenzy, I'll tell you more about that later, a .22 match, and all the other side matches you would expect to find. I shot cowboy silhouette before the seminar and after a break for lunch headed to long range. I spent the rest of my day at long range and didn't even get my side match guns dirty!

After a quick clean up, it was off to the potluck sponsored by the home club, the Shasta Regulators. We spent the rest of the evening visiting with old friends, including the Possum Holler folks from The Ukiah Gun Club. They are a wonderful group of cowboys that make you feel right at home in their camp, just watch out for their Apple Pie! I'm not talking about the kind served with ice cream!!!

The following day was an early start with six stages to shoot before lunch. We knew almost everyone on our posse, and it was a great posse to shoot on! We hung out with our old friends from the Mad River Rangers and met new ones, such as Diamond Eye Dottie, SASS #75194, and her husband, Dogtown Larry, SASS #64888. De Sabla Don, SASS #76121, and Smitty Wesson, SASS #9756, were our two distinguished Elder Statesmen who out-shot most of the posse, and Marsha Dillon, SASS #9634, was the top over all woman. We also had Sutter Lawman, SASS #24333 on our posse, and it's always a pleasure to shoot with him.

BeeBad was the first to shoot for the day, and the posse leaders, Lefty Hangfire, SASS #32069, and Lefty Malone, SASS #37703, weren't quite ready for her full house 12 ga black-powder loads! The stages were inventive and had lots of different sweeps. The targets might be a little small for some, but everyone had to shoot at the same steel! After the first six stages, we ate a late lunch and most headed back to camp to get ready for the evening's festivities.

I hung around for a run at the Shotgun Frenzy, and I'm sure glad I did!! It was a minimum of 29 tar-

gets, ranging from potatoes hung on rebar to a Texas star, and all the poppers loaded with full coke can and charcoal briquettes you could want to shoot. I was fortunate enough to shoot first that afternoon so I could get back to camp and clean our guns before dinner.

The weather gods weren't with us that evening, and it started to rain just as we arrived at the banquet to listen to the band. The rain put a damper on the outside affair, affecting not only the evening's dinner and the side match awards, but the musicians ran for cover with their equipment.

A few of us brave souls stuck around for the Night Plainsman Match; that's right, I said a Night Plainsman match!! What a hoot!! Four of us intrepid souls loaded our cap and ball revolvers, grabbed up our single shot rifles and shotguns, and shot late into the night! Stranger, SASS #16621, and the guys that put on that part of the match deserve a big thanks from us Plainsmen! They worked really hard to ensure we had a great time with big rifle targets way the heck out there. At one point I heard one of the helpers say if I blew out another lamp, they were going to make me pay for it. I don't quite understand what the problem was. I was shooting a cute little roller in .50-70 and a 10 ga. '87. Doesn't everyone play the




game with big bore guns?

So, to recap my Saturday, I shot from 8:30 in the morning until 10:30 at night, and I had a ball! The next morning came way early after my late night with four more stages to shoot before the team-shoot and the awards. That day's stages were more of the same with us ending on their infamous shotgun stage, and it was a good one! We started with rifle targets at the end of the berm followed by two snakes (pieces of some 1 1/4" hose) that needed to be shot across a

## Winners

|               |                                  |
|---------------|----------------------------------|
| 49er          | Royal Flush,<br>SASS #78333      |
| C Cowboy      | Gus Ashcroft,<br>SASS #27341     |
| Cowgirl       | Camp Hag,<br>SASS #84031         |
| Duelist       | Rico Kid,<br>SASS #13942         |
| E Statesman   | De Sabla Don,<br>SASS #76121     |
| F Cartridge   | Smokin Gator,<br>SASS #29736     |
| Frontiersman  | Tumbleweed Ed,<br>SASS # 65484   |
| Gunfighter    | Speedy McDraw,<br>SASS #60016    |
| Junior        | Hammerin Hank,<br>SASS #79046    |
| L 49er        | Redwood Rose,<br>SASS #60017     |
| L F Cartridge | Jessie Lyn,<br>SASS #7989        |
| L Senior      | Marsha Dillon,<br>SASS #9634     |
| L Wrangler    | Ima Goner,<br>SASS #77027        |
| Senior        | Rambling Dave,<br>SASS #21864    |
| S Duelist     | Kid Kneestone,<br>SASS #14851    |
| S Senior      | Whiskey Rivers,<br>SASS #15783   |
| Wrangler      | Simpson Shootist,<br>SASS #71732 |

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line. The four poppers loaded with soda cans were next as you moved down range towards the revolver targets. You ended the stage with the rifle targets used as revolver targets.

The team shoot was fun with five person teams and 50 knockdown silhouette targets shot with revolvers and any misses made up with shotguns before engaging a post that had to be cut down with rifles. It was a very good team shoot!!!!

Despite the rain on Saturday and a few minor glitches that accompany a small match, it was a blast. The Shasta Regulators made us feel right at home even though it was our first time at their range. We will definitely be putting this one on the calendar for next year. The setting was beautiful, and the drive was breathtaking. Maybe I can redeem myself next year and beat my dear wife at long range ... or maybe not! :)



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# BUNKHOUSE BIDNESS

## A Spotlight on SASS Clubs Around the Country (ies)

By Whooper Crane, SASS #52745



Whooper Crane,  
SASS #52745  
Mug shot by Deadeye Al

### What's Ahead for Bunkhouse Bidness? How about an International Flair?

Starting in January, *Bunkhouse Bidness* will take on an international flair, as our Canadian sidekick, Bad Penny, SASS #1453, takes

over the reins of this popular column for *The Cowboy Chronicle*.

Bad Penny has a writer's background, so he'll probably dot all his I's and cross all his T's as he creates his articles. I'm aware he'll be featuring one of our top SASS Clubs north of the border in January, so we should gain some fresh insight into how our northern neighbors set up and operate their clubs so well.

I hope he'll also do some articles on our European, Aussie, and Kiwi pards as well. And ... there are still hundreds of interesting SASS Clubs here in the States we haven't even touched yet. It's a big assignment!

Like I say, Bad Penny's a jour-

nalist, so we can rest assured he'll find out everything that makes our many SASS Clubs tick.

Welcome aboard, Bad Penny. We're looking forward to your *Bunkhouse Bidness* articles.

Am I departing the scene? Not hardly!

I'll continue to put together my *Sidekicks & Heavies* column and my *Wild West Wheels* column as before. And, to stir things up a little more ... the Missus and I will be putting together a new column called *One Pot Chuck*, which will offer some really tasty meals like the ones chuckwagon Cookies whipped up out on the trail.

We'll design 'em for campfire cooking in one pot (usually a cast iron Dutch oven). But, don't despair if you don't cook with cast iron when you camp ... these recipes convert easily to more-contemporary cookware as well. We hope you'll want to try your hand with cast iron though ... It's a hoot!

Until then, thanks for all your kind words about *Bunkhouse Bidness* these past 18 months. Bad Penny's articles should keep things moving right along from now on. I know you'll enjoy them.

Photo:

Whooper Crane by Deadeye Al




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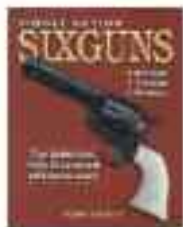
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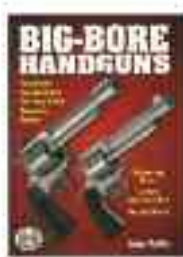
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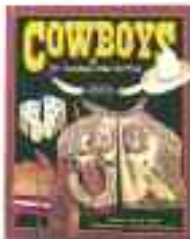
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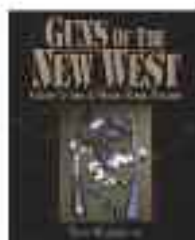
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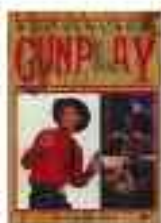
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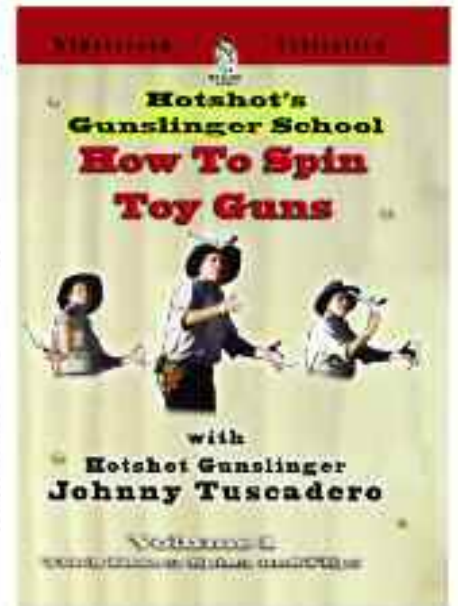
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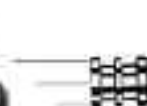
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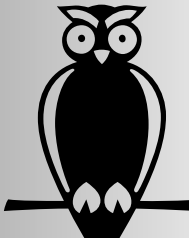
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