

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

# The Cowboy Chronicle

The Monthly Journal of the Single Action Shooting Society®

Vol. 23 No. 3

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March 2010

## THE SASS CONVENTION Is Still Number One

By Palaver Pete, SASS Life/Regulator #4375  
Photos by Black Jack McGinnis, SASS Life/Regulator #2041

I felt like a movie star at the Cannes Film Festival in France. Las Vegas may not be Cannes, but that's because Cannes has a long way to go. The SASS Convention provided everything a Las Vegas performance is expected to provide and probably more—it was a first class act. Forget the Cirque du Soleil. The SASS Convention would hold up in comparison to any production in town to include Celine Dion and Donnie and Marie.

SASS came to town with its own cast of stars. Grey Fox and his lovely wife, Miss Mary Spencer were there in their usual splendid attire. Watching Grey Fox receive his Hall of Fame award caused shivers of joy up my spine—we go back a long way—Headquarters '96 on Vancouver Island, and perhaps a shoot or two before that, I can't remember exactly. Dixie Bell looked as beautiful as any Hollywood celebrity in town, and the many SASS wives in attendance added to the Coterie of lovelies assembled in the Hotel Riviera.

The main attraction was of



Each year at the Convention SASS recognizes a small group of members who have made significant contributions to our sport over the years, and this year we inducted another outstanding Hall of Fame group!

Back Row (l-r): Cimarron Rose and Texas Jack, proprietors of Cimarron Arms; Virgil Earp and Grey Fox, international organizers.

Front Row (l-r): Coyote Calhoun, SASS National Programs; Dixie Bell, champion shooting and costuming competitor; and Dutch, creator of the SASS Wild West Show. Congratulations and well deserved!

(Photo by Major Photography)

See **HIGHLIGHTS** on pages 71, 72

course, the SASS Hall of Fame induction ceremony. The Inductees were Coyote Calhoun, Dutch, Texas Jack & Cimarron Rose, Gray Fox, Dixie Bell, and Australia's own Virgil Earp. These individuals added a glow to the evening that still lingers in the memory of those assembled and especially this writer. Their acceptance speeches were only exceeded by the quality of the presentations and preparation by the SASS Staff.

The Seminars were equivalent to any I have ever attended. Especially high on my list was Professor Paul Hutton's presentation on Kit Carson, and Happy Jack's discussion of the Wild Bunch rules. I was glued to my chair and came away from all the seminars with a wealth of knowledge. I also came away from the Wild Bunch seminar with a feeling this side match or major shoot is not an easy event. Much thought and training are required to do it safely, and the instructor highly recommended the use of proper equipment—remember this is a big bore event, as it should be, requiring 40 caliber and above. Don't mess with the rules!

Always an anticipated event at the SASS Convention is the presentation of the Woolly Awards by Tex, (Continued on page 70)

### SASS Cowboy Chronicle

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## The Cowboy Chronicle



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New Mexico resident and NRA President, Ron Schmeits, gave a rousing keynote speech during the opening ceremonies that formally opened the 2009 Convention.



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

# All Right . . . It's FINALLY TIME!

By Tex, SASS #4

gories. We even realized most women could not compete well with the men. There were always exceptions, of course, where special ladies, kids, and grandpas put the rest of us in our place on a regular basis.

I remember one summit meeting where the case was being made to divide the Junior category by age. Gender was already a recognized split, but 12 year olds competing against 16 year olds just wasn't fair. The 12 year olds were often barely four feet high, and some of the 16 year olds were starting to shave! It was interesting, as the TGs (mostly an older group!) thought it was a terrible idea. The very idea—these kids already wanting to “win”—they need to learn patience,

practice long and hard, and one day they can *earn* their trophies.

The very next agenda item dealt with whether or not we should split the Senior Category and create a “Silver Senior” shooting category. It was nearly defeated before these same TGs claimed they'd lose many of their older members if they couldn't have their own category (so they could win!). Once it was clear we “needed” Senior, Silver Senior, and Elder Statesman (and the corresponding ladies' categories), they were essentially shamed into providing the same accommodation for the youngsters.

A very few years ago there was a brand new movement—this time to carve out a new category for the “slowing down” set that wasn't yet eligible to be a Senior—the 49er

Category. Once again, the argument was it wasn't “fair” for these guys who were clearly past their prime to have to compete with the younger set who was regularly kicking their collective butts! Again, logic dictated the need for a new category, so more folks (and some previous consistent winners) could win. It's important for peers to be able to shoot against peers.

By the way, you would be amazed how many times I've been lobbied by the really older set for 80, 85, and 90 year old shooting categories! If it's important for peers to shoot against peers, they should have their categories, be allowed to win, and be recognized by everyone for excellence in their age bracket.

The most recent initiative was the  
*(Continued on next page)*

Over the past few years there have been several initiatives for the Territorial Governors to ensure everyone can compete against their peers. For many years now we've recognized Juniors are at a distinct disadvantage when shooting against adults (until Holy Terror came along!). Older folks (Seniors) certainly had slower reflexes than the 30 and 40 something competitors who were always winning their cate-

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(Continued from previous page)  
most dramatic of all. SASS actually abandoned the first two shooting categories created, Traditional and Modern, for a pair of age-based categories, Cowboy and Wrangler. For the "free-style" (i.e., "two-handed") shooters, there are now eight age-based categories so they can "shoot against their peers." And, that's wonderful.

We've recognized many specialty categories for years as well—Frontiersman, Duelist, Frontier Cartridge, Gunfighter, B-Western, and Classic Cowboy. Instantly, we had the feminine version of each of these categories as well. Only Duelist competitors have successfully been able to get most Match Directors to recognize deviant versions of their category—e.g., Senior Duelist and Frontier Cartridge Duelist. To a large extent, these competitors represent the true essence of Cowboy Action by incorporating pieces of our Old West history into their competitive shooting; yet, all are being punished by not being allowed to shoot against their peers. This means fully half of our membership is not allowed the same satisfaction as the two handed, smokeless, and often minimally costumed competitors who regularly turn in much faster shooting times and generally claim the overall match honors.

These specialty categories seldom produce overall match winners. The participants are competing against all age groups in their category. Few are ever recognized, although they may be excellent competitors in their age bracket. Fortunately, they are often shooting for the personal joy of recreating their own Old West fantasies. But, we're doing them a disservice—they should have the same opportunity to compete against their peers as the "other half."

SASS and Cowboy Action is a graying sport. Collectively we're all getting older. Young people are still coming into the sport, but on average, we're older each year. It's time for the Territorial Governor's to provide a formal statement and Category Grid that provides a potential age-based category for everyone entering every match. While some State matches, Regionals, and END of TRAIL have offered "experimental" categories in addition to all the mandatory categories, many have not. *All potential categories should be offered. Those with adequate participation should be provided.*

Certainly, there are a very large number of potential categories if age brackets are recognized for every presently existing category—more than for which any match can afford to provide trophies. Also, some of the new categories will have NO participation at a particular match, and many more will have only a very few signed up. It then becomes incumbent on match officials to make the call and collapse the undersubscribed categories until a reasonable number of people in each category is achieved.

General Grant has observed, if the prizes are inexpensive enough, one may choose to even accommodate categories with a single shooter. Certificates and inexpensive commemorative buckles recognize accomplishment and are appreciated. Really nice awards can be reserved for the larger categories. There are dozens of options and strategies match officials can use to accommodate "the rest" of the age-based categories that are sorely needed in SASS. Hopefully this can become a discussion item at the major matches this year and addressed in a constructive way by the Territorial Governors next December in Las Vegas! 🤠

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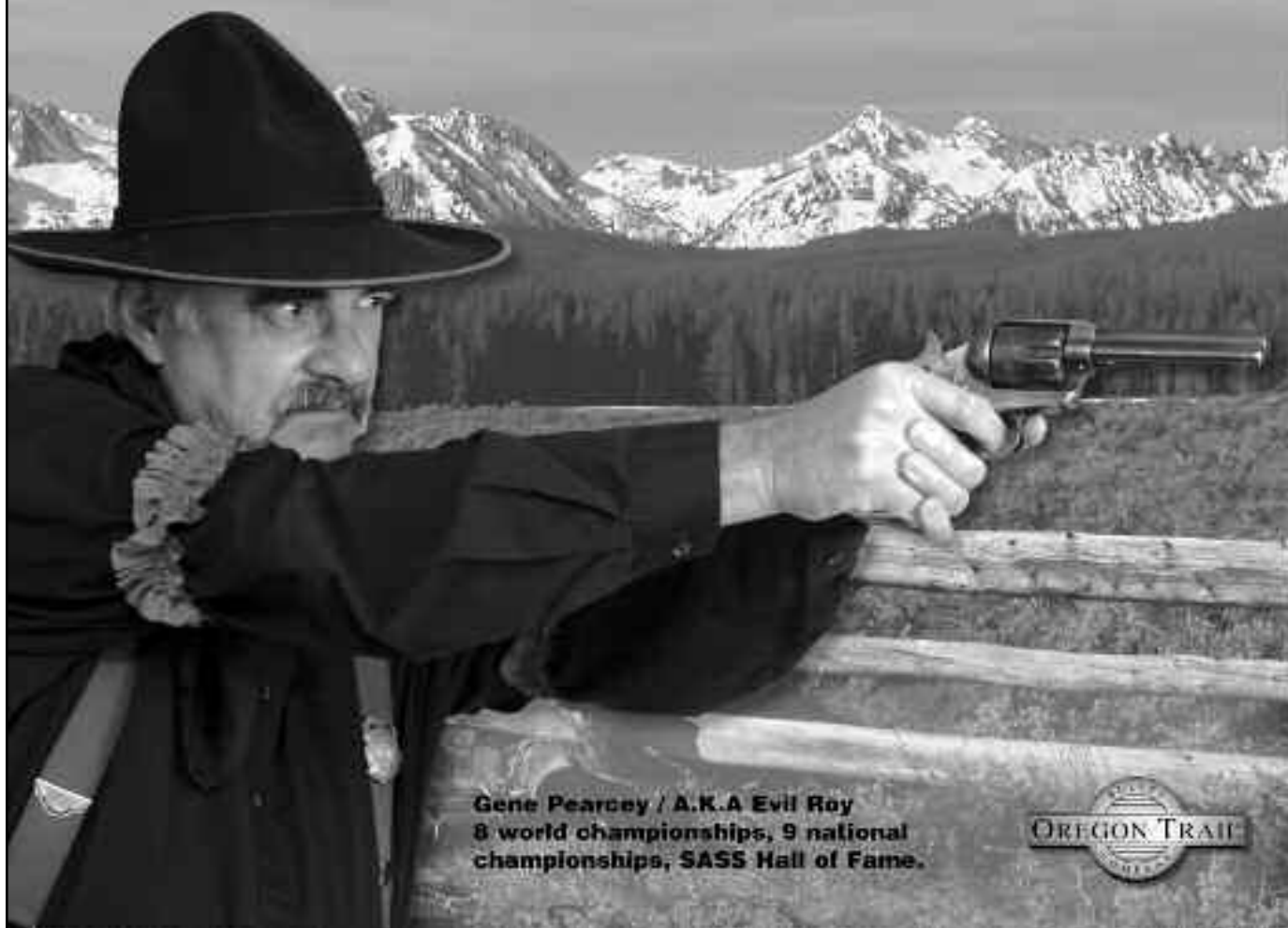
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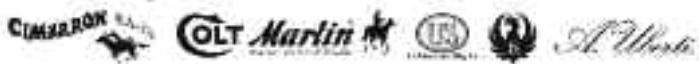
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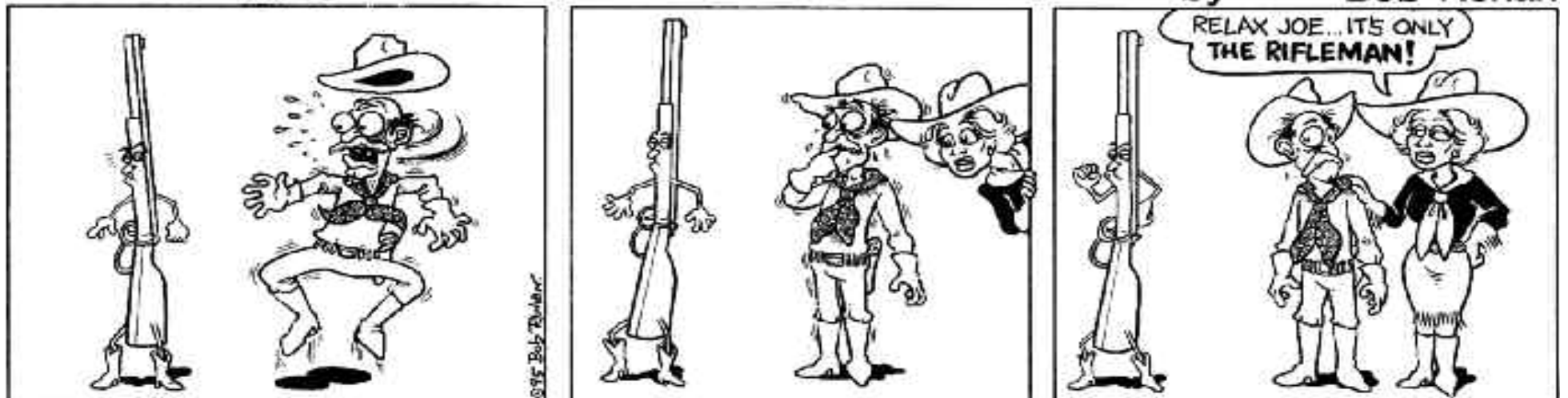
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**BUFFALO GALS**

by **Bob Rohan**





# 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL WILD WEST DAYS At Rough Cut Del Rio, Tennessee

By Marshal Gannon, SASS #84447

**Del Rio, TN** – Now why would any respectable lover of the Old West or Cowboy Action Shooting™ or Cowboy Mounted Shooting want to go to a Western Event in the East? Because there's a lot of folks in the East, and Cowboys are where you find them! Without Tennesseans there would have been no Alamo, hence no Texas. Without Georgians there would have been no Doc Holliday, hence no Gunfight at the O.K. Corral. If it weren't for Alabama, Billy the Kid might still be alive since Pat Garrett hailed from there. The list goes on and on, so

what's the point? Celebrate the Old West no matter where you're from or where you live now to keep it alive. We are doing just that April 1st – 4th, 2010.

It's obvious most SASS members are in this organization and this sport, because they love to shoot. But, it's more than that folks; they are here because they also love the Old West. The clothes, the guns, holsters, boots, and maybe even the long handles depending on when you shoot, are all cherished things. Now a new thing has been arising, too, for several years, and that is the



Cowboy Gathering movement of which we should all get behind and help to flourish.

That is why I, Marshal Gannon, and my new found friend, Deputy Watts, SASS #85526, decided after our chance meeting to start a Cowboy Gathering event at my Dude Ranch, the French Broad Outpost Ranch in Tennessee. It seemed like the perfect place to both of us, so we proceeded forward with only the dream and not much else. Our very first contact,

since we were both new to SASS, was trying to get a local club to assist with knowledge and ideas. Luckily and certainly blessed, not too far from us was the ORSA Cowboys in Oak Ridge and Knoxville, Tennessee. Our very first meeting to discuss this event was with Tennessee Tombstone, President of that club. He was very encouraging and he and his wife, Becky, have been throwing out ideas and help from the start.

*(Continued on next page)*



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(Continued from previous page)

Our intent was not just to have Cowboy Poets and Cowboy musicians, but also to celebrate the new parts of the Old West. In our minds that was SASS and the Cowboy Mounted Shooting movements that have brought back the Old West in a new way for people to not only watch, but to participate in as a hobby or even lifestyle. With over 80,000 members and still growing, SASS has definitely helped keep the West alive!

As our brainstorming sessions grew, we came up with what we believe will be a great Western Gathering; it just happens to be in the East. Though we only planned on having a simple Gathering, and letting it build, something I read in a magazine interview made me reach higher than I had anticipated. In this article, Michael Martin Murphey was being interviewed and mentioned how he liked to do the smaller Gatherings these days. That name seemed familiar to me, and then I remembered *Wildfire* the song, which I had loved as a kid. I really had not followed the music scene much in the last decade as I built the Dude Ranch, so I had no idea what was really going on with the Cowboy Gathering Movement and just how much Michael had been a force behind its rapid climb. So I took the leap of faith and contacted his agent to see if we could get Michael Martin Murphey for our event. I thought, hey, if we have a

well-known musician who has come to represent the Cowboy image as well as he has then our event would take on a new direction. I'm happy to say not only did we get Michael, we added Belinda Gail, Asleep at the Wheel, and one of the greatest poets of our time, Waddie Mitchell!

Needless to say, we have a well-rounded entertainment lineup for our event. But for us, that wasn't enough. It seemed to me while most people enjoy going to a Gathering and listening to poets and music and shopping for the great Western stuff that is available, there didn't seem to be much participation stuff for the public, so we added some. It's one thing to go watch everyone, but what if you would like to try it yourself? So we came up with a new system to have a quick draw contest as well as having skeet shooting and a rifle contest. In addition, folks can see the ORSA Cowboys do exhibition shooting and see Cowboy Mounted Shooting in action.

No Western event could be complete without Native Americans, so we invited the group called East Meets West. Jim Sawgrass and Little Big Mountain not only put on a great show, but it's chucked full of history. History of that time is what seems to be driving the Gathering movement.

Not to be outdone on the Cowboy side, Johnny Mincks will be on hand with his gun and his whole bag of tricks. Johnny just won the 2009 SASS-WWPAS World Champion

Gun Spinner title.

We also included another aspect to our event—we are donating 25% of the event funds in a private attempt to help save the Eastern Hemlock Tree. This tree is being wiped out pretty much like the American Chestnut tree; only this time it's a foreign invader about the size of a pinhead. We are going to buy the predator bugs and release them so they might hold the tide until more can be done. If you've ever been to the Appalachians, I think you'll agree without this tree species, this region will change dramatically. Please lend your support in our cause to save this important tree.

So in conclusion, get behind these other movements with the same tenacity you bring to your SASS shoots. In the end, the more we do that keeps the Old West alive, the more people that will get involved not only in SASS, but in all aspects of the Old West. Whether you're a member of SASS, or a business that sells to members, or you just like to read about this stuff, don't miss out on the opportunity to expand what we have, or what we have will eventually fade away. Support not only our event if you can, but also all the events that might be in your area with either time or a lending hand to keep the Old West Alive!

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# WILD WEST DAYS

## AT OLD TUCSON STUDIOS TO BENEFIT TUCSON RODEO PARADE MUSEUM BUILDING REPAIRS

By the Jersey Kid, SASS Life/Regulator #287



Jersey Kid,  
SASS Life/Regulator #287

day from 10am to 6pm the four-day festival hosts events and musical performances that honor and recreate frontier life in the thrilling old days of the Wild West circa 1880's.

Wander the lawless 1880's streets of Old Tucson Studios, but make sure you don't get caught in the crossfire of a cowboy gunfight! And ladies ... be sure to keep a hold of your men folk during the new and bawdier than ever *Miss Kitty's Can-Can Review* show. Enjoy Old Tucson Studios' new comedy and stunt show, *Wild Wild West:*

*Night of the Deadly Tycoon*. The show is based on the popular 1960's television show that spawned two made-for-TV movies filmed at Old Tucson Studios featuring the hi-jinks and heroism of Secret Service agents James West and Artemus Gordon, the show's stars.

Don't forget to bring your hearty frontier appetites as the 1880's chuckwagon will be cooking up brisket and other frontier grub north of town at Bitter Creek.

A portion of the proceeds from the *Wild West Days* go toward the repair of buildings that house The Tucson Rodeo Parade Museum's priceless collection of horse-drawn vehicles. The city of Tucson, which owns the buildings, is responsible for maintenance, but museum officials fear possible budget cuts might threaten repairs that are needed immediately. The roof of historic adobe building at the museum, built in the 1930's to house the city's mounted police livery, needs immediate maintenance. Many of the museum's buildings that need work were once part of Tucson's original airport, the first municipally owned airport in North America. The airport hosted pilot Charles Lindbergh and his *Spirit of St. Louis* aircraft in September of 1927 after Lindbergh's historic trans-Atlantic flight four months earlier. The Tucson Rodeo Parade Committee is celebrating its 85th anniversary in 2010.

The head-lining performance at the *Wild West Days* occurs Saturday, March 27, when Pistol Packin' Paula (World Champion Lady Six-Gun Spinner) and Hot Shot Johnny Tuscadero (WWPAS 2009 World Champion Gun Spinner) square off in a pistol spinning contest. Recently, the two duelled to a "draw" at an exhibition in Las Vegas during the Wild West Performing Arts Society's World Championships. The winner takes home a pair of Cimarron .45's custom engraved by gunsmith John Schultz. The pistol set includes a custom holster set made by saddle-maker Ed

Douglas. Both John Schultz and Ed Douglas recently set up shop at Old Tucson Studios where guests can see the master craftsmen at work.

Additional festival performers include gifted comedian and musician Sourdough Slim, who will have audiences laughing in the aisles one minute and spellbound the next with his unbelievable yodeling routine. Wild West Showman Cowboy Kal, the Guinness Book World Record Holder for the largest wedding ring loop, will perform fancy rope and gun tricks.

Card Shark Dick Casey, who specializes in Blackjack, or better known as "21," brings his gambling act to Old Tucson Studios, and guests will be amazed and cheated ... uh, make that "entertained," with each hand played.

The Tucson Rodeo Museum will also host a rolling stock exhibit at the festival with historic vehicles from the museum's world-class collection. Museum docents will thrill guests with stories of the wagons and other horse drawn vehicles on display.

Old Tucson Studios is a corporate member of SASS. Active SASS members in full costume receive free admission to Old Tucson Studios if members meet the following Admission Requirements:

1. Members must be dressed in period costume with a SASS badge and must present a SASS ID card.
2. No live ammunition will be allowed in the Park. Dummy rounds in gun belts will be allowed provided the primers are dimpled and/or the brass is drilled.
3. Guns will be allowed provided they are unloaded. (Guns will be safety checked at the gate.)
4. No alcohol may be consumed by a SASS member wearing firearms.
5. SASS rules apply.

All festival events are included in the Regular Old Tucson Studios Admission price of \$16.95 for adults and \$10.95 for children.

For more information about Old Tucson Studios, please visit their website at [www.oldtucson.com](http://www.oldtucson.com) or call 520-883-0100. Old Tucson Studios is located at 201 S. Kinney Road, Tucson, Arizona 85735.

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Long Range Match - Wednesday  
6 Stage Wild Bunch Match

### Friday

6 Action Stages - Main Match  
2 Stage Mounted Warm-Up  
3 Stage Plainsman Match

### Saturday

6 Action Stages - Main Match  
4 Mounted Stages - Main Match  
Side Matches - Cowboy Games

### Sunday

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

### Thursday

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

### Friday

Pot Luck / Community Grill  
Campfire Sing-a-long

### Saturday

Costume Contest Awards  
Stretch Raffle and Auction  
Square Dancing

### Sunday

Breakfast Included  
And Awards Ceremony



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Gunfighter  Lady Gunfighter  Senior Gunfighter (60+)  Classic Cowboy  Classic Cowgirl  Jr Boy (12-16)

Jr Girl (12-16)  49er  Lady 49er  Senior (60+)  Lady Senior (60+)  Silver Senior (65+)  Lady Silver Senior (65+)

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

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# Cat's Corner



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

# CONVENTION FASHION SHOW ALWAYS A BIG HIT!

By Cat Ballou, SASS #55

Photos by Black Jack McGinnis, SASS #2041

**T**he Western Victorian Fashion Show held at noon on Saturday, December 5th played to a full house audience once again. Hosted by Mad Mountain Mike, SASS Life #4385, and Miss Tabitha, SASS #26972, of River Crossing, Inc., this show is perpetually a big hit! Fashions showcased ran the gamut from B-

Western, Classic Cowboy and Cowgirl, Native American attire, lavish Victorian day dresses, a Victorian nurse's outfit, and a Centennial ballgown. As always, models were SASS members.

Thanks to our hosts for another fabulous entertainment venue and thanks to all the participants. *Saloon Dance Costume Winners on page 20*





# 2009 CONVENTION COSTUME CONTEST

By Tornado Alli, SASS Regulator #26303

**A**ll the boxes are finally unpacked, the dresses cleaned and hung in the closet to await their next appearance, all the frillies are washed, pressed, and stored away, and I can finally sit down at the computer to tell you what a wonderful time we all had at the Convention this year!

If you were lucky enough to attend the Eighth Annual SASS Convention, you were certainly in

for a treat, especially if you enjoy costuming as much as we do. I don't think I have ever seen as many beautiful and inventive creations as those that appeared on the Convention floor this year. I can't help but remember back to the first Convention and compare those costumes to the ones we saw this year. I would say the bar has been lifted to its greatest height!

This, of course, made our job of administering

the costume contests just that much harder! I have to say, though, our goal was to have a good turnout of quality creations, and we far exceeded our expectations. I want to thank everyone who competed this year and encourage all of you to please join us again next year. Costuming is what makes our sport special.

But enough gabbing – I know what you want  
*(Continued on page 21)*



*The Carolina Belles organized and managed the Convention's costume contests and did a "bang-up" job. As they say, "costuming is our passion!"*



*Best Dressed Couples – 1st place, The Dodge City Fire Brigade and Ladies Auxillary (l-r) Firecracker Fannie, SASS #24000; Pyro Pete, SASS #23999; Jady, SASS #61393; Fire Truckie, SASS #61392; Cayuse Kate, SASS #45202; and Oat No, SASS #45278.*



*Best Dressed Judges (l-r) – Greeneyed Gypsy, SASS #60086; Fannie Kikinshoot, SASS #33693; Tornado Alli, SASS #26303; Cowtown Scout, SASS #53540; and Catawba Kate, SASS #21206.*



*Best Dressed Couples – 2nd place, Aspen Filly, SASS #50535, and Aspen Wrangler, SASS #50536, and 3rd place, Copper Queen, SASS #20449, and Happy Jack, SASS #20451.*



*Best Dodge City Costumes (l-r) – 1st place, La Bandida, SASS #80163; 2nd place, Colt Hearted Katie, SASS #36219; 3rd place, Capt. Rye, SASS #84564.*



*Best Dressed Ladies (l-r) – 1st place, Sloan Easy, SASS #28129; 2nd place, Shotglass, SASS #17153; 3rd place, Autum Rose, SASS #23695.*



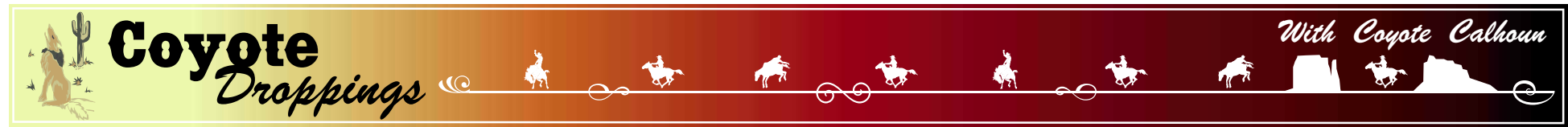
*Best Dressed Men (l-r)– 1st place, Timber Jack Thompson, SASS #55358; 2nd place, Levi Hensel, SASS #27365; 3rd place, Citizen Kane, SASS #11717.*



*Honorable Mention (l-r) – 1st place, Soldier Girl, SASS #86814; 2nd place, Roughrider Rich, SASS #42846; 3rd place, Fanny Rose, SASS #77082.*



*Best Dressed Military (l-r) – 1st place, Capt. George Baylor, SASS #24287; 2nd place, Sweetwater Jack, SASS #28885; 3rd place, Dusty Tagalong, SASS #32291.*



With Coyote Calhoun



Coyote Calhoun, SASS #201  
~SASS Hall of Fame Inductee~

# SASS CONVENTION ANNOUNCEMENT!

By Coyote Calhoun, SASS #201

**L**ast month I promised a "Big" announcement, and I hope I do not disappoint. The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual SASS 2010 Convention will again be held at The Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas from Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010. We have contracted with the Riviera Hotel to hold the SASS Convention there in 2010 and 2011. We have an unbelievable room rate of \$59 for all of the newly upgraded rooms in the Monaco Tower.

We are now working on plans for the 2010 Convention and are making some great new changes. Some of the changes include:

Having new and different seminars, and all seminars will be open to all conventioners. They will be on a first come, first served basis. You will be able to go to as many as three seminars per day at no extra cost. These seminars will include more on Western History and Movie subjects.

We are working on changing the Indoor World Championship and making the firearms and ammunition more accurate. And, along with the Indoor World Championship, we are discussing the possibilities of having an Indoor Fast Draw Championship.

The WWPAS competitions will be greatly expanded. There will be more categories and more competitions, not just recognizing the performing aspects, but also the technical aspects of the sports.

Our biggest change of all will be the addition of an evening concert in the vendor area. This evening concert will open ticket sales to the

public and also will allow vendors to be open before, during, and after the concert for this one evening. We are now in negotiations with "Riders in The Sky."

For thirty years Riders In The Sky have been keepers-of-the-flame passed on by the Sons of the Pioneers, Gene Autry, and Roy Rogers, reviving and revitalizing the Western Music genre. While remaining true to the integrity of Western music, they have become modern-day icons by branding the genre with their own legendary wacky humor and way-out Western wit, and all along encouraging buckaroos and buckarettas to live life "The Cowboy Way!" SASS members have always enjoyed the music of "Riders in the Sky," and we feel this will be a great addition to our SASS Convention.

This 9<sup>th</sup> Annual SASS Convention promises to be new and exciting with more of the things you have asked for. Registration for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual SASS Convention will be open shortly!

### The Southeastern Regional

As most of you may have already heard, the Shootout at Mule Camp will not be held this year. For 14 years the SASS Southeastern Regional has been at the Shootout At Mule Camp, and it has been one of the brightest stars in the SASS National Championship program. But, sometimes good things must come to an end. SASS congratulates all the committees, volunteers, vendors, and sponsors who worked so hard and contributed to the success of Mule Camp. Thank you for allowing so

many of us to come and have fun.

So, where does the SASS Southeastern Regional go for 2010? It gives me great pleasure to announce the Geechee Gunfighters will host the SASS Southeastern Regional. The Geechee Gun Fighters have presented the Shootout at Givhans Ferry, the South Carolina SASS State Championship, for the past 14 years and have done a wonderful job. The

new Regional match will have a new name, but still retain Givhans Ferry as part of its heritage. The dates for the match will be the same weekend as the state match, November 11-14, 2010.

You will not want to miss the first SASS Regional held in South Carolina, so join me in being a part of this great match. I hope to see you in coastal South Carolina for some good shooting and great seafood! 🤠

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**Left:** Image of the left side of the engraved option. The engraved option does not include the roll stamped SASS Logo on the right side. Photo also shows revolver with the optional Walnut grips. **Right:** Image of the right side of the engraved model with the optional Walnut grips.



**Left:** Image of the SASS "Marshal" engraved on the shovel of the engraved option. Photo also shows revolver with the optional Walnut grips. **Right:** Image of the left side of the engraved model showing the barrel and cylinder detail.



**Left:** Image of the right side of the non-engraved model showing the SASS name and "Marshal" roll stamped on left side. Also, shown with the optional white hard rubber checkered grips. **Right:** Image of the USFA/SASS standard model with black hard rubber checkered grips.



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# SALOON DANCE COSTUME WINNERS

(Continued from page 16)



1st place - Lady B-Western, Alpine Lil, SASS #56935.



Saloon Girls (l-r) - 1st place, Heather Hills, SASS #78029; 2nd place, Willow Thompson, SASS #56615; 3rd place, La Bandida, SASS #80163.



B-Western/Silver Screen (l-r) - 1st place, Grey Fox, SASS #223, and Miss Mary Spencer, SASS #55147; 2nd place, Timber Jack Thompson, SASS #55358; 3rd place, Cheyenne Culpepper.



Classic Cowgirl (l-r) - 1st place, Texas Flower, SASS #46753; 2nd place, Sapphire Rose, SASS #82809.



Classic Cowboy (l-r) - 1st place, Dusty Lonestar, SASS #31357; 2nd place, Tres Pinos, SASS #1702; 3rd place, Medicine Foot, SASS #40801.

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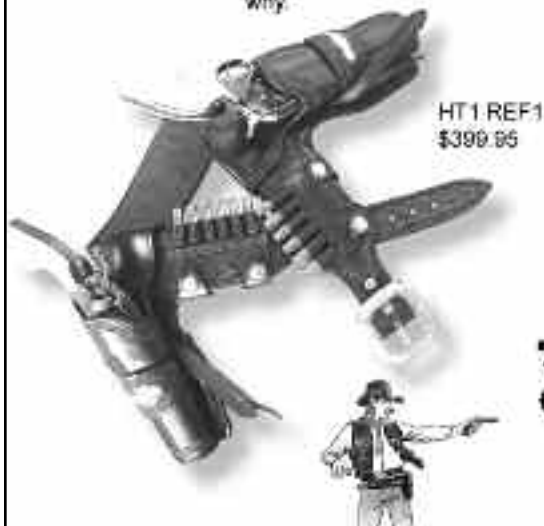


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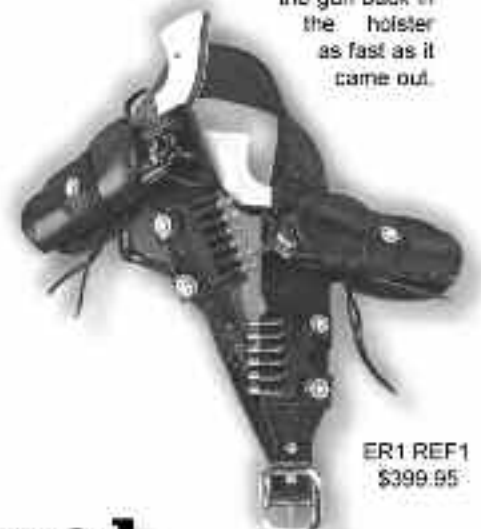
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## 2009 CONVENTION COSTUME CONTEST . . .

(Continued from page 17)

to read is WHO WON! So let's start with the Thursday night Saloon Dance Costume Contest. There were some incredible costumes in the competition, and our judges had a tough time deciding, but when it was all said and done, they certainly chose well.

In Classic Cowgirl, first place went to Texas Flower and second place to Sapphire Rose. In Classic Cowboy, first place went to Dusty Lonestar, second place to Tres Pinos, and third place to Medicine Foot. In B-Western Cowgirl, first place went to Alpine Lil. In B-Western/Silver Screen Cowboy, first place went to Grey Fox and Miss Mary Spencer, who dressed as Everette Hitch and Kate from the film, Appaloosa. Second place winner was Timber Jack Johnson and third place went to Cheyenne Culpepper. In the Saloon Girl category, first place went to Heather Hills, second place to Willow Thompson and third place to La Bandida. Our thanks and appreciation to all who competed and our congratulations to our winners!

On Saturday night, the Best Dressed contest was held just prior to the Dodge City Ball. We had so many contestants the judges barely had time to tally up the results before dinner was over! I cannot begin to tell you how hard it was to choose the winners, but we finally did and they were spectacular!

In the Best Dressed Lady category, first place went to Sloan Easy, a perennial favorite in a sumptuous silk and velvet creation. Second place went to the incomparable Shotgun in a beautiful black and gold reception gown, and third place went to Autumn Rose in a perfect re-creation of the Worth "surprise" dress!

In the Best Dressed Gentleman category, first place went to Timber Jack Johnson in his wonderfully appointed Highland kilt and Bonny Prince Charlie jacket. Second place went to Levi Hensel in his appropriately appointed gentlemen's attire, and third place went to Citizen Kane in his vintage vaquero jacket.

In the Couples category, first place went to the incomparable group of the Dodge City Fire Brigade and Ladies' Auxillary with Firecracker Fannie, Jady, Cayuse Kate, Oat No, Fire Truckie, and Pyro Pete. Second place went to Aspen Filly and Aspen Wrangler, and third place to Copper Queen and Happy Jack.

In the Military Category, a well-deserved first place award went to Captain George Baylor who was a perfect re-creation of General Robert E. Lee. Second place went to Sweetwater Jack who put together a beautiful naval uniform, and third place went to Dusty Tagalong who nailed every detail of his uniform.

In the Best Dodge City Outfit

Category, first place went to La Bandida, who re-created a delightful bustle gown from a vintage cartoon. Second place went to Colt Hearted Katie who was a peacock of a saloon girl, and third place went to Captain Eye, here all the way from Paris to show his Dodge City finest!

And finally, Honorable Mention went to Soldier Girl for her rendition of the Civil War woman soldier, Rough Rider Rich who was the quintessential Theodore Roosevelt, and Fanny Rose in a beautiful purple and black satin gown.

Congratulations to all our winners! We also want to send out a special thank you to all who helped Fannie, Kate, and I with this year's contest. For her hard work in putting together our Costume Contest Support parade, as well as her assistance in expediting contestants on Saturday, and the arduous task of judging on Thursday night, we want to especially thank Lady LaSalle!

We also want to thank our dear friends, Happy Eva After and Pistol Pointin' Pearl, for helping out with registration both nights. It was their first Convention, and we put them to work! Also thanks to Calico for timing our contestants on Saturday night. He was "volunteered" (I think they really call it Shanghai'd!!!).

And finally thanks a million times over for our judges. No one realizes how hard that job is until they do it!

Thanks to Shotgun, Lady LaSalle, Ivory Jack, and Citizen Kane who judged the contest at the Saloon Dance and to Green-eyed Gypsy and Cowtown Scout who joined Fannie, Kate, and me in judging Saturday night's contest. You are my heroes!

And most of all, we want to send out a huge heartfelt thank you for all the years of service and hard work our dear Cat Ballou has given to SASS in running countless costume contests at matches all over the country, including the contests at END of TRAIL and the Convention. Cat, I hope we can give you some well-deserved rest and relaxation by taking on the responsibility for the Convention contests. Thank you for trusting us with something you have built for years. Yours is a tough act to follow, but we promise to give it our best.


So, that wraps up the year 2009 in costuming! We are looking forward to an even better year in 2010! See you all at the Convention next year!

(Cat's note: After over two decades of handling costume contests, it is now time for me to step back into a bit of retirement. The Convention's Saloon Night Costume Contest and the Best Dressed Costume Contest duties are now in the able hands of the Carolina Belles. As they say, "Costuming is our passion!" and I am supremely confident they will continue to promote, organize, and manage spectacular costume contests at future SASS Conventions.)



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# CORRECTION TO THE 2010 HODGDON ANNUAL MANUAL

Shawnee Mission, KS – Hodgdon Powder Company – the Gunpowder People regret an error occurred in printing of the 2010 version of the *Hodgdon Annual Manual*. Pages 108 and 109 in the manual appear in reverse order.

the *2010 Hodgdon Annual Manual* until the corrected copy is received. Phone: 913-362-9455, fax: 913-362-1307, email: [help@hodgdon.com](mailto:help@hodgdon.com), or mail: 6231 Robinson, Shawnee Mission, KS 66202

Contact Hodgdon Powder Company for a free reprint of pages 108-109. Do not use the 7mm caliber data as it appears in

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## THE GREAT SUSPENDER VS. BELT DEBATE

By Charley Russell, SASS #737

The great suspender, belt, sash, or none of the above controversy, or should we call it the great 21<sup>st</sup> Century beer belly versus the 19<sup>th</sup> Century beanpole controversy? Will this be followed by the great silk versus cotton neckerchief controversy? But, let's not digress. My motive is to add a perspective, not so much as a rebuttal, from SASS #737 who has progressed from a 36" waist in 1990 to a 42" in 2009.

Most of the following observations jump off the pages of my many pictorial history books, plus (my namesake) Charley Russell reprint books, and 1895, 1902, and 1906 Sears and Wards catalogs.

Generally, our period of 1860 to 1900 was the Victorian Period when we were a serious church-going country in our Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes. We wore our

newest clothes for church, and the older for Monday through Saturday. The oldest were used for work clothes (or, I like to call them "play clothes").

True, not everyone could order from Sears, even though they had a section titled, "Clothes for the Fat Man." There was limited access to ready-made clothing, but there were creative local tailors for reasonably priced custom garments (with belt loops?), as well as creative leather crafters using locally tanned leathers for items such as holsters, belts, and saddles.

Many pants utilized the belt in the back to individualize the pants to the body of the wearer. As to being "restrictive," it was only so if the wearer chose to cinch themselves up too tightly. Even now, I use a "redundant system" of belt and suspenders at times, neither of which is restrictive, for my Norman Rockwell approach to workdays.

Charley Russell action paintings show suspenders more often than belts, and even holster belts are loosely cinched (e.g., 38" on a

36" waist). Tight belts restrict access to front pockets.

The Sears and Wards catalogs show extensive suspender availability, whereas one-inch belts are shown in the "athletic section" for baseball and football pants. Pictures by Boots Selleck all show the heavy-duty clip-cornered buckles most often used for larger belts.

In conclusion, my historical research from Russell paintings and from historic photos shows most often:

- 1) No belt or suspenders,
- 2) Suspenders, followed by
- 3) Belts without loops, followed by
- 4) One-inch dress belts with loops, followed by
- 5) Sash, ala my namesake, Charley Russell. 🐾

## BEN JOHNSON - A RCA MEMBER

Whooper Crane's article on Ben Johnson stated Ben was a member of the PRCA (Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association). Actually, Ben was never in the PRCA, he was a member of the RCA.

I first met Ben at a rodeo in Payson, Arizona where Buck Taylor had a booth selling his watercolors. Ben was called "Son Johnson" by the cowboys because of his father. Many of the rodeo cowboys of the '30s and '40s had nicknames such as "Muscles Person," "Gentleman Jack McClure," "Nocona Slim," "Heavy Henson," "Canada Kid," "Kid Fletcher" etc.

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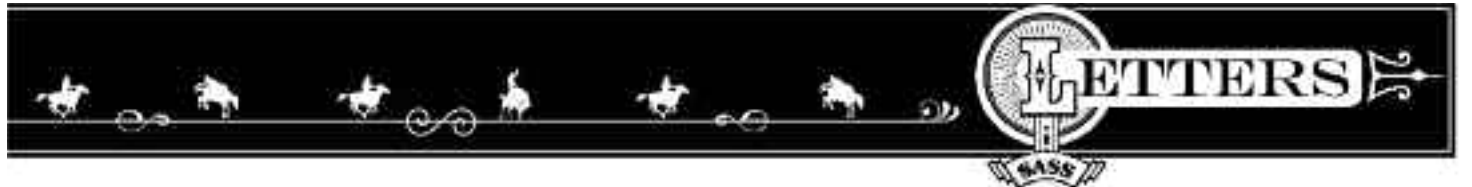
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### THE GOOD OLD DAYS, INDEED

In the November '09 issue of *The Catboy Chronicle*, Whooper Crane's Sidekicks and Heavies article caught my attention. I have been a fan of Sam Peckinpah's movies almost my entire life, but in *The Wild Bunch* film I saw many years ago, I always thought in the scene with Strother Martin on the roof of the building across the street from where they were waiting to ambush *The Wild Bunch* there was something uniquely incorrect about the rifle he was holding. I reviewed my copy of the film, and sure enough, he was holding a 1903-A3 that still had some years to go before it would be developed. The dead giveaway was the stamped stacking swivel so evident in the close up article photo.

Nonetheless, the movie is enjoyable, and that did not deter my buddies and me the very next day as we went down to our favorite gun store (Ed Agramonte's, almost literally right in our own backyards) and purchased Model '97 trench and riot guns on sale. All the guns had original slings and the trench guns came with either Remington or Winchester bayonets. The heartbreak is they were thirty-five dollars per shotgun, but because we were going to buy several, Uncle Ed (as we affectionately called him) lowered the price to thirty dollars. I bought a '97 trench gun and a '97 riot gun, both in solid frames, and another trench gun with NJSP incised in the butt stock. We also got a case of "OO" buck 12 gauge for twenty dollars. Those were, indeed, the good old days! You need not ask, but not one of us has retained the guns. Oh well, I enjoyed the article and keep them coming.

Teddy, SASS Life #42612  
Lake George, NY 🐾

### THANKS FOR A GREAT ARTICLE

I really enjoyed the article by Capgun Kid, SASS #31398, on "The Ten Worst Best Shots in the History of Cowboy Movies!" Brings back lots of memories of Saturday mornings, and who could forget about cap guns with that roll of red caps you could buy for five-cents? I learned one thing about those caps—never hit an entire roll with a hammer! Then came "Greenie Stick'em Caps"—those worked perfectly in that derringer on a belt buckle called a "Pot Shot."

Anyway...in the beginning of "Gunsmoke," when Matt Dillon squared off with the other guy and fired—that shot sounded like it came from the cannon of a battle ship! I'm surprised Matt still had a left arm after being shot so many times in it.

Well, I won't bore you too much more. Here's one more for ya—The Three Stooges in "Horse Collars." The bad guy shoots a hole in Moe's 25-cent piece. Moe gets a five dollar gold piece from him, throws it in the air, and yells, "Hold it!" The coin stops in the air. Moe pulls out his gun and shoots the coin, and it falls to the floor in change. Moe takes his 25 cents and tells the bad guy, "Here's your change."

Midnight Ghost, SASS #79625  
Berwyn, IL 🐾

### A NOTE OF SINCERE THANKS

I held off sending my renewal not because I wasn't pleased by my local posses or SASS as a whole, but rather I wanted to say in an eloquently written letter what a fantastic bunch of people I have had the privilege to meet.

Instead, I write you this little note of sincere thanks.

Waimea, SASS #82615  
Windermere, FL 🐾

### A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

I'd like to thank all of the contributing editors and others who take their time to put together many fine and informative articles for us each month. I especially like Lori Dani Dixie, Swift Montana Smith, The Capgun Kid, and all the rest. We need and appreciate you! Thanks to all ...

Just Rooster Will Do,  
SASS #52250  
Kingman, AZ 🐾

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**Colonel Dan,**  
SASS Life #24025

# THE STAKES ARE JUST TOO HIGH

*By Colonel Dan, SASS #24025 Life, Regulator*

**T**here's far too much at stake in 2010 to incur the risk that comes with splitting our effort among third parties at the national level in a desire to register profound disgust with incumbent politicians. Chances for real conservative success are much better this particular year if instead we would totally gut the two major parties and infuse them with new blood ... starting now with the primary selection process.

We're all disgusted with today's politicians and would like to see both parties defeated since neither has earned our respect, loyalty, support, or our votes ... granted. More people are leaving the major parties in absolute frustration and livid anger over their arrogant disregard for the people, the Constitution, and the country ... granted. Millions will no longer support any party whose behavior is so consistently tainted with the stench of power, corruption, graft, and cronyism ... granted. Many are seeking new leadership that will represent the traditional principles of our found-

ing fathers ... granted. My anger and frustration has long reached the boiling point also, but we can't let such visceral emotion override sound judgment and the stark reality of today's political battlefield.

Let's not mince words here. Our Constitution is the very essence of America—it defines who we are. Loyal traditionalists, who revere the Founder's ideals, are now decisively engaged in a war for the soul and survival of America. Those who seek to fundamentally transform her, to subvert, circumvent, and tear down her Constitution are destroying our divinely inspired country.

They, along with those who unfor- givably stand by, watch it happen, or "reluctantly" take part, are by definition anti-American. They are the domestic enemies our Founders warned of and must be politically defeated by 'we the people' or America will be defeated by them.

The seminal question is: 'How do we effectively fight such an entrenched movement whose expressed goal is to transform America in their image?' Answer, with a unified 'untrenching' effort.

In November I wrote about being encouraged over recent

*(Continued on next page)*

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(Continued from previous page)  
 demonstrations, tea parties, protest marches, etc., and I remain encouraged. However, I'm concerned this renewed enthusiasm will lead to fractionalized and unproductive efforts. While our common objective remains honest representative government, if we become splintered into multiple groups, our effectiveness in obtaining that objective deteriorates significantly.

If a political party can face fractured opposition, it will successfully split the vote and win the day. We saw that in 1992 when Perot siphoned enough votes to usher Clinton into office with only 43% of the total. Make no mistake; progressives would love to relive 1992 rather than face a unified effort.

Am I advocating mindlessly falling in behind the GOP party line? **Absolutely not!** What I'm saying is that trying to push third, fourth, and fifth parties this coming year at the national level, no matter how appealing, is unrealistic and futile. Remember, third party candidates will be vigorously challenged by BOTH major parties. Such an approach will lead to more of the same in Washington as they defeat us piecemeal.

We should instead gut both parties by selecting solid primary candidates now. Let's send brand new blood to Washington and restore

traditional ideals from within—this would send a much more powerful message than some futile, underfunded third party effort that entrenched politicians would actually welcome. Chances of pulling off a gutting action are better at this juncture than trying to restore traditional principles by hoping some third party can orchestrate the biggest upset in the history of national politics and do so within the remaining few months against such well established organizations. Hoping for such a miracle is insanely dangerous at this point. We simply cannot afford more of what we've seen in the past several decades and especially what we've seen in the past several years—the domestic enemy is in full pursuit of his goal and time is not on our side! Should we squander this opportunity in 2010, our chances to right America's course grow increasingly slim and our descendents may never know the country we knew.

But Colonel, what if the party establishment contemptuously refuses to recognize our "new blood," and we end up with the same old blood running for office? Good question ... and a very real possibility. However, if enough people push and support fresh candidates, they can't ignore us—particularly if we starve both major parties to death financially. Consider New

York's 23rd district. The people wanted the independent conservative Hoffmann, but the GOP arrogantly nominated the liberal assemblywoman Scozzafava. Voters turned their back on the GOP selection, and she dropped out. The race came down to the independent Hoffmann and the Democrat Owens with Hoffmann almost winning. Folks, we CAN and MUST do this. Paraphrasing Thomas Paine, these are the times that try men's souls and not the time to allow summer soldiers and sunshine patriots to determine our future with inaction or misguided efforts.

So, don't be suckered into believing we can realistically displace the two major parties in 2010 by supporting third party candidates—it just won't happen. That delusion will only lead to the "agony of defeat" for American traditionalism. Clean house nationally from within first then look at building anew from the local level up with third parties, but please, first things first. Above all, support principle, not party.

Just the view from my saddle...  
 Contact Colonel Dan:  
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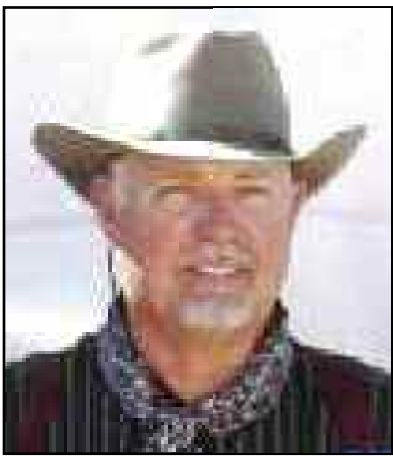
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JP Riley, SASS #74339

# WHEN DID I BECOME A COWBOY?

By JP Riley, SASS #74339

As often happens when you are sitting around after a match with a group of pards chewin' the fat and tellin' stories about how you lassoed a bigger tornado then ole Pecos Bill, or how you shot that last stage so fast you were moving to the next window before yer bullets hit the targets in the first window, you start to wonderin', when did I become a cowboy?

Memory fades back to a time when your Pa bought you those red cowboy boots for your fourth birth-

day, with the cutout engraved uppers showing the white background designs. Goodness, how you fought with your mom to sleep in them. You wore them to nursery, kindergarten, church, everywhere you went until they fell apart on your feet. With tears in your eyes for the loss of a good friend, you asked Pa if you could get another pair. This time they were brown or black, 'cause you're a big cowboy now! But lordy, they still had fancy stitching on the pipes!

Maybe it was from the influence of watching all those cowboy

heroes on the TV for hours on end, and the nickel and dime afternoon matinees you sat through three or four times with your brother and friends during summer vacations. Hoppy, Red Rider, The Lone Ranger, Roy Rogers, and, of course, we can't forget Howdy Doody and many more.

Maybe a defining moment was when your mom took you one Saturday to meet Mr. Willaim Boyd, Hopalong Cassidy, in person or one of the other Cowboy stars you worshipped. There he was— one of your great cowboy heroes,

standing there right in front of you, so tall he blocked out the sun itself. All in black, broad shouldered, slim of hip with piercing gunfighter eyes, shiny Conchos on his low slung holsters holding those big silver engraved .45's, the soft ching-ching of the spurs, looking down at you as he thumbs his hat back off his forehead and speaking in a quite soft voice, "Please to meet ya' pard." You were so over whelmed you couldn't say a word, standing there locked in hero worship, you swore you would never wash that hand he shook again, couldn't wait to get back and tell your friends the great Hoppy said he was pleased to meet you and shook your hand!

As a side note, Hopalong Cassidy got his name after being shot in the left leg by a Neil Watt McIntyre Cuthbert outside the  
*(Continued on next page)*

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(Continued from previous page)  
bank building on the main street of Bermuda. This incident occurred in 1935. On June 24, 1949, Hopalong Cassidy became the first network Western television series.

Then there was the Christmas; remember THAT one! Under the tree was a shiny six-gun and holster with a genuine rolling block carbine rifle. Also, a pack of Mattel™ Shootin'-shells™ and greenie stickem' caps. What was even better, the buckle had a hide-out derringer that popped out when you pooched out your tummy and shot. Your brother started laughing as well because he just unwrapped a pair of six-guns. Ya' see he got a two gun rig 'cause he's left handed. Lordy the gunfights you and he had all over the house, hidin' in closets, under bed, ambushed on the way to the out-house. That is, until Ma threw you out with threats of violence to your backsides because she was always stepping' on those plastic grey bullets, and heaven help you if you ever, ever popped a cap in the house. Good times, fun times, and nobody had an eye put out!

Then again, maybe it was the summers spent on your aunt's

ranch up north. The younger years were fun, almost. Feeding the chickens and cutting a few heads off for the pot (really put a visual on the saying 'running around like a chicken with its head cut off). Riding bareback all over the wide-open spaces, swimming in the ponds, and breaking off pieces of the salt lick to suck on. Then, there was going out on the round-ups. At first just doin' the fetchin' and carryin' for the big cowhands, but then you got to ride herd (okay it was just ridin' circles around the herd that was bedded down, but it was real cowboy'n work by gosh).

Then came the pick-up trucks with the gun racks in the back window, you and your partners goin' off campin' and huntin', getting jobs on a ranch, or just wearin' your cowboy hat everywhere. Learnin' to two-step and drinkin' beer, howling at the moon. Somewhere a certain woman entered your life and family happened. Next thing you know, your buyin' a pair of red cowboy boots with the cutout engraved uppers showing the white background designs for your young'un. Then it happens, you stop and think ... why I guess I have always been a cowboy! 🤠


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Whooper and The Missus

**The Usual Suspects!**

Today we're starting off with a couple lists of Usual Suspects. Whooper's list is a bunch of movie and TV cowboys who were cast to play chuckwagon and bunkhouse "cookies" in the heyday of big- and little-screen eaters. The Missus' list is comprised of the basic flavoring items you'll want to have handy when you're preparing tasty One Pot Chuck meals.

**Whooper's List**

Gabby Hayes who, as Gabby Whitaker, whipped up all sorts of good grub for Roy and Dale and the Double R Bar gang through the years. Later on, Pat Brady put on the apron and took over for Gabby.

In the TV series, *Wagontrain*, Frank McGrath was the cook for Ward Bond and company as lovable Charlie Wooster.

You probably remember Wishbone the cook, played by Paul Brinegar, feeding Rowdy Yates and the rest of the drovers in *Rawhide*. But, do you also remember him as Jelly Hoskins, the cookie for three years on *Lancer*?

Ray Guth whipped up the chow in the gritty, controversial flick, *The Culpepper Cattle Company*, back in 1972.

# ONE POT CHUCK

## Cooking Up Some Tasty Grub Like Cookie Did Out On The Trail

By Whooper Crane, SASS #52745, and The Missus

Jorge Martinez de Hoyos played the trail drive cook, Po Campo, in TV's finest miniseries, *Lonesome Dove*.

And one of the most memorable "cookies" was Roscoe Lee Brown, who played Jeb Nightlinger to John Wayne's Wil Anderson in *The Cowboys*. He not only had to do the cooking and the nose-wiping, he also had to oversee bringing in the herd after Bruce Dern knocked off The Duke!

**Now, The Missus' Usual Suspects**

- Lemon Juice
- Cumin
- Frank's Hot Sauce
- Garlic/Pepper grind
- Soy Sauce
- Mustard
- Liquid Smoke
- Worcestershire Sauce
- Bouillon Powder
- Instant Coffee Crystals
- Potato Buds (as a thickener)

The Missus says you can't have a weak-tasting meal if you make good use of these basic flavoring items. (Just see how your chili gets heartier when you toss a teaspoon or two of coffee crystals into the pot.)

The recipe below is one of The Missus' favorite one-pot meals. Make it in a 10" or 12" Dutch Oven, (she recommends Lodge brand) over medium coals. It'll fill up four hungry cowpokes. Open up a can of peach halves for a side dish if you like.

**The Missus' Shepherd's Pie Ingredients**

- 2 Qts. Water
- 5 Medium potatoes, peeled and quartered



Shepherd's Pie

- 1 Green bell pepper, chopped into 1" chunks
- 4 Large carrots, chopped into 1/2" rounds
- 1 can Condensed French onion soup
- 1 pkg. Lipton onion soup mix
- 2 Tbs. Beef bouillon powder
- 2 Tbs. Olive oil
- 2 lbs. Chopped or ground beef
- Finely-chopped garlic cloves
- 1 Finely-chopped yellow onion
- 1 can Condensed vegetable soup
- 6 Green onions, chopped into 1" lengths
- 1/2 cup Finely-chopped cilantro (remove stems)

**Directions**

Light up about 30 charcoal briquettes. Set water boiling in medium hot Dutch Oven (lid on). Toss in your potatoes, carrots, and green peppers. After 20 minutes, remove veggies and set aside. Ladle out all but about two cups of the water from the oven. Remove a bunch of your coals from beneath the oven. Add the condensed onion soup,

bouillon powder, and dry soup mix to the remaining water and simmer for 15 minutes to make a rich gravy (lid on).

While this simmers, combine the beef, chopped garlic, chopped onion, and onion soup mix to form a very large hamburger patty.

Drain gravy from oven and set gravy aside.

Put the oil in the bottom of the oven and lay in the patty, browning for 10 minutes, flipping once (lid off).

When ready, break up the patty into 1" chunks in the oven.

Add the gravy, green peppers, carrots, green onions, condensed vegetable soup, and cilantro and stir it all up.

Mash the potatoes with a little butter and milk and layer on top of all the other stuff. Sprinkle some paprika and pepper.

Put lid back on the oven. Put about 15 of your coals on top of the lid and cook for another 15 minutes.

Dish it up and enjoy with a little hot sauce. Yeeehaaa!

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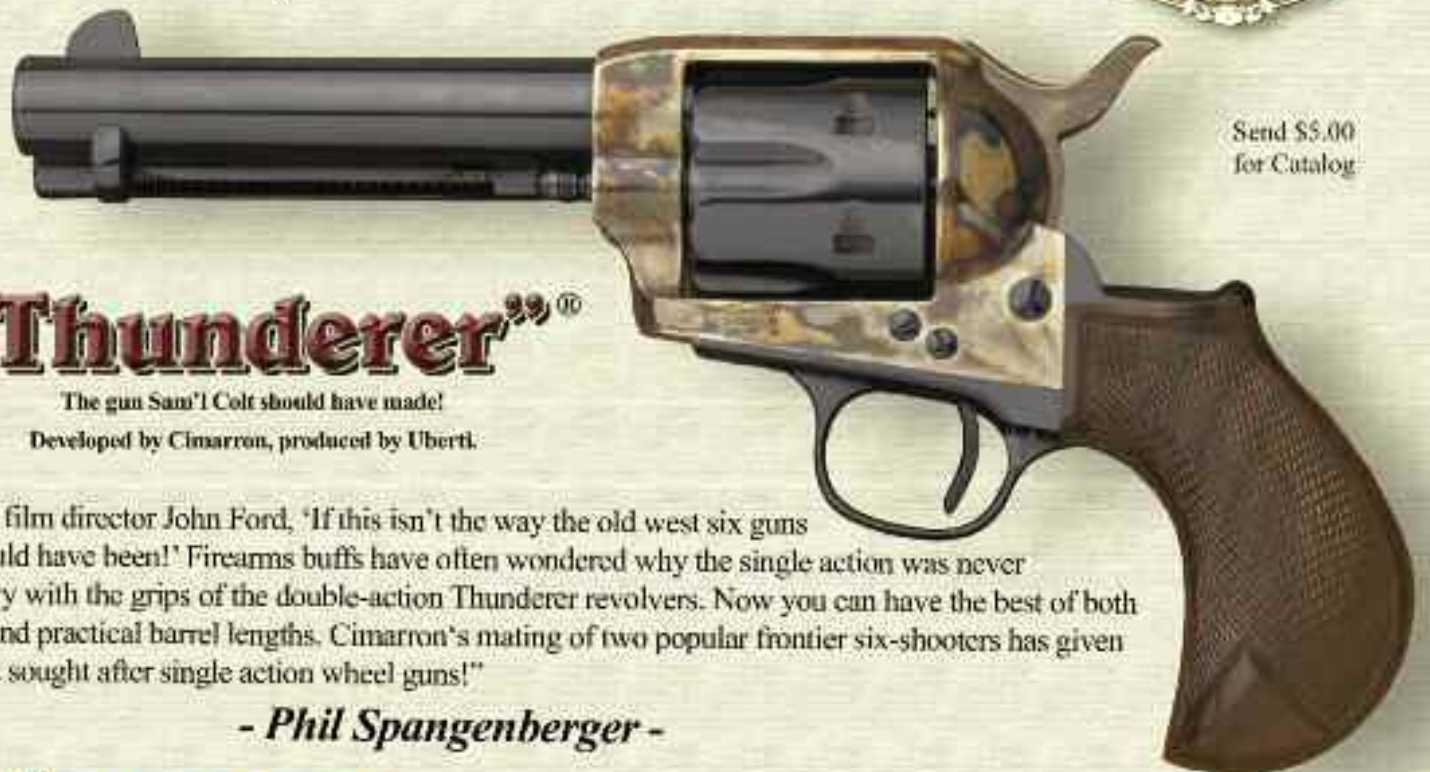
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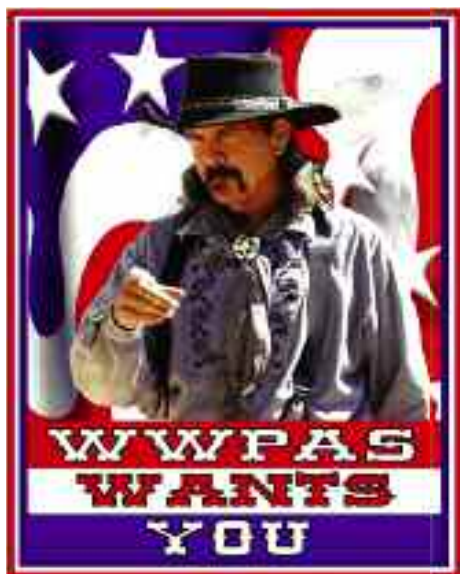
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*By Buck Montgomery, SASS #18071*

A Famous Old West Lawmen  
Once Said ... (OK, so maybe it was  
Vincent Lombardi, that  
I-talian Cowpoke?)

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RESULTS OF THE COMBINED  
EFFORT OF EACH INDIVIDUAL.”**

**W**ell, that is exactly what holds true for the New “Wild West Performing Arts Society”, WWPAS! In just a few short months WWPAS has gone from a Thought, to an Idea, to a Concept, to Reality ... Only because all of you that are reading this “Wanted It” to be! But as thankful as the Wild Bunch and I are of the amazing, immediate success of WWPAS as the newest addition to SASS, we need many more Enthusiastic, Zealous, Dedicated, and Synergetic SASS/WWPAS members just like ... You! {Gosh, now those were some dandy Five Dollar words huh?} Why, even in the Wild and Wooly West of the 1800's, it was a known fact the more posse members you had riding with ya, the better chance you had of catching what you're chasing, right? So, what I need for everyone to do is pretty darn simple. Each and every one of the current SASS/WWPAS members involved in the Wild West Arts are more like a Family {or a Posse} than just a “Group or Club.” If we aim to make this the Biggest and Best World Class organization dedicated to the Preservation and Education of America's Wild West Arts, then we need “you” to tell all your close and distant “Family Members,” along with everyone who might say to you, “I'd sure like to learn to do that!”, to contact me or SASS, so we can sign them up to “Ride for the SASS/WWPAS Brand”

### “Spinning,” “Cracking,” “Twirling”



*Joe Bowman & Hotshot*

... just like you!

In a “Nutshell” or better yet, in a “.45 Long Colt Shell Casing,” what I'm asking is for each and everyone to “Spread the WWPAS Word!” Where else can you become part of a truly unique All-American organization and learn skills that go far beyond those considered a “hobby,” skills that not only allow you to make a “Buck or Two,” but more importantly, provide the opportunity to share and preserve a major part of our Wild West History for young and old alike!

And remember, everyone who is a current SASS member out there, this is your chance to hone some New Wild West Skills! We strongly encourage you to “Stick Your Nose In, Poke Around, and Discover these Fun and Challenging Arts.” One of the best features about these new skills is it's actually very “Age Friendly” ... Why I've seen folks way older than me Twirling Ropes and Crackin' Whips! {Hmmm, I just know Big Horn is thinking I pointed that remark at him ... Really ... I didn't, I swear!}

This is “Your” Wild West Performing Arts Society ... The more we have learning the ropes {pun definitely intended}, the better chance we have at making WWPAS the very “Best in the West” Society!

If you would like to receive the Special WWPAS monthly newsletter, either give me a holler or drop me a telegraph message to my email address below.

If any SASS Clubs would like information or want to discuss the many benefits of having a SASS/WWPAS Regional Competition at your next shoot, I invite you to contact me also.

Dr Buck Montgomery—

Buck Bloodsworth, SASS #18071,  
WWPAS Trail Boss.

Phone: 623 521-3856

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MAY 29<sup>TH</sup> & 30<sup>TH</sup> 2010

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# A TRIP TO THE NATIONAL FIREARMS MUSEUM

By Marshall John Joseph, SASS #83334

It was the first Saturday morning in January 2010 here in Virginia with the outside temperatures at about 30 degrees, winds blowing, and the day to myself. What better way to spend a morning (other than shooting), but to visit the National Firearms Museum located at the National Rifle Association's headquarters?

The museum, owned and operated by the NRA, provides the opportunity for the general public, at no charge for admission, to view its professional display of 2,000 plus guns in 15 different galleries. This National Firearms Museum rivals any museum in the world in regards to presentation, climate control, and quality. The firearms on display date from 1350 A.D. to the present and include guns owned by Annie Oakley, Teddy Roosevelt, Tom Selleck, John Wesley Hardin, General MacArthur, Dwight Eisenhower, Lyndon Johnson, Ronald Reagan, and too many others to name. The Museum also displays photographs, graphic art, and period accoutrements that complement the firearms collections and the people who used them.

Through a search on their website, <http://www.nramuseum.org>, I discovered the William B. Ruger Gallery was hosting a temporary exhibit entitled *Guns West!*, that is divided into three parts: *The*



Cowboy Statue—  
Charlton Heston

*Way the Old West Was*, showcasing guns owned by famous Texas Rangers as well as outlaws; *The Way It Is*, showcasing guns of our very own SASS members; and *The Way It Could Have Been*, showcasing the guns used by the Hollywood legends. The exhibit was supposed to end December 31, so I called ahead and was reassured the exhibit was still going on. I needed to see this once in a lifetime display.

I arrived at 9:40 A.M., wanting to spend enough time to move about at my leisure. The museum itself is self-guided—spend as much or as little time as you want. The building, a large, modern glass paneled multi-storied structure, seemed to blend in with the modern architecture of a downtown office building—a fitting headquarters for such a professional organization that safeguards our right to keep and bear arms. There's plenty of free parking, and as I mentioned, admission to the museum is FREE!

Upon entering the building, I was greeted by a friendly attendant sitting behind a semi-circular counter in the large, airy lobby. He directed me to the museum proper—a glass door with a museum sign out



Guns of The Way It Was

front. If you didn't know it, you would just think you were in a very professional office building. I knew I was in the right place, but ...? Upon entering the Museum through that unpretentious glass door, Wow, this IS the place!

Throughout my visit, I never once got the impression of imposition on behalf of the largest pro-gun lobby in the world. Even upon entering the Museum, I never got the feeling its mission was to push pro-gun policies onto its visitors. I had no sense of political arm-twisting as a motive for the displays. Instead, I was standing in a museum that displayed historically significant "tools" that played a most important role in America's hard earned fight to establish itself as the "arsenal of freedom." I was in for a history lesson not only in the development of firearms, but a history lesson in how the development of this country runs parallel with the development of firearms and the protection of our liberties as American citizens ... and



The NRA Building

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*Guns of The Way It Could Be*

still does today.

The visitor truly gets the feeling this is a celebration of the role firearms have played in the history of this country. It makes you feel proud these tools were used in the protection of the freedoms held near and dear to all Americans. Sure, there is a gold plaque quoting part of the Second Amendment to the Constitution, just as a reminder of the foundation of this great country. Sure, there is a larger than life statue of a cowboy, who happens to be Charlton Heston, the past president of the NRA, in the lobby of the museum proper. It was Heston who said in a speech:

*There can be no free speech, no freedom of press, no freedom to protest, no freedom to worship your God, no freedom to speak your mind, no freedom from fear, no freedom for your children and for theirs, for anybody, anywhere, without the Second Amendment freedom to fight for it.*

What a great starting off place. And as we know, a cowboy *is* the symbol of the American spirit.

The walk through the various Galleries of the Museum is an American history lesson in itself, a self-guided tour of our ancestry and

our connections to the past, presenting the role firearms have played in shaping that history ... and the journey was impressive. The life-size dioramas throughout the Museum helped to emphasize what it might have been like to live through certain parts of history, adding to the feeling of what the fight for freedom must have entailed. Also, strategically located throughout the Museum are several user-friendly computer kiosks to provide clarification and identification of the displays, and give you additional information about the firearms. There are no tour guides to bother you as you are left alone with over 2000 firearms connected with some part of our history.

Galleries include **Old Guns in the New World**, which displays the transition between firearms of the Old World and the new colonies. This gallery tells the story of the integral role guns played in our earliest American exploration, settlement, survival, and trade. Included in the display is the Mayflower Gun, which was probably brought over from England by John Alden on the Mayflower. The Gallery, **Road to American Liberty**, was of particular interest to me because of my love for the founding of this country—and our

fight for liberty. This Gallery connects the roles played by the Kentucky rifle, the various muskets, and other firearms used to secure our freedom during the Revolutionary War.

**Seeds of Greatness** tells of the role firearms played in securing America's blessings of liberty and the protection of the freedom to bear arms as incorporated into the United States Constitution. "A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed." The **Prospering New Republic** takes us from the Lewis and Clark expedition and their Corps of Discovery to the California Gold Rush, highlighting the development of firearms to meet the needs of these true pioneers. A copy of the air rifle Lewis and Clark took on their expedition is displayed, as well as the Harper's Ferry 1803 thought to have traveled with them as well. A truly impressive diorama of the Hawken Shop helps with the visualization of the era, when Colt,

gotten to the **Guns West!** display yet!

**The New Prosperity** takes us to the beginning of the mass production of firearms and the growth of the arms industry with competition among arms makers fueling the development of arms technology. In contrast, in **The Age of Elegance** we enter the Beretta Gallery and a re-creation of Theodore Roosevelt's library in his Sagamore Hill, New York retreat. This room gives us a glimpse of a somewhat typical trophy room established by many big game hunters. We get to take a peek into the life of an affluent gentleman hunter, the type who took part in an African safari in the early 20th Century. The firearms are breathtakingly elegant, some of the finest in the world. Wood to metal fit is superb, with engravings of master gunsmiths and engravers, equal to the finest paintings or sculptures. In this case, the medium is wood and metal, creating fully functional pieces of art. Impressive.

**America Ascending** takes us to America's involvement in World War I.



*Guns of The Way It Is  
Evil Roy's and China Camp's*

Walker, Smith, Wesson, and Remington began their careers.

**A Nation Asunder**, touted as being one of the most popular Galleries, highlights the terrible time of the American Civil War. A variety of rifles, pistols, and carbines are displayed, as well as a diorama illustrating a Union arms factory and another depicting Confederate firearms.

**The American West** brings to life the buffalo hunters as well as notables such as "Buffalo Bill" Cody, Annie Oakley, and Nat "Deadwood Dick" Love. Firearms featured are guns used on the Plains and guns that won the West. Drool over the Buffalo Soldier guns, various Sharps rifles, Winchester 1873s, unfired Winchester lever-action rifles, Colt Single Action Armies, Marlin big-bore lever-action rifles, Remington single-shots, Schofield revolvers, and Annie Oakley guns. And, we haven't

Here a life-sized diorama portrays U.S. soldiers receiving lessons on trench warfare. Innovations of this period included the Mauser-designed bolt-action rifle. Featured gunmakers were John M. Browning, John C. Garand, and William B. Ruger.

**Ever Vigilant** explores World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and Desert Storm. Another life-sized diorama depicts a U.S. Infantry Regiment securing a town in Normandy, France, for the Allied invasion force. You begin to come to grips with a true understanding of America's changing role in the world after the two World Wars; the United States emerges as the last great superpower that must be the "arsenal for democracy," for no other power on Earth can fill this role.

**For the Fun of It** takes a nostalgic look to the "innocent" times in America. On display is a fully restored 1903 Coney Island shooting gallery. I remember one where I used to shoot at New Jersey's  
*(Continued on page 36)*



*Shooting Gallery Display*

## A TRIP TO THE NATIONAL FIREARMS MUSEUM . .

(Continued from page 35)

Palisades Amusement Park as a small boy. In this display, you step toward the shooting gallery, and it automatically springs to life with music, bells, bull's-eye targets, still targets, knock-downs, silhouettes, and chain-driven moving wheels, giving the air of an amusement park of old. With the sites and sounds of this display, you could almost taste the cotton candy and smell the hot dogs and sauerkraut.

Across from the shooting gallery is a boy's bedroom from about 1952, reminiscent of my own room. The room was complete with Hopalong Cassidy linoleum, western paint-by-number wall hangings, and a Davy Crockett coonskin cap. I had to have one of those when I was a kid. I needed to be "King of the Wild Frontier," too. It takes me back to the way things used to be, with boys playing with cap pistols, air guns, and the Red Ryder BB gun with which, Mom warned, "if you're not careful, you'll shoot your eye out!" Never really knew anyone who shot their eye out, though.

**Firearms Traditions for Today** takes us to the present day with exhibits featuring law enforcement firearms, ranging from Dirty Harry's S&W .44 Magnum, ("the most powerful handgun in the world"), to big and small-game hunting, to Olympic, national, and international shooting competitions. You will also see the revolver of Walter Weaver, the NYPD officer and fallen hero of the 9/11 tragedy, as it was found in the rubble of the World Trade Center's collapsed towers.

The **William B. Ruger Gallery**, which houses special exhibits that last for one to one and a half years, was featuring **Guns West! A Retrospective of the Old West**. As mentioned, there are three parts. The first part, **The Way it Was**, features memorable persons of the Old West, including the firearms they chose—Colt, Merwin & Hulbert, Remington, Sharps, Smith & Wesson, and Winchester, which were all part of the Western landscape. The historic revolvers, rifles, and shotguns were part of the backdrop of the times, part of the prairie landscape of histo-

ry, and part of the Museum's display. Original guns carried by Texas Rangers or other frontier lawmen share space with arms associated with outlaws like Billy the Kid, Jesse James, and John Wesley Hardin. Annie Oakley's prized Parker double, a shotgun she used for many of her exhibitions, is just one of the smoothbores on display. Colt six-shooters from the Centennial Exposition and from western sheriffs are well represented. Most of the firearms are the actual pieces from history, documented by previous owners and collectors, on loan for this show only.

The second part of the exhibit was titled, **The Way It Is**. This section of the exhibit looks at the current interest in reliving the Old West through the use of antique and modern reproductions of famous firearms and accoutrements of the period, spearheaded by SASS. It features SASS #1, Judge Roy Bean's, badge and double rig; Evil Roy's Ruger Vaqueros, his 1897 Winchester pump, and his Uberti Winchester lever action; and some of China Camp's guns as well. Bob Munden's gold-plated Colt revolvers are on display as well as some of the accoutrements of our sport.

The third part of the exhibit was titled, **The Way It Could Have Been**, featuring television and movie heroes of the past. These are the Hollywood legends that piqued our interest in Cowboy Action Shooting™ and transformed little boys (and girls) into adults playing the game we so love. Some of the firearms on display are Matthew Quigley's Sharps rifle, donated by Tom Selleck, the Colt SAA owned and used by actor Joel McCrea in his feature films, the Lucas McCain large loop Winchester, Ben Cartwright's Winchester, and various other firearms used by John Wayne, Clint Eastwood, and many others. The exhibit also includes some movie props and personally owned firearms.



*Guns of The Way It Is  
SASS #1, Judge Roy Bean*



*Guns of The Way It Was Texas Rangers Style*

Also on display is the frock coat worn by John Wayne in his last film, *The Shootist*, as well as an autographed John Wayne cowboy hat. Was that THE Rooster Cogburn eye patch I saw framed, authenticated, and hanging on display?

Time was running short, and I had to be going home. As I walked toward the exit, I entered the last of the Galleries, **Freedom's Doorway**. It is the smallest gallery in the Museum and was the result of deep thinking sparked by an inspirational speech given by Charlton Heston. "But, that doorway to freedom is framed by the muskets that stood between a vision of liberty and absolute anarchy at a place called Concord Bridge." Heston challenged the press corps to "... Please, go forth and tell the truth ...," "... That's why the Second Amendment is America's first freedom." His words are as inspirational today as when Mr. Heston gave the speech on September 11, 1997. This narrow hallway is lined on both sides with rifles and shotguns to punctuate **Freedom's Doorway**.

The National Firearms Museum is truly an American history lesson that depicts our nation's long life and cultural heritage. It not only surrounds the visitor with guns from every part of our existence, but it speaks of our very existence, from the founding of this nation, to the protection of its people, to the protection of the democratic principles by which we live. It is a lesson in freedom. It speaks of American's quest for peace through strength and the right of a free people to keep and bear arms for the safety and security of those free people. It is an honest message, presented in an honest display of metal and wood, pictures and art, displays and words. Looking at the firearms, one can see the dings of use, the wear of time, the integrity of the user, and the history of this country. We just happen to see it through different eyes. And the visitor comes to this conclusion without any lectures or hidden agendas. What a wonderful Saturday morning.

Don't forget to stop at the gift shop. You want books? They've got books. Their display of firearm related texts is unbelievably broad and complete. You want shirts,

hats, and other stuff? They've got it.

The NRA Website announces, "The Museum also houses The National Firearms Museum Library, which is located on the 2nd floor of NRA's headquarters building. It's open by advance appointment, Monday through Friday from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Ask at the front desk to have someone escort you to the library. Books include types of firearms, history of arms and armor, arms around the world, hunting, law enforcement, museum conservation, and different animal behaviors." Cost is FREE. I'm already planning my next visit!

If you cannot make it to the National Firearms Museum outside Washington DC, you can take a visual tour by visiting the National Rifle Association's Website at <http://www.nramuseum.org/> and visit the Galleries I have described. There are also links to some great areas of interest. You get all this without having to leave the comfort of your armchair.

I would like to acknowledge the NRA's National Firearm Museum website for contributing to the writing of this article, as well as the National Firearm Museum brochure available for free at the NFM. To quote the NRA website regarding who the NRA is, "While widely recognized today as a major political force and as America's foremost defender of Second Amendment rights, the NRA has, since its inception, been the premier firearms education organization in the world." [And, an education is what you get by visiting the National Firearms Museum.] They continue, "But our successes would not be possible without the tireless efforts and countless hours of service our nearly four million members have given to champion Second Amendment rights and support NRA programs."

Thanks NRA and all NRA members who help support this great organization. If you are not already a member, join the National Rifle Association by simply calling 1-800-672-3888.

**The National Firearms Museum is located at 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA, 22030. Their phone number is 703-267-1600. Hours: Sunday through Friday: 9:30 AM to 5 PM; Saturday: 9:30 AM to 7 PM. The Museum is closed on major holidays and admission is free. ♪**

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**NAILDRIVER**  
**Bob Gleason**  
Greenwood, AR  
SASS 59139  
World Champion  
SASS Shooter  
- Derringer -  
"America's Most  
American Quality...  
My great great  
grand kids will use  
these derringers!"

# 10

## YEARS IN A ROW!

# A DECADE OF CHAMPIONS!

**2009**  
**2003**  
**BADLANDS BEN**  
Benjamin Hampton  
Lubbock, Texas  
SASS 24747  
World Champion  
SASS Shooter  
- Derringer -  
"For accuracy,  
speed &  
quality workmanship,  
Bond beats  
them all."

**2007**  
**TWIN**  
Jeffrey Williams  
Lubbock, Texas  
SASS 0887  
World Champion  
SASS Shooter  
- Derringer -  
"To compete  
with the best,  
you must shoot  
the best! Bond,  
the King of  
Derringers."

**2007**  
**Bonne Belle**  
Joni Dupree  
Franklin, Louisiana  
SASS 0873  
EST Ladies Frontier  
Cartridge Amet/  
Champion  
- Derringer -  
"Diamonds  
are nice.  
But a  
Bond is  
better!"


**2006**  
**2006**  
**SHALANO**  
Joseph Hampton  
Lubbock, Texas  
SASS 24748  
World Champion  
SASS Shooter  
- Derringer & Derril -  
"SPEED,  
RELIABILITY &  
LOW RECOIL make  
shooting the Bond  
a winning  
experience."

**2004**  
**WAGON BOSS**  
Eddie Abraham  
Canadian, Texas  
SASS 26429  
World Champion  
SASS Shooter  
- Derringer -  
"A Bond,  
derringer &  
a royal flush...  
They can't  
be beat."

**2001**  
**TEQUILA**  
Richard Young  
Reno, Texas  
SASS 7073  
World Champion  
SASS Shooter  
- Derringer -  
"When you  
have the Need  
for Speed-  
Bond Delivers"

**2000**  
**SHADRACH**  
Rocky Sharpe  
Fort Worth, Texas  
SASS 3700  
World Champion  
SASS Shooter  
- Derringer -  
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performances  
are made  
with the best  
derringer-  
Bond."

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Whooper Crane, SASS #52745

# SIDEKICKS & HEAVIES

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

By Whooper Crane, SASS #52745

Actually, Lee quit school and joined the Marines, where he served as a Scout Sniper with the 4<sup>th</sup> Division. His time in The Corps saw him take part in the invasion of 21 different Pacific islands, including Saipan where he got shot in the butt by a Japanese machine gunner. His wounds severed his sciatic nerve and led to his medical discharge in June of 1944.

When Lee returned to the states, he took a job as a plumber's apprentice in Woodstock, NY. While repairing a toilet at the local community theater, he was asked to fill in during rehearsal for an ailing actor.

The acting bug struck!  
Lee enjoyed the gig so much he

The guy we remember as the tough-as-nails outlaw, cop, soldier, miner, bounty hunter, and hired killer was born with a silver spoon in his mouth!

Lee Marvin was the son of a very successful advertising executive and a fashion writer/beauty consultant. However, coming from a "well-placed" family didn't make him a gentleman. Through the years, Lee was kicked out of dozens of schools as an incorrigible kid. His last was tough-guys school St. Leo's Prep in Florida, which finally gave up on him as well.



Lee Marvin

our pal Lee!  
During the mid to late '60s, Lee appeared in several movies, including the WWII thriller *Attack*. But he was probably best recognized at the time as Chicago cop Frank Ballinger in over 100 episodes of the edgy TV series, *M Squad*.

During the '60s Lee linked up with our old pal, Duke, in three very memorable action flicks, *The Comancheros*, *Donovan's Reef*, and that classic western *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* in which Lee played the menacing killer, Valance.

OK, here's where things get touchy. Many of our readers enjoy a certain political bent ... which includes a strong dislike for a certain actress named Fonda.

joined the company and appeared in several local productions.

Well, Woodstock is only 125 miles from New York City ... and Lee made the jump. He started with supporting roles in stock and Off-Broadway shows to get his feet wet.

Hollywood Director Henry Hathaway caught Lee's act one night and decided he wanted Lee to appear in his film *You're In The Navy Now*, which hit theaters in 1951.

This first venture in Tinseltown led to several more of Lee's early flicks, including *Duel at Silver City*, in which he played heavy Tinhorn Burgess against Audie Murphy as The Silver Kid, and *Hangman's Knot*, another oater, this one starring horse-opera favorite, Randolph Scott.

Lee's screen image as a really bad guy got a huge boost when he next played vicious, sadistic killer Vince Stone, up against good guy cop Glenn Ford in *The Big Heat*.

A "modern" western that garnered a lot of praise in 1955 was *Bad Day At Black Rock* starring Spencer Tracy. And who do you suppose was cast as one of the henchmen trying to eliminate his presence from town? You got it ...

Well, Lee had no problem working alongside Jane in *Cat Ballou*. In fact, playing the dual roles of drunken gunslinger, Kid Shelleen, and his killer brother, Tim Strawn, Lee went on to win the Oscar for Best Actor in 1965!

(In all fairness, this was seven years before Jane took her ill-advised trip to Hanoi).

One of Lee's most memorable roles (though not in a Western) was that of tough-as-nails Major Reisman, the leader of *The Dirty Dozen*. Lee won a Golden Laurel Award for his performance in this box office bonanza.

Many of you fondly recall that fine Mexican Revolution-era Western *The Professionals* in which Lee, Burt Lancaster, Robert Ryan, and Woody Strode are hired to go deep into Mexico to "rescue" Claudia Cardinale from revolutionary leader/outlaw Jack Palance. With a cast like that, it's no wonder this flick made #30 on the *100 Greatest Westerns* list.

Lee made several more big pictures before he took on his first singing role in the musical Western, *Paint Your Wagon*, in  
*(Continued on next page)*

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(Continued from previous page)

1969. To everyone's surprise, especially Lee's, his recording of *Wand'rin' Star* from the movie sold over a million records and earned him a Gold Record Award.

Throughout the '70s, Lee made a flock of big pictures, many of which cast him as a good guy, rather than as the heavy we all had come to know and love. Among them was the lead role in *Monte Walsh* (the original) in which he and Jack Palance played worn out cowboys trying to adjust to a modern world. Lee won a Golden Laurel award for his portrayal in this classic oater.

Lee's last big flick was the popular war thriller *The Big Red One*. His final film (1986) was the barn burner, *The Delta Force*, in which the aging Marvin still looked good as a member of an elite squad of a Special Forces unit.

By this time in his life, Lee was living at his beautiful ranch outside Tucson. He loved playing cowboys (Heck ... who doesn't?), and he

loved the lifestyle of the West.

Lee rode over the sunset pass in August 1987. Interestingly, Lee is interred at Arlington National Cemetery alongside another famous American, World Heavyweight Champion Joe Louis.

Here's some trivia about Lee you might find interesting:

He was a descendant of Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, and Robert E. Lee (from whom he got his name).

He turned down the role of General Patton in the movie, *Patton*.

He turned down the role of Pike Bishop (the Bill Holden role) in *The Wild Bunch*.

Next month we'll be visiting with one of the most fearless lawmen of all time ... a guy who upheld the law with only one bullet in his gun! (Or was it his pocket?) See you then.

Photos: Whooper Crane by Deadeye Al

Lee Marvin by Movie Market  
Sources: wikipedia.org; imdb.com

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Larsen E. Pettifogger,  
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# SINGLE ACTIONS — 101

By Larsen E. Pettifogger, SASS Life #32933

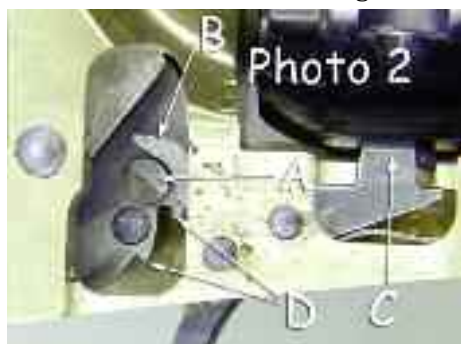
The Colt style single action revolver is one of the simplest, yet elegant, mechanical devices ever invented. This month instead of working on a project gun, we'll explore exactly how this mechanical wonder works. Hopefully, by the time we have finished this article, we will all understand what is meant by "timing" on the single action and will understand each of the events that occurs every time you cock and fire your single action. As the old saying goes, it ain't rocket science. And, in the case of the Colt style single action that is surely the case.

Sixteen-year-old Samuel Colt invented the basic action in 1836. Legend has it he was inspired by the locking mechanism on a ship's steering wheel. The Paterson revolvers (named after Paterson, New Jersey, where the guns were made) were generally small in size and caliber and more intricate and delicate than later models. Colt's Paterson operation went bankrupt, but there was intense interest in having reliable, powerful repeating firearms. Working with Captain Samuel Walker, Colt improved the Paterson design and in 1847 the single action mechanism as we know it today appeared in the massive .44 caliber Walker revolver. This revolver was a radical departure from the small, delicate Patersons. It weighed over four and one-half pounds, had a nine-inch barrel, and used 60 grains of black-powder to propel its .44 caliber ball. It remained the most powerful revolver ever built up until the advent of the .357 Magnum in 1935. The internal parts are very simple. There is a hammer, a hand, a bolt, and a trigger. **Photo 1.** That's it! Four parts. Yet, these four parts must work in perfect "time" in order for our revolvers to operate correctly.



Once you understand how these parts work, it will make diagnosing problems and maintaining your own single actions much easier.

Ok, we've put those four parts into our special stealth revolver so you can see how they all work together. Colts (and pre-transfer bar Rugers) have "three screw" frames. We'll take a tour of our stealth revolver. **Photo 2.** Starting on the



right hand side of the gun, at the rear (left) of the frame, the first screw holds in the hammer. (Remember, we are looking at the right hand side of the gun. The slotted screw heads are on the other side. All we can see from the right side are the tips of the screws.) The hand has a stud that fits into the left side of the hammer. When the hammer is installed, the hand is captive within the frame and forms one operating unit. The next screw holds in the trigger, and the third screw holds in the bolt. Simple, each part has its own screw.

Again, starting on the left end of

the frame we'll identify the operating parts and surfaces. First is the hammer cam ("A"). Directly over the hammer cam is the tail of the bolt ("B"). The tail is split down the middle, making two tines. The tine visible in Photo 2 is the fixed tine and normally rides on the interior surface of the frame. (This is the surface that is cut away so you can see the tines.) If the tines are followed to the right, there is a hole in the middle of the bolt. As noted above, the third screw is through this hole. This forms a pivot for the bolt. Moving further toward the right, the bolt head sticks up through a window in the frame into the cylinder notches locking our cylinder in place ("C"). Moving back to the left end of the frame, we can see the full and half cock notches on the forward edge of the hammer ("D").

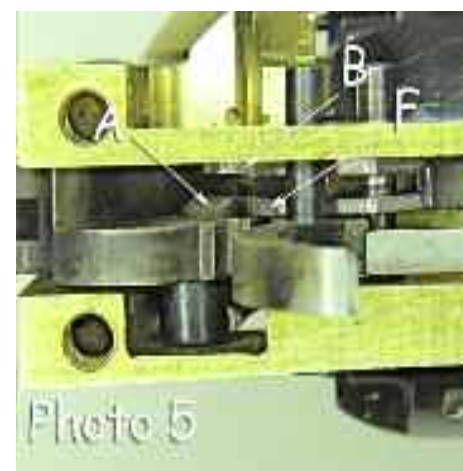
Turning our revolver so it's left side is visible; we can see the hand sitting in its channel. **Photo 3.** To



the right of the hand we can see the handspring pushing the tip of the hand forward towards the cylinder ratchet. We've cut enough of our frame away so we can also see the

ratchet teeth and can watch how and when the hand engages the teeth. We can see when the hand is at rest, its tip is below and not touching the ratchet teeth. Now that we are familiar with the operating parts, let's see what happens when we cock our revolver.

As the hammer begins moving to the rear, the hammer cam ("A" in Photo 2) begins to rise and contacts the inside, or movable tine leg, and begins to pivot the bolt head down and out of the cylinder notch. **Photo 4.** If we turn the gun upside down, we can see the hammer cam and both tines. **Photo 5.** The cam is "A" and the tine visible in Photo 2 is "B." From beneath we can also see the





movable tine, i.e., the tine that rides on top of the hammer cam. "F."

Meanwhile, over on the left side of the gun, the hand has begun to move up in its channel. HOWEVER, it cannot engage the ratchet teeth until the hammer cam has pivoted the bolt down far enough so it is out of the cylinder notch. Otherwise, the gun would lock up, and you couldn't cock it! As the hammer is pulled further to the rear, the trigger sear drops into the half cock notch. **Photo 6.** The tip of the trigger sitting in the half cock notch is visible at "G" in Photo 6. When the trigger is in the half cock notch, the movable/inside bolt tine is still on top of the hammer cam. **Photos 6 and 7,** "F" and "A." At this point, the cylinder can be rotated to load and unload your revolver.

Meanwhile, over on the left side, the hand has moved about halfway through its travel. **Photo 8.** (Again, the handspring is visible to the right of the hand and is pushing the hand forward into the ratchet teeth.) If the bolt drops off the hammer cam before it reaches the half cock position, the gun will lock up, and you



won't be able to rotate the cylinder to load or unload.

Next in our series of timing events is the drop off of the movable tine leg ("F") from the hammer cam. Since the bolt head is on the other side of the pivot screw, when the tine slips off the cam, the bolt head pops back up to engage the cylinder. **Photo 9** shows this critical event. The bolt is fully retracted at this point and the tip of the tine is just about to slip off the bolt cam. **Photos 10 and 11** show the tine sitting below the cam just after it has slipped off the cam, and the head of the bolt dropped into the cutout that leads into the cylinder notch. If the



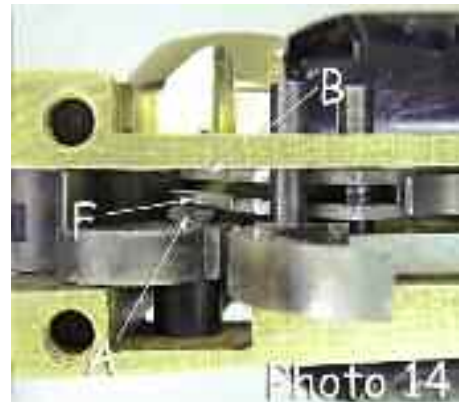
bolt drops too soon, you get a ring around the cylinder or wear outside of the lead-in cutout. If the bolt drops too late, the bolt can miss the cylinder notch, the cylinder won't lock, and you might get an over-rotation of the cylinder.

Finally, pulling the hammer fully to the rear causes the cylinder to rotate into its final position, and the bolt head to drop into the cylinder notch. **Photo 12.** As also shown in Photo 12, when the hammer is fully cocked, the hammer cam is now well over the top of the tine legs. Over on the left side, the hand has pushed the cylinder all the way into battery and is sitting in its fully engaged position. **Photo 13.** Photo 8 shows at approximately half-travel the hand is sitting squarely against the ratchet tooth; Photo 13 shows that the ratchet tooth is now sitting at an



extreme angle above the hand. In fact, if the cylinder were not locked by the bolt head and the hand pushed upward just a few more degrees of cylinder rotation, the hand would slip out of the ratchet teeth. More on hand/ratchet fit in just a bit. For now, we have to finish the operating cycle.

When the trigger is pulled, the hammer falls and goes back into its at rest or fired position. This retracts the hand into its starting position, which is easy because the hand simply moves up and down in its channel. The bolt tail, however, is sitting squarely in the path of the fixed cam on the side of the hammer. This is where the split tail/tines come into play. The top of the inside bolt tine has a bevel on it facing up toward the top of the gun. The cam has a bevel on its bottom facing down toward the bottom of the gun. As these two surfaces pass each other, the cam pushes the inside or movable leg of the cam inward so the cam can slip past it. **Photo 14.**



Again, the cam is "A," the movable tine is "F," and the fixed tine, which is resting on the inside wall of the frame, is "B." Once the bolt tine has slipped over the hammer cam and

the hammer has come to rest in its fired position, the whole cocking process can begin again.

Now, a little bit more about ratchets and hands. By now everyone should have noticed the gun in the photos is a cap and ball (C&B) revolver. As much as I love everyone in SASS, I couldn't afford to cut a Single Action Army (SAA) in half, so I used a much cheaper C&B. So, now we'll explain the few differences between the 1850's and 60's C&B mechanism and the very slightly modified 1870's action in the SAA.

First, the SAA has a firing pin that sticks through the frame when the hammer is lowered. Since it's not "safe" to have the firing pin resting directly on a primer, the SAA has a "safety notch" in the hammer. **Photo 15** shows a SAA and C&B hammer.



"H" is the safety notch, and this is not found on a C&B hammer. "I" is the half cock notch, and "J" is the full cock notch. On this particular 2<sup>nd</sup> Gen SAA hammer, the half cock notch tip is broken off. The notch tips are relatively delicate and can break from being dropped, having the hammer slip off full cock into one of the other two notches, or they can even break if the trigger is in a notch and pulled too hard! Now you know why we only load five and rest the hammer on an empty chamber!!! The extra notch on the SAA hammer is what gives it those four clicks—C-O-L-T. The C&B's only have three clicks.

For "safety" the C&B's used a notch in the face of the hammer resting on a small pin sticking out from between each chamber. When the "bored-through" cylinder was used on the SAA and the hammer modified to accept a firing pin, there was no room for these pins on the back of the cylinder or on the face of the hammer for the hammer face notch.

The bored through cylinder used on the SAA also created another issue that needed to be resolved. **Photo 16** shows a 1<sup>st</sup> Gen Colt cylinder on the left and a C&B cylinder. *(Continued on page 42)*



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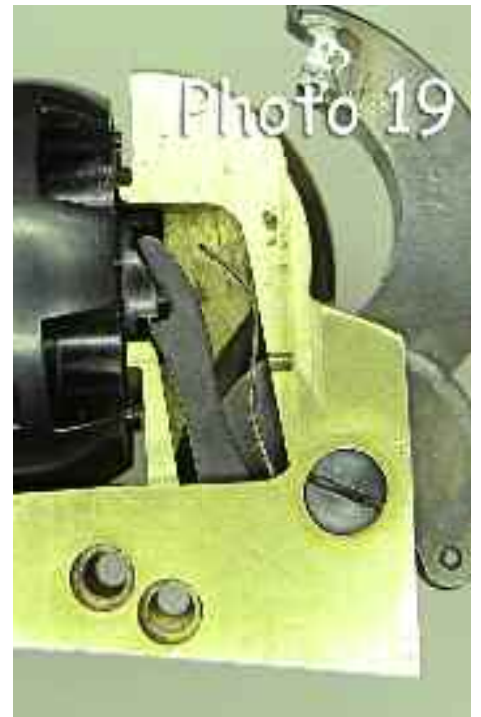


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**Single Actons-101 . . .**

*(Continued from page 41)*

der on the right. (The C&B safety pins are visible between the nipple holes.) The ratchet on the C&B cylinder is noticeably larger in diameter than the ratchet on the SAA. The smaller ratchet was needed to accommodate the rims on the new fangled cartridges. As noted above and shown in Photo 13, the C&B hand would fully rotate the C&B cylinder, but would run out of ratchet tooth in only a few more degrees of cylinder rotation. The C&B hand could not push the smaller diameter ratchet around far enough to fully rotate the cylinder before it would slip off the ratchet teeth. Adding a second tooth to the hand solved the problem. **Photo 17.**



and is starting to push up on the ratchet tooth and rotating the cylinder. The second tooth is not touching the ratchet at this point in the cylinder's rotation. **Photo 19** shows the first tooth just starting to slip past its ratchet tooth. Immediately below it, the second tooth of the hand is engaging the next ratchet tooth down and continues to rotate the cylinder. **Photo 20** shows the second tooth of the hand pushing the cylinder to its final locked position and the upper tooth completely disengaged from the ratchet.

The geometry is slightly off, but we can show how the two tooth hand works by substituting it for the one tooth hand in our stealth revolver.

**Photo 18** shows the hammer cocked to the point that the top tooth of the hand has engaged the cylinder

So, let's go through the four clicks on a well-tuned Colt. First click, the trigger hitting the safety notch. Second click, the trigger hitting the half cock notch. Third click, the bolt slipping off the hammer cam and hitting the cylinder. Fourth click, the trigger hitting the full cock notch. C - O - L - T.

There you have it. Only four working parts, but they must work in harmony to have a smooth operating gun. ♪

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# WHY RELOAD?

By Double Shot O'Reilly, SASS #53046

**A** local wire had a discussion concerning costs for reloading .38s vs. .45s. Each party offered different insights, and the conclusions varied. To do the math we need some specifics, but I will leave the powder nameless so we avoid recipes. I use a 125 gr. lead bullet over 2.9 grains of powder for my .38s. Another shooter uses a 200 gr. bullet over 4.2 grs. of the same powder for his .45s.

### Components

**Brass:** New shooters have to get it somewhere. At a common auction site, I totaled the first three once fired lots for each caliber. .38s were 1452 cases at \$62.95 or \$.0434 each. .45s were 638 cases at \$35.07 or \$.0550 each.

**Powder:** My last 14-ounce bottle was \$15.95. There are 7000 grs. per pound or 6125 grs. in 14

ounces. That means \$.0026 per grain or \$.0075 for each .38 and \$.0109 for each .45.

**Lead:** A local supplier's site is showing \$23 for 500 125 gr. .38s and \$27 for 500 200 gr. .45s. That yields \$.046 and \$.054 per bullet, respectively.

**Primers:** Primers have been all over the map. However, I have recently seen small and large pistol primers available at the same price. I bought 2000 a few weeks ago for \$32.99 per 1000 so I have used \$.0330 each in my calculations.

### Summary

The results are \$.1299 and \$.1529 each, or \$6.50 for fifty .38s and \$7.65 for a box of .45s. In 2008, I participated in two to three matches per month and shot 4228 pistol/rifle rounds. This would be

\$549.22 for .38 ammunition and \$646.46 for .45s. Not a big difference over a year. But ... if you rely on store-bought ammunition, it is a different story. A quick survey of a web site showed seven different boxes of fifty rounds of .38 ammunition (OK to use for Cowboy Action Shooting™) at an average of \$18.30 per box, and a low of \$13.99. There were four different kinds of .45 Colt, averaging \$38.74 a box, with a low of \$33.99. None were in stock, but catalog prices do give an indication of relative costs. Using the averages, 84.56 boxes for my year's shooting would have cost \$1547 for .38s and \$3276 for .45s.

**Key Conclusions:** If you already have reloading equipment, the cost difference between .38 and .45 is not overly significant. If you don't reload now, and plan on shooting a lot, learn!

You can better control availability (remember, none of the store-bought ammunition was in stock), and can save thousands of dollars a year. That's money that can be spent on new guns and gear, or maybe a week's vacation at END of TRAIL!

*(While one can quibble with the numbers [my costs are CONSIDERABLY higher for everything here in New Mexico] and including the cost of the brass in EACH reloading as was done here ... the message is the same ... it's far less expensive to reload ... and the cost of reloading equipment is eventually amortized as well. One thing I was told when I started reloading years ago ... you really don't save any money ... you just get to shoot a lot more for whatever amount of money you're willing to spend for our ammo! ... Editor in Chief)*

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# BUT WILL IT WALK YOUR DOG? (Gimmick Holsters)

By Purdy Gear, SASS Life #33315

tells you their holsters will absolutely, positively make you the fastest hombre alive. Why, they'll even walk your dog! Is it so? No. Can they actually slow you down? Yes. Can they make you unsafe? Oh, yeah!

Point of reference: Years back, you could buy a shoulder rig that carried the gun pointed barrel up at your armpit. It was supposed to be more comfortable to wear, make the gun more hideable, and because gravity was on your side, it was supposed to quicken your draw. And it was safe, right, 'cause you really weren't sweeping yourself (much) and just never, ever drew with your finger on the trigger, not even when your life might be in danger and you're excited or panicking ... Er ... Right? It was soon disappeared, declared unsafe.

Everyone has seen the Chicago screw fastener that allows you to "adjust the tension" of a holster as desired. This is probably one of the more innovative solutions to come out of the "practical tactical" world. Thanks to the advent of Computer Numeric Control (CNC) machinery, we suddenly have the same basic semi-auto with three or even four different trigger guard configurations, or the same basic one with barrels that are just slightly different thicknesses. There are also



*The Buscadero rig is still regarded by some as being a gimmick rig. In some cases, it might be, but for those who need their revolvers lowered due to bad elbows or shoulders, it may well be what keeps them in the game.*

instances where several manufacturers' pistol frames are so close they are almost, but not quite, interchangeable. When combined with post market sights that further alter pistol profiles, you can see

how "on-the-shelf" holster manufacturers (and their retailers) are tearing their hair out by the handful!

The screw design comes in here. It allows for one cookie cutter die to cut holsters that will work for a broad spectrum of similar-sized guns. The screw also allows for a certain amount of tightening up on thinner concealment-style holsters as they loosen from use or sweat.

I am not certain I understand their purpose in Cowboy Action unless it is for similar reasons. If one holster is being built for many different-framed single action revolvers, that is a distinct saving to the manufacturer. One die, many holsters, great! To the shooter who has many differently framed single-actions, one holster, many guns. Also great. If a holster has gotten a bit sloppy with age, a screw retrofit might be a sound way to tighten things up. But, to use it for tensioning to simply retain one type of pistol? Why? If you want a loose holster to begin with, you're not gonna use the screw, so why have it? If you want a holster that fits the gun a bit more snugly, why not just simply buy something that does so in the first place? Or, if you are concerned about the gun falling out,

*(Continued on next page)*

I was quietly pursuing a splendid cuppa Arbuckles when one of my shooting pals phoned. The gist of that conversation was "all that weird gun leather." His beef was directed at "gimmicks" and cast aspersions on pert near everything from Buscadero belts to Chicago screws.

True, there are many holsters that tax sanity and sensibility. Sanity, in this case, incorporates the concept of safety, while sensible pertains to ergonomics. Is the shooter in danger as he draws or holsters his firearm? Will the gun fall out while moving? Is ANY portion of your shoulder, elbow, wrist, or hand contorting or bending in an unnatural way? Is there a lack of economy to the motions required in drawing or holstering?

Sane and sensible are not generally advertising highpoints. Getting your product to sound better than anyone else's is what drives that. Think Coke vs Pepsi. Well, it's sorta like that when it comes to gun leather. Everyone

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*(Continued from previous page)*  
just get something that is built a bit taller at the cylinder and/or trigger—or place your hands on your grips as you move. Similarly, if you're interested in tightening down a holster, this can be done with a few accurately placed stitches rather than a screw. You'll never lose the stitches, and you'll look plenty more authentic!

While I'm "thinking out loud" on this stuff, what is it with wanting your grips tilted way out so they can get grabbed easier?

In the first place, this means you're gonna beat your grips against every object you get close to. On a stage that could mean hanging up, losing time, possibly yanking a gun out by accident (stage or match DQ), or a misstep and fall.

Second, why do you want a holster that turns your wrist or elbow into your body as you draw? If you do this, you must take the time to straighten your wrist and/or elbow as you come out of the holster and into the target. This is inefficiency translated as time and motion that you will never regain.

Going back to modern tactical ... Yes, there is a certain amount of distortion to the wrist, elbow, and shoulder as you draw a firearm from virtually any of the concealed carry holsters. The ergonomics behind the principles of concealed carry is a series of compromises. You have to be able to sit and perform common daily functions, you have to be able to actually hide the firearm, and you have to be able to draw it in a reasonably fast manner. What you DON'T have to do is holster it and transition to another firearm. With concealed carry, the point of the exercise is that once the event is over, you can take time to put your gun back in the holster.

This is not at all what you do in Cowboy Action. You have *got* to make that transition smoothly and

quickly. If you distort your body coming out of the holster, you'll distort it going back—and you will lose time! You will have a more ergonomic draw if you come out smoothly and in line with your arm and hand. And furthermore, you will not be drawing with the guns pointing toward your gut or toward your femoral artery! An accidental discharge here is potentially catastrophic!

Buscadero rigs are very popular. I imagine they were looked on in their introductory phase as being a bogus and gimmicky deal. Are they? To some yes; others, no. Are they a pain to build? Oh, yeah! (Proper fitting is critical, and they eat up leather like crazy!) Do they work well? Yup. Traditionally fit with the guns placed at the side, they are easy to draw from and holster into. They aren't great to sit down in, and you sure don't want to ride horses in one, but for a "walk-a-heap" action shooter—especially those who have bad shoulders and elbows, they really work. (An ordinary holster with a long drop on a straight cut belt is another good option.) Are they for everyone? No. Are they safe? If the holsters are reasonably sensible and traditionally placed, pretty much, yes. Will they work for everyone? Actually, yeah. Do I recommend them for everyone? No. There are many good choices out there to suit everyone. That's one you, your persona, and your body needs to make. Be safe, use ergonomics, and economy of movement to your advantage!

Compadres, I hope I haven't stomped anybody's toes on this. My point here is to get folks thinking on what the good and bad points a gun rig might have, and to help folks make good choices when they go out to order a new one. As usual, I invite comments and critiques. Just holler to [purdygear@windstream.net](mailto:purdygear@windstream.net) or 706-692-5536. Or, get to me through the link on my website: [www.purdygear.com](http://www.purdygear.com).

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# MY CORNER OF THE ROOF

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

There are some women who shoot skeet, but my experience did not show it. Cowboy Action Shooting™ changed the rules. Moms, Dad, children, and singles feel more than welcome to come out and take part. Some show up to join in on the shooting, while others, like the Vicar's Wife, prefer to be part of the support team only. No matter what the venue, most dress up and play their part in the Old West allure.

The founders of Cowboy Action Shooting™ deserve a great deal of credit for their foresight in laying out the format. In the RO-I material there are



*even if on the roof it's not a bad view.*

Our sport is centered around the family. It's not just a "man thing" like some firearms related activities. I shot skeet in a league for many years back in the last Century, but cannot remember ever having a member of the opposite sex participate.

many things that help make the game family friendly. Separate categories for women, permitting tads to use small caliber guns, not allowing belligerent or

foul language, and the nipping of quarrels in the bud are incorporated in the program to keep it enjoyable, exciting,  
*(Continued on next page)*

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(Continued from previous page)  
 and entertaining. It says in Proverbs 25:24 "Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife." Well I'm here to say my corner of the roof is unoccupied. That's not to say disagreements never happen. In fact a new report has come out that suggests having a spirited verbal discourse with your spouse occasionally promotes longevity. The Vicar's Wife and I very well may be on our way to live a hundred years or more! But, disagreements on the range could have an opposite effect. So quarreling on the range is discouraged. If a disagreement occurs, there is a polite avenue to negotiate that is fair and non-argumentative.

Have you ever thought what you would be doing if not involved in Cowboy Action? I'm not looking for the obvious answers like: "If I weren't into Cowboy Action Shooting™ I could have retired by now." Or "If I were not involved with SASS, I could quit my second job." No, what I'm talking about is the deep down attraction that our sport has—the things that keep us coming back. When I first read about Cowboy Action Shooting™ my response was, "I've wanted to do this all my life." I look at Cowboy Action Shooting™ as a GIFT acoustic:

G is for Getup. Dressing up in an outfit that depicts the alias for a few hours while navigating each stage. It's like climbing into a SASS time machine and being transported

back to the 1800's.

I is for Imagination. Cowboy Action Shooting™ brings out the best in all of us. Mental images and concepts abound. Many of these ideas are transformed into stage props and scenarios.

F is for Friendly. No matter how far one travels to join in on the fun, folks are all the same. The participants are extremely friendly, expressing personal regard, and always extending assistance when needed.

T is for Togetherness. The warm fellowship, unity, cooperation, and family-like atmosphere encourage all cowpokes to return.

Cowboy Action has been a gift to me. So, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the great people who started our sport. I also would like to thank all the great competitors who take part in SASS. And especially I would like to thank my wife of near a half-century for being a great supporter of me in my quest to be a "Cowboy." My corner of the roof always has the "vacancy" sign turned on. Many women do noble things, but in my view, the Vicar's Wife is the greatest. (Pr. Ch. 31)

Hey gents, it never hurts to pump up the tires now and then. You may already know that the mileage is greatly increased when the P.S.I. is up to snuff. Remember to give a big thank you to all those who make Cowboy Action Shooting™ so enjoyable.

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*Tuolumne Lawman,  
SASS Life #6127*

# GUNS OF THE COWBOYS, LAWMEN, AND BADMEN

## Part Repeating One: Rifles

*By Tuolumne Lawman, SASS Life #6127*



*1860 Spencers*

To most of the world, the 1892 Winchester rifle was the rifle that tamed the Old West. This is probably because almost every B Western hero and outlaw carried an 1892 Winchester on TV and the Silver Screen. In his films, John Wayne, “the Duke,” always carried an 1892 Winchester, often with a modified “big loop” on the cocking lever. From a historical point of view, however, the 1892 Winchester was a relative late-comer to the scene. The 1860 Henry, 1866, and 1873 Winchester rifles were more popular. The Marlin lever action and Colt pump action rifles were also equally important to settler, lawmen, badmen, and Native Americans alike. Even older firearms like the Civil War Spencer repeating carbine were plentiful and popular. In this article, I will try to give a brief profile of the most popular rifles used in the Old West.

### THE WINCHESTER TOGGLE LINK RIFLES:

**1860, 1866, and 1873**

Most scholars of Western History will readily admit that the “gun that won the west” was not, in fact, the Colt Single Action Army or Peacemaker. It was really the Winchester repeating rifle! Beginning with the spread westward of Oliver Winchester’s original “Henry” lever actions during and just after the Civil War, and continuing with his

improved 1866 model (which finally carried his name), the pioneers started carving out the wilderness with these rifles. Out west the Henry and 1866 Winchester rifles really became a household word. While some Henry rifles went west during the war, most migrated with the displaced and restless former soldiers as they journeyed west for their fortunes and adventures. It was not long until the Henry and the 1866 Winchester gained a reputation as fearsome weapons, both with the settlers and the Native American warriors. The braves, accustomed to military single shot muzzle-loaders, were shocked by their encounters with the “white eyes” armed with the firepower of the Henry rifles. They referred to it as “the Spirit Gun of many shots” or simply “the Spirit Rifle.” This reputation would also continue with the

later 1873 Winchester.

Many notable figures carried the Henry rifle. Ed Shieffelin (the prospector who founded Tombstone, Arizona), and the notable Wells Fargo Detective that captured the notorious Black Bart, James B. Hume were just a few. The Indians also like the Henry. Sitting Bull carried one, as did High Back Wolf. His Henry was found beneath his mummified body in 1921. Recent archaeological excavations in South Dakota show 1866 Winchesters and Henry rifles were carried by some of the large war party at the Little Big Horn battle.

Both of the aforementioned rifles used a somewhat anemic (at least by today’s standards) .44 caliber rim-fire cartridge that had a 215 grain bullet over 29 grains of blackpowder. Winchester, being the astute gentleman that he was, foresaw the need for a more powerful cartridge to tame the west. Though the basic design of the 1860 Henry and 1866 Winchester were good, they were limited somewhat by their inherently weak brass frame. Oliver Winchester redesigned the rifle, using the same action, but a much stronger iron frame. His new rifle, the Winchester model of 1873 (denoting it’s year of release) used a cartridge of his own design, the 44 WCF (Winchester Center Fire), or .44-40, as it is now called. This cartridge was far more powerful than its

weak cousin, the .44 Henry. It sported a 205 grain lead bullet over 40 grains of blackpowder. Out of a rifle, it would achieve somewhere around 1300 to 1350 fps. The thin brass case mouth expanded readily to help seal the chamber after firing, thus preventing blackpowder fouling from blowing back into the action. Both the 1873 Winchester rifle and the 44 WCF cartridge were an instantaneous success, catapulting Winchester and his company into financial success and immortality. The 1873 was so popular it was still being produced into the second quarter of the 20th century!

### SPENCER REPEATING RIFLE

It was an inventor, Christopher Spencer, who marketed what was the most successful repeater during the Civil War: the 1860 Spencer rifle and carbine. The total of government orders and purchases by individual units during the Civil War (depending on which source you read) may have exceeded 180,000 Spencer rifles and cavalry carbines. This success and popularity spread to the West after the war as well.

Spencer modified the idea of the Sharps falling block, and used a downward pivoting block assembly. Pulling the trigger guard lever down opened the action and allowed a round to be fed from the stock’s tubular magazine. The trigger guard was then lifted, closing the action. The hammer was then cocked manually. The Spencer had a seven round magazine in the butt stock.

According to Marcot in his book on Spencers, the original loading for the Spencer was in .44 rimfire. Realizing this was too light to attract military orders, Spencer developed a more powerful round called the “No. .56 Spencer rifle and carbine round,” though later it would be called the “.56-56.” It used a .54 caliber, 350 to



*1866 Winchester*





1860 Henry

375 grain bullet over 42-45 grains of blackpowder in a copper, rim fire cartridge case. The .56-56 was much more powerful than the Henry repeating rifle's 215 grain, .442 diameter bullet over 25 to 28 grains of powder. The Spencer would sink this big, heavy bullet 12 inches into soft pine at 15 feet. It was regarded as very much superior to the Henry in the "stopping power" department, as well as having a reputation for superior accuracy.

From late 1862 onward, the Spencer gained a reputation as an effective, reliable firearm. After a personal demonstration to President Lincoln in August of 1863, where Lincoln actually fired the Spencer himself in a Washington DC park, the Spencer was on its way to becoming

an official issue arm. Because production was simpler than the Henry, and he was better financed with official government orders than Oliver Winchester, Spencer was able to deliver far more rifles than Winchester. Most were Cavalry carbines, though the first Spencers issued were full-length infantry and Navy rifles. At about a yard long, the carbine version offered compact, reliable firepower for Union cavalry units. They were much handier, compared to the longer Springfield and Enfield .58 caliber rifled muskets. The Spencer acquitted itself extremely well in battle. In June of 1863, Col. John T. Wilder and his small troop of Union Cavalry, called the "Lightning Brigade," decimated a much larger force of Confederates with muzzle-loaders at

the Battle of Hoover's Gap, Tennessee. At other battles, such as Yellow Tavern, Five Forks, Winchester, Chickamauga, Franklin, and with Custer's troops at Brandy Station, the Spencers proved their superiority.

The Spencer was the most prolific repeater in the West prior to about 1880. It was not long until the Spencer also gained a reputation as a fearsome weapon with the Native American warriors. The braves were stunned by their encounters with the "long knives" armed with the firepower of the Spencer rifles. Encounters between Spencer armed troopers and Native American warriors are too

lized by troops along with the civilian scouts' Henry rifles. Until about 1875, the Spencer was probably the most common carbine issued to Cavalry units on the frontier.

Having been on the receiving end of the Spencer so many times, they were very popular with the Indians when they could lay hands on them. Geronimo owned a fancy Spencer sporting rifle. At the recent excavations and forensic work done at the Little Big Horn Battlefield, it was learned that Spencer rifles in assorted calibers were some of the most common firearms carried by the Native Americans. Their onslaught wiped



1873 Winchester

numerous to count. The frontier Army appreciated the Spencer's awesome firepower. Custer's Seventh Cavalry was armed with Spencers at the infamous massacre of over 100 of Black Kettle's Cheyenne at the Washita in 1869. The Spencers were also pivotal at the Hay Field Fight and Battle of Beecher's Island. Spencers were uti-

out Custer, whose troops were no longer armed with Spencers. The 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry were armed with the newly issued single-shot .45-70 (actually .45-55) Springfield carbines. These were much slower to load than the Spencer and Winchester repeaters carried by many of the attacking warriors.

(to be continued ...)



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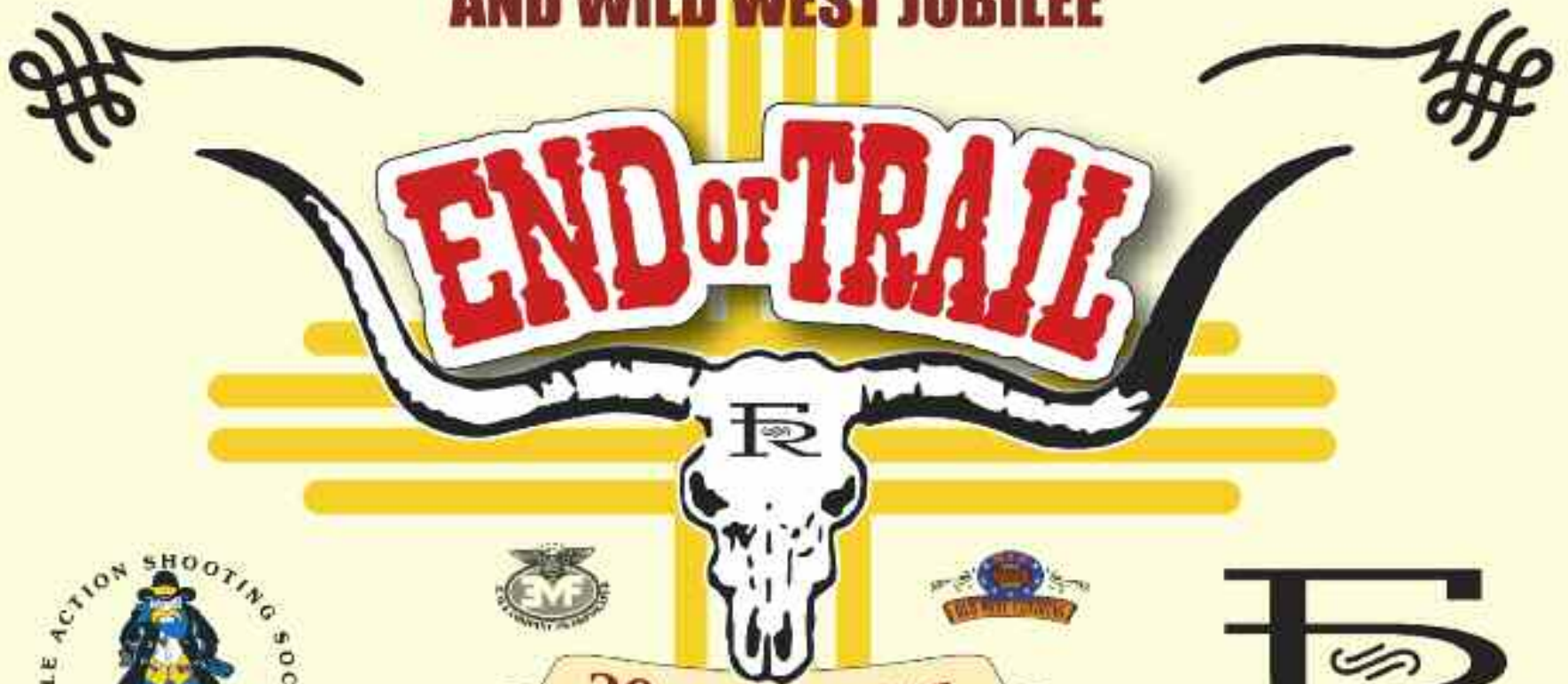
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### FOOD & DRINK & GRUB

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	\$
JUNIOR(14-16).....NO. _____ X.....\$50.00	\$50.00	\$
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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PHONE (505) 843-1320 • Fax (505) 843-1333 • [www.sassnet.com](http://www.sassnet.com)

### 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  49ER  LADY 49ER  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) \_\_\_\_\_

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 SENIOR DUELIST  FRONTIERSMAN  FRONTIER CARTRIDGE  LADY FRONTIER CARTRIDGE  
 FRONTIER CARTRIDGE DUELIST  49ER  LADY 49ER  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) \_\_\_\_\_

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 SENIOR DUELIST  FRONTIERSMAN  FRONTIER CARTRIDGE  LADY FRONTIER CARTRIDGE  
 FRONTIER CARTRIDGE DUELIST  49ER  LADY 49ER  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

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*Capt. George Baylor,  
SASS Life #24287*

# DISPATCHES FROM CAMP BAYLOR

## The SASS Convention

*By Captain George Baylor, SASS Life #24287*

### New Guns at the Convention

The first on the list, the Burgess rifle (Figure 1) from Taylor's was at Winter Range and END of TRAIL, but actual production models were clearing customs at the time of the Convention. I'll have one to test for a later issue.

Across the hall Cimarron had a couple of new versions of the 1876 Winchester clone, a RCMP carbine and a Crossfire Trail carbine. (Figure 2)

Truly new is a single trigger SxS shotgun of good quality from Cimarron. (Figure 3) Two were shown in pre-production form, a coach gun and one with 26" barrels



*Figure 1. Burgess Rifle from  
Taylor's and Company*



*Figure 2. Cimarron 1876  
Crossfire Trail Carbine*



*Figure 3.  
Cimarron single trigger SXS*

and removable chokes. They're made in Turkey and should be in the \$600-700 range. The triggers are MECHANICAL. This means if you fire one barrel and get a misfire, another pull of the trigger will fire the other barrel. This means tuning does not include adjusting the barrel switching mechanism for Feather-lites or Black Powder loads. A good SxS that doesn't cost \$1500, but will last as long as you shoot Cowboy Action Shooting™ and more is one of the things that's been on my list of needed products for some time. I'm glad to see Cimarron import this new gun and hope it fills that need. I'm looking forward to getting one to do an article on. The ones I played with will need normal gunsmith smoothing to be race ready, but so do all the others.

### A Screw Knife for Frontiersmen

To shoot Frontiersman you need a unicorn horn for seating your caps. If you don't have a unicorn horn, you



*Figure 4. Redwing Trading  
Company Screw knife for  
Frontiersmen will seat caps*

can't shoot Frontiersman. After a year of cajoling, begging, and threatening, I managed to talk Redwing into making a screw knife with a unicorn horn for a handle. The prototype (Figure 4) was at the Convention, and Redwing almost sold it before I could see it. The tip is a 1/8" flat so you can seat your caps on the gun's nipples. The blade does the usual features of a screw knife, such as clear rounds stuck in the carrier of your Henry, '66 or '73, or turn the base pin lock on your Ruger Old Army, or tighten screws. If you only shoot Frontiersman part of the time, you don't need multiple screw knives. This will suffice for cartridge shooters, too, of course.

They might be more expensive than regular screw knives. I don't know. Unicorn horns are hard to harvest.

### SASS Pocket Watch

I started shooting with my great-grandfather's gold Elgin, after spending a few hundred dollars getting it running again. Very quickly I learned this was a bad idea and put it back in the safe. I went through a slew of pocket watches. So, I was interested to see the booth of Dan Burns Associates, Inc. (336) 841-7998, P O Box 6023, 8011 Arbordale Ave, High Point, North Carolina 27262, [www.erieffwatches.com](http://www.erieffwatches.com). What they make is custom logo watches and specifically for us is a SASS logo pocket watch (Figure 5 & 6). The pocket watch can have your badge number etched on the badge (case front) and alias on the case back for \$179. The watch without etching is \$159. These come in a tin case. Case and chain are \$20 each and come in a faux suede pouch. The watch's features include: Swiss Ronda 715 quartz movement for extreme accuracy, stainless steel case with jeweled interior, and a Guilloche dial in ivory with the SASS logo at 12 o'clock. A digital date is in a small window. The front



*Figure 5. SASS Logo Pocket Watch*



*Figure 6.  
SASS Logo Pocket Watch face*

of the case is etched with the SASS Badge logo. It sports a hardened mineral crystal, and has an 8" chrome-plated chain. They offer the chain in a 14" version with a T-bar for \$20. The watch is available in both goldtone and chrome. This is a well-made watch, practical for shooters, as the stainless steel case can take abuse. I like the fact the time is easy to read for eyes that are no longer 20/20 and 18 years old.

### Best Dressed Costume Contest

At the Dodge City Ball Cat Ballou formally retired from putting on the costume contest at the SASS Convention and turned it over to the Carolina Belles, who did it this year. The Belles did a fantastic job, making Cat's decision seem utterly brilliant. My thanks to Cat for all the years she has worked so hard on the



costume contests at SASS Conventions. Without Cat's actions, costuming would not be at the pinnacle it is today. The best costumes in SASS have been on display at the SASS Convention year after year as an inspiration to others and to raise a very high bar.

The Belles put the contest out on display in the big rooms that had been used for the wax bullet match, open so everyone could see. The contestants faced the audience. There were more contestants than I had seen lately, and the quality of costuming was outstanding.

**Presentation**

Several people have told me they don't enter costume contests anymore because they're afraid of or uncomfortable with the presentation part. Trust me, it is not that important. When my turn came, my presentation certainly didn't go as planned. I handed the judges a painting of Robert E. Lee (**Figure 7**) wearing the uniform I was trying to duplicate (**Figure 8**). Then I tripped



Figure 7. Robert E. Lee



Figure 8. Robert E. Lee at the SASS Convention

on the way up the stairs and absolutely forgot everything, with visions of a Chevy Chase pratfall filling my mind! Fortunately after a few hours (or so it seemed) I remembered I was Robert E. Lee, General of the Army of Northern Virginia, and said so. They asked me to speak louder. I have a "command voice" that normally could have reached the Casino, but it was gone then. I told them they could see most of what I was trying to do on the painting, that I was wearing my plainest uniform, the one Matthew Brady photographed, with Colonel's insignia because I had earned that rank in the US Army, and because I didn't like politically appointed generals. Then I mentioned the boots were authentic and politely showed them the soles and heels with authentic 19<sup>th</sup> century details. The spurs were the ones in the Confederate Museum (made by Lindholm Brothers Spurs from photos of the originals), and so were the spur straps. I pulled the sword out and showed it was an engraved Confederate General Officer's sword. They asked me to turn around. I did, and asked if they had any questions, having forgotten everything else planned. One of the ladies asked me if the boots were uncomfortable. I replied they were terribly uncomfortable to walk on, but would be very comfortable and functional on horseback. I didn't use the 45 seconds allotted me. This was probably a good thing. Either the costume was going to stand on its own or not. Too much presenting can hurt you. You just need to tell them "who" you are and "when" you are and explain things that are not obvious.

**Expert Military Judge**

The judges, Carolina Belles, were aided considerably by having Cowtown Scout on the panel. He has a dozen uniforms himself and was wearing a different one every time I saw him. He is quite expert in uniforms of interest in the period. A judge can't know the regulations for and details of every possible uniform (one year I entered as a Major in the British 24<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot, and another gentleman entered as a sergeant from a different year, both completely different uniforms and both correct), but someone with his expertise can develop a pretty good BS detector and weed out a lot. I must say the competition in Military was quite good this year, but then it usually is.

All in all, it was an excellent Convention. By next December I might have recovered enough to go to the next one! *A.*



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Seven Ladders, SASS #75152

# DEATH IN THE ROAD TO RUIN!

By Seven Ladders, SASS #75152

In 1878, thirty-one-year-old A.J. (Andrew Jackson) Williams acquired land in Shackelford County, Texas. He also appeared in nearby Jones County, where he registered cattle and hog brands. Four years later, he was arrested and convicted for the theft of a cow; he was sentenced to two years in prison, but on December 24, 1883, Texas Governor John Ireland pardoned him. Soon, however, he was charged with another theft of cattle, and this time, he tried bribing an offi-

cer, in this case the new sheriff of Jones County, George Scarborough. Williams was found guilty on February 10, 1885, but he filed for a new trial and was found not guilty on May 1, 1886.

What was surprising about this was that A.J. Williams came from a good family. His father, Curtis Williams, was a cousin of Abraham Lincoln. His mother, Elizabeth Ellison, was of good, solid family, too, the family that became the great cattle drivers of Texas. Unfortunately, A.J. and his sister, Martha Ann, had been orphaned by 1860. They were adopted by his uncle, Aaron Williams, Jr., and raised in Caldwell County, Texas.

In the mid-1880's, some of his family moved to New Mexico. The Lincoln County War was over and Billy the Kid was dead. Cattlemen from central Texas relocated to southeastern New

Mexico in large numbers. Accused of another theft, A.J. Williams decided to let things cool and departed for New Mexico himself in 1885.

Soon thereafter, a justice of the peace signed an order requesting his extradition. On April 27, 1885, Acting Governor Barnett Gibbs specified the fugitive be delivered to George Scarborough, as agent for the State of Texas. Failing the first time to catch Williams, Scarborough shipped a fancy thoroughbred horse by train from Texas and commenced to chase Williams. After many miles, he got near enough to shoot Williams' horse. Williams fell and Scarborough arrested him. Again, Williams was found not guilty. The case for bribery was still pending. There was, doubtless, bad blood now between the two men.

A year later, A.J. Williams encoun-

tered Sheriff Scarborough one last time. The place was Draper and Baldwin's The Road to Ruin Saloon in Haskell County. The place was a notable dive. It's been said the saloon was:

*A bar to joy which home imparts  
A door to tears and aching hearts;  
A bar to heaven, a door to hell,  
Whoever named it, named it well.*

George Scarborough and his brother Will were relaxing in the welcome dim shade of the Road to Ruin on Saturday, October 15, 1887. Scarborough sat at a table writing a letter. He faced a mirror with his back to the door. Will stood at the bar several feet away, hidden in deep shadows. Williams entered with a cocked double-barrel shotgun in his hand. Will Scarborough opened fire, and George stood and emptied his pistol before Williams could even fire. Shot

*(Continued on next page)*



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Total Time For Main Match  
Main Match Awards 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>  
Side Match Awards 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>  
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(Continued from previous page)  
five times, Williams soon expired.  
The shooting of A.J. Williams in the Road to Ruin Saloon led to another killing two days later. This time a customer named W.M. Carter took up the quarrel, arguing with J.L. Baldwin, one of the saloon owners that Williams had been killed unfairly. This led to another shooting in which Carter was killed. Today, the shooting of Carter is better known than the shooting of A.J. Williams, but it points out the fact the Road to Ruin was a hazardous joint. Of four fatal shootings in Haskell, Texas during the frontier period, three happened inside the saloon and the other just outside.


Not long afterward, George Scarborough was appointed a deputy U.S. Marshal. He operated out of El Paso, Texas, and specialized in illegal immigration, which in those days was the illegal smuggling of Chinese laborers into the United States. In 1895, he became involved in a conspiracy to murder Martin Mrose, husband of John Wesley Hardin's girlfriend, Helen Beulah Mrose. A year later, Scarborough killed Constable John Selman, Sr., the man who had murdered Hardin. The Mrose and Selman murders clouded his career. Scarborough wound up a common range detective. He was shot and killed by an outlaw in 1900.



## LITTLE KNOWN FAMOUS PEOPLE WAY OUT WEST -

By Joe Fasthorse Harrill, SASS #48769





**Joe Fasthorse Harrill, SASS #48769**

**BENJAMIN BROWN** was born in Virginia in 1859 and served as a Buffalo Soldier in the U.S. Army. In 1889, Sergeant Brown and several other soldiers were escorting the Army paymaster and a payroll of gold and silver from Ft. Grant to Ft. Thomas when they were held up by bandits near Pima, Arizona. Eight soldiers were wounded, but fought gallantly to save the strong box. Brown was shot in the stomach and through both arms, but refused to give up the fight. He was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1890. Sergeant Brown and Corporal Isaiah Mays, who was engaged in the same encounter, were the only African-American infantrymen to receive the Medal of Honor for bravery in the frontier Indian Wars. Sergeant Benjamin Brown died in 1910 and is buried at the United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

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Col. Richard Dodge,  
SASS Life #1750

# TALES OF OLD CALIFORNIA

## Jack Powers

### American Bandito in Old California

By Col. Richard Dodge, SASS #1750

California's Wild West actually did not start out so "wild." The Franciscan Missions as early as 1770 began to introduce the Spanish version of Christianity and the "white man's way" to the Native Americans of what at that time was one of the most remote places on Earth. Though the "civilizing" was not without its share of resentment and uprisings, killings, and even massacres, the conflicts between the two cultures was nothing like that of the second American Wild West that started almost a century later after the Civil War.

Mexico's independence from Spain in 1821 started a new era, the Rancho Period, and the "Californios" created a society not unlike the plantation society of America's Old South and lived happily in this Garden of Eden until it was rudely interrupted and destroyed by the wild stampede of gold-crazed outsiders. But that's a different story. For now, let's take a look at California's "Wild West"—the 1850s.

That was a turbulent and violent decade. California was swiftly ushered into the United States as a full-fledged state a year and a half after the gold discovery, and suddenly those who had lived on the land

for generations were foreigners in their own homes.

From across the globe, thousands of desperate fortune seekers of every stripe swarmed into California, generating fifty years of normal growth in less than two years in one of America's most well-known stories. Professional men, clerks, farmers, sailors, soldiers, drifters, lawyers, con-men, card sharks, thieves, killers, deserters, Peruvians, Chinese, Greeks, Serbs, Irishmen, Englishmen, Frenchmen, tradesmen, professional ladies, laundresses—a boorish breed of scalawags never before present in California, suddenly were everywhere, taking what they wished, killing without cause or remorse. It was little wonder the Californios were often described as "grim old Spaniards."

American courts quickly followed statehood, and they were neither blind to justice nor kind to the Californios, frequently ruling in favor of squatters who filed claims on former Spanish and Mexican land grants. The Californios, who routinely made enormous business deals on the honor of a handshake, often found themselves unable to produce documents proving ownership. Just as the Native Americans would experience twenty years later on the

Great Plains, many Californios suddenly found themselves stripped of their lands, wealth, and pride, unwelcome and despised in their own country by the boorish Americans.

Interestingly, many Californios had gotten to the gold fields first simply because they were already there. Memoirs of several indicate they were very successful miners, gathering enormous amounts of gold lying on the streambeds that would soon be swarming with frantic gold-seekers.

Racism was a way of life in the mid-1800s. Anglos came with an attitude of immense superiority to everyone else and backed their depredations against all others—be they Chinese, Californios, Indians or anyone else—with unhesitating gunplay. Murders, assassinations, and bald-faced genocide became commonplace. The newly arrived Americans were a violent lot, fighting even among themselves. Their behavior and attitude led to rape and murder of many of the Mexican-Californio families in the gold country and elsewhere. Such atrocities could not go unanswered and vicious banditry thrived where it never had before.

The names of Joaquin Murrieta, Juan Flores, and Salomon Pico (inspiration for the Zorro saga—yet another

story) have become well known in California history. Murrieta, it is claimed, tracked down and killed 41 of the 42 Americans who raped and killed his wife, beat him senseless, and burned his home. Flores operated throughout southern California, while Solomon Pico, scion of the powerful Pico family, claimed the coastal area north of Santa Barbara as his own, robbing and killing any American who was unfortunate enough to cross his trail.

Jack Powers' name appears in several accounts of the time as another dangerous man whose firearms were his tools of the trade. He was not a Californio, but an Irish-American born in Ireland in 1827 and came to New York with his parents at the age of nine. He joined the American army at 19 to fight in the Mexican War in Stevenson's New York Volunteer Regiment and moved on to California at the war's end. He moved briefly to San Francisco and was an active participant in the infamous "Hounds" until the similarly infamous Vigilance Committee forced a discreet withdrawal to southern California.

In Santa Barbara, Powers found employment as a groom and horse trainer with the de la Guerre family, (Continued on next page)

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(Continued from previous page)  
the most prominent family of the area. He was a superb horseman, excelling in the vaquero's craft and making quite a name for himself. He once made a bet that he could ride 150 miles in eight hours; he did it in 6 hours, 43 minutes, and 31 seconds—an amazing feat.

He was a handsome and charming fellow, a consummate gambler, and his congenial nature and popularity quickly gained him entrance into the Californios' inner circles. Little did they know he used their confidence to learn the vulnerabilities of their money and valuables, especially the shipments of gold brought by cattle buyers from the north. In those days the population was in the north and the beef was in the south, and the Californios became very wealthy selling their cattle to San Francisco cattle buyers at enormous profits. Huge cattle drives were made up the Coastal Range to San Francisco, a distance far longer than the famed Texas to Kansas drives of 20 years later, devoid, however, of the threats of Indian attack and furious thunderstorms—this was California weather, after all.

The cattle buyers were easy prey for Powers and Pico and others who stalked them on the old El Camino Real. Powers gathered a gang of ruthless men and operated boldly and with great success—due to Powers' inside information—for most of the 1850s until one day his true identity was discovered.

In one fateful robbery attempt, Powers received a bullet wound in his leg and fled without his prize. He stopped at the home of Captain William G. Dana, near the present town of Nipomo, where he was well known and made welcome. Dana's son, Francisco, observed Powers' wound and, in spite of Powers' claim it was caused by a fall from his horse, the game was up. Suddenly, warrants for his arrest surfaced everywhere.

Even after he was found out, Powers and his gang continued to

boldly operate with impunity for a couple of years, even barricading themselves against a 200-man posse from Santa Barbara—and winning! Eventually, the area became too hot even for Powers, and he moved on to the wide-open town of Los Angeles, where he resumed his debauched lifestyle, gathering a gang of cutthroats and openly defying the law as he circulated openly in the gambling dens, strutting boldly among the most vicious dregs of Los Angeles society.

As twice before, he pressed his luck until the vigilantes began to impress upon him that his time was up and he was unwelcome in the City of the Angels. He fled to Sonora, Mexico just ahead of the hangman, stopping on the way to rob a storekeeper in San Juan Capistrano. It is unknown if he was short on funds or just keeping in practice.

He again proved you can't change a tiger's stripes. In 1860, at the age of 33, Jack was shot and killed by one of his own men when he tried to seduce the man's woman. The woman's willingness is unrecorded, but it was rumored she helped her lover unceremoniously toss Jack's body into a mesquite corral full of half-starved hogs. What was uneaten was later buried in an unmarked grave—a fitting and inglorious end for one of California's most notorious outlaws.

It also marked the end of California's "Wild West."

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# PICTURE PERFECT

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

Last fall the Vicar's Wife and I had our first opportunity to go south for the winter. Along the way we took in the Oklahoma State Shoot. I was very impressed with their set up. The Cowboy Action Shooting™ range is situated at the Oklahoma City Gun Club located east of Oklahoma City. The Gun Club has around 1800 members with nearly a full section of land, and there are areas set up for trap, skeet, blackpowder, Cowboy Action, and so forth.

Roy's Creek Dan and Leroy Rogers greeted the Vicar's Wife and me as we came to visit. They have several permanent stages that look like real buildings. The one that really caught my eye was the Saloon. It is a complete building around 20' x 60' with concrete floor, finished inside walls, and bar with brass rail. The building is used for a shooting stage with the firing line along the back wall. Then it can also be used for a gathering hall. We used it for Cowboy Church on Sunday Morning. It says in Psalm 122:1, "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'" We enjoy Cowboy Church.

Among the vendors were Fly and his lovely wife, Just L. They took the posse pictures and also action photos of each shooter. I went over to purchase a small posse

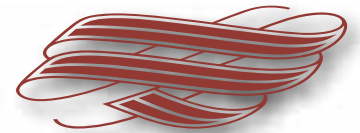
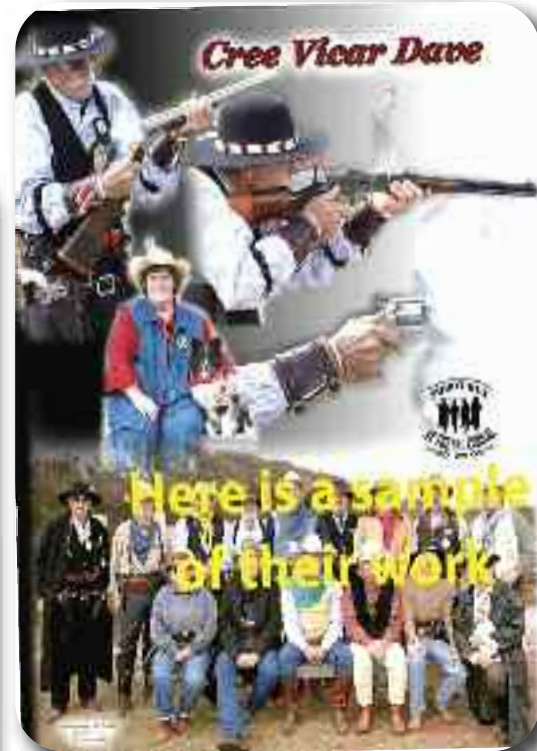
picture to stash away with the collection at home when to my surprise I noticed on display very unique photos. For just a "few bucks more," they put together an 8"x10" portrait with posse picture on the bottom and three action pictures displayed across the top. Now maybe you'll have seen this before, but this was a first for me. I was quite impressed. So, I ended up getting the collage photo.

Another neat thing Fly puts together is a three-legged stool with a leather-tooled top. He puts your alias and number or other things to your liken into the leather top. Fly says of this three-legged tote stool, "Next to a youngster picking up brass, these stools are an old man's best friend." Well, turns out this item also made my must have list. I told Fly, "The family asked us when we were coming back home, and I replied, April or when the money runs out. With vendors like you we'll probably have to head home in March or maybe sooner."

When you're on the road shooting, keep your eye peeled for Sports Photography & Designs. I'm sure you'll be impressed with their wares.

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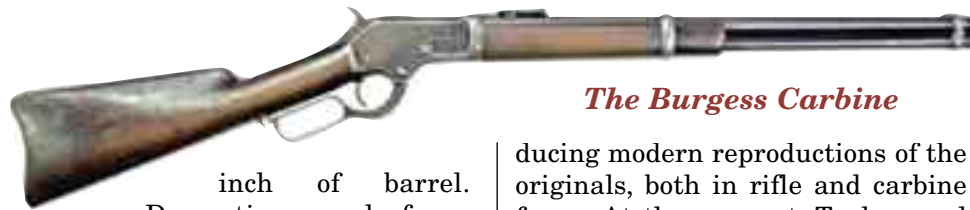
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# COLT BURGESS RIFLE? Never heard of it!

*(A non-gunsmith, non-engineer, run-of-the-mill SASS Member review of the new Uberti Burgess Rifle and Carbine)*

*By Sweetwater Jack, SASS Life/Regulator #28885*



*The Burgess Carbine*

inch of barrel. Decorations and fancy wood were available, but rarely ordered, partly due to the short production span.

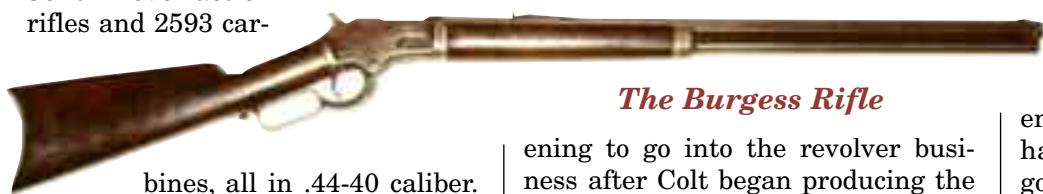
How did all this come about? The long-standing rivalry between Colt and Winchester was about to take a new turn. Winchester began, rather openly, making ready to produce a line of single-action six-guns to compete head-to-head with Colt's Single-Action Army model. Not to be outdone, Colt sat down with Burgess. Some say it went the other way around, with Winchester threat-

ducing modern reproductions of the originals, both in rifle and carbine form. At the moment, Taylors and Company is the sole importer with inventory on hand ready to ship, although Cimarron is also discussing bringing them to our shores. The rifles have the full octagonal 25 1/2" barrels, and the carbines 20" round barrels. Both versions are available through Taylors' in the "correct" original .44-40 caliber, and may also be ordered in .45LC. When I first saw the Burgess listed in the 2009 Taylors' catalog, I put my order in immediately. "Patience" not being a part of my vocabulary, waiting several months for the call that my rifle had finished its long swim from Italy was painful to endure. Then the call came, and I had a tracking number! It was going to be delivered one day after I was to depart home for the 2009 SASS Convention! More agony ensued. The bright spot was I was sure Taylors would have one in their booth at the Convention. As my sweetheart, Gaye Abandon,

would say: "Even a blind squirrel finds an acorn once in awhile," and there it was!

Lifting the carbine from the rack at the Taylors' & Co. booth, I quickly threw it to my shoulder and worked the lever. BUTTER! Every cliché for "smooth as silk" I'd ever heard of bounced around in the confines of my skull. I was advised by the Taylors folk this was the prototype carbine, and as such had been handled and "worked" by everyone who came in contact with it, probably producing a "poor man's action job" by levering the action three gazillion times. I must have dragged every SASS member I know over to "try it." I may have added a considerable amount of "working in" to it myself. (Colonel Cornelius Gilliam, SASS #5875, and I would like to apologize to the Riviera Hotel management for any drool we might have left on their carpeting at the Taylors' booth.) Now I was in a position I've never been in before. I almost wanted the Convention to be over so I could start the 700-mile drive home! And here it was only Thursday! A snow-storm in progress in Northern Nevada the following Sunday prompted an even longer route home through Southern California! Rats!!

*(Continued on next page)*



*The Burgess Rifle*

ening to go into the revolver business after Colt began producing the Burgess rifles. In any case, many today believe the Colt-Burgess was the overwhelming factor in the "Gentlemen's Agreement" between Colt and Winchester where Colt would produce hand guns and Winchester would make the rifles and shotguns. Winchester never produced the revolvers, and Colt ceased building the Burgess late in 1884. If you have an extra 27 bucks in your pocket and think you'd like to add one of these little beauties to the old gun rack, I'm afraid you're out of luck. Original Colt-Burgess rifles in good shape and in shoot-able condition are running in the range of \$3000 - \$5000!

The GOOD news, however, is our friends at UBERTI have begun pro-

ducing modern reproductions of the originals, both in rifle and carbine form. At the moment, Taylors and Company is the sole importer with inventory on hand ready to ship, although Cimarron is also discussing bringing them to our shores. The rifles have the full octagonal 25 1/2" barrels, and the carbines 20" round barrels. Both versions are available through Taylors' in the "correct" original .44-40 caliber, and may also be ordered in .45LC. When I first saw the Burgess listed in the 2009 Taylors' catalog, I put my order in immediately. "Patience" not being a part of my vocabulary, waiting several months for the call that my rifle had finished its long swim from Italy was painful to endure. Then the call came, and I had a tracking number! It was going to be delivered one day after I was to depart home for the 2009 SASS Convention! More agony ensued. The bright spot was I was sure Taylors would have one in their booth at the Convention. As my sweetheart, Gaye Abandon,

biners, all in .44-40 caliber. They were the brainchild of Andrew Burgess. Burgess was a well known Civil War photographer and designer of fire alarms, as well as a prolific designer of firearms. He had nearly 600 firearm patents to his credit. The rifles' barrels, round, half, and full octagon, were 25 1/2 inches long, and the round carbine barrels measured 20 inches. You could order either the rifle or carbine in any caliber you wished, as long as the only caliber you wished for was the .44-40 (AKA the .44WCF). Cartridge capacities in the tube magazines were 15 and 12 respectively. Lighter and more slender than the '73 and '76 Winchesters, the Colt-Burgess was considered to be much stronger. Prices for these guns ranged from \$24 for the round-barreled carbine model through \$27 for an octagon barrel rifle. An additional dollar was charged for each extra



*The right-side photos of the Burgess rifle show wonderful wood to metal fit and the lever travel. These firearms work and are smooth right out of the box. They will certainly compete head to head with any Winchester '92.*





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*(Continued from previous page)*

Opening the Uberti box at home, I found the Burgess rifle to be just as good-looking as the carbine I'd fondled at the Convention. The wood-to-metal fit was very good and the straight, un-checked stock had a lot of "figure," including the usual Uberti reddish finish, of course. The color-case work on the receiver was bright and not the grayish tones sometimes found.

As a rough measurement, I placed the Burgess on my bathroom scales (after returning them to "zero" from where I've been "cheating" and kidding myself for a few years), and found the rifle to weigh in at about a pound lighter than my 20" barreled '73, and two pounds lighter than my 24" barrel Uberti "Yellowboy."

Though not as slick as the prototype carbine I fondled at the SASS Convention, mine IS pretty slick, right out of the box. I fed it 10 of my usual main-match .44-40 rounds and it fed, fired, and extracted them flawlessly. The loading port "dust cover" SLIDES forward, as you press the nose of the cartridge in, instead of "bending" out of the way as the ones on the '66 and '73 do. Loading effort was about the same as the '73. Top-ejecting, the empty brass all fell in about a one-foot circle near my left foot. So far, my only complaint is the front sight is the usual black blade and my 71-year-old eyes are having a problem picking it up. It's in a standard 3/8" dovetail cut though, so a brass bead sight is on the

way as we speak. Accuracy is very good, even with my eyesight. I managed a 2" group offhand at the standard SASS rifle distances. (My loads, my eyes, my twitchy finger, so your mileage may vary quite a bit, and probably be a lot better)

How would I compare it to my '73s? Well, it's a bit slimmer and lighter, and the lever throw is longer than my short-stroked '73s, but about the same length as my stock '92s (definitely SASS-Legal).

Is the Uberti Colt-Burgess going to take over Cowboy Action Shooting™ and leave the '73s, '66s, '92s, and Marlins in the dust? Probably not. Being produced in .45 Colt and the classic .44-40 caliber, it probably won't become the darling of the fastest shooters out there, but for some of us "lower-middle of the pack" shooters that really appreciate a historically significant firearm you won't see sticking up out of every third gun cart on the range, our hats should be off to Uberti for producing the Burgess. It's going to be a fun gun to compete with, and the double-takes from other shooters who momentarily mistake it for a Winchester will be worth the price of admission many times over!

So, go ahead, Deputy Parker! Pull that long-barreled COLT smoke-pole outta' yer scabbard and have at that owlhoot a'tryin' to keep ya' from bringin' him to justice! Now where'd that fool nephew of mine run off to while I was explainin' things????



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*Ioway, SASS Life #214*

**A**s a Colt affectionato, I was ecstatic when Taylor's and Co., Inc. two years ago announced they were going to have A. Uberti manufacture a replica of the 1883 "Colt's New Magazine Rifle" patented by Andrew Burgess ('Burjess' pronunciation).

Following the Civil War, Colt manufactured several rifles—the Berdan (30,000) for an order to Russia, the Laidley and Franklin in 1877, and the double barrel, hunting rifle in .45 caliber. Then, in 1883, the Burgess lever action was manufactured to compete with Winchester's huge market dominated by the 1866, 1873, and 1876 rifles. The Burgess is lighter, sleeker, and, maintained by some, a better firearm than Winchesters.

Colt manufactured 3,810 rifles with 25 1/2" barrels in .44-40 caliber and 2,593 saddle ring carbines with 20" round barrels. However, for \$1 per inch any length of barrel could be had on the Burgess, as well as any custom feature like engraving, custom wood, or different rear sights. Of the 3,775 rifles produced, 1,219 had round barrels (various sources differ on the exact number of these firearms produced by Colt). The Colt's New Magazine Rifle (as Colt advertised the gun) was offered in saddle ring carbine form with a 20" barrel and a 12" round magazine, with a weight of 7 1/4 pounds. The rifles were offered in round barrel, octagon barrel, and half octagon. The rifle barrels were 25 1/2" long, and the magazine held 15 rounds with a weight of 8 3/4 pounds (James E. Serven. *Colt Firearms*. Stackpole Books, Harrisonburg, PA 1979, 368-369). William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody received Burgess #285, which was fully engraved with checkered French Walnut wood. Most of the engraved ones had the French

# Burgess

## "NEW MAGAZINE RIFLE"

*By Ioway, SASS #214 Life*

Walnut wood and were done by the factory while others were engraved out of house by L. D. Nimschke (R. L. Wilson. *Colt Engraving*. Beinfeld Publishing, Inc., Studio City, CA., 1982. 349-350).

In 1884, a meeting was held between Colt and Winchester executives where Colt was shown models of a double action revolver, which would compete with Colt's 1878 model. A gentleman's agreement was reached whereas Colt would not continue to produce the lever action Burgess, and Winchester would not manufacture their double action revolver (Dean K. Boorman. *The History of Colt Firearms*. Lyons Press, NY, NY, 2001. 80). While the Burgess had the look of the '73 around the lever, the receiver is very similar to the Winchester 1892, and one cannot but wonder if the Burgess influenced the Winchester 1892 design (see photo of the Burgess, '73, and '92).

With the wonderful surge of SASS shoots and events all over the world, over 80,000+ members have found the enjoyment of family shooting, costuming, and the study of America's West. This resurgence of interest in history and SASS has created a market for "new" manufactured historic firearms. The A. Uberti factory in Italy, now owned by Beretta Firearms Corporation, is manufacturing many outstanding firearms.

One of the most recent historical firearms to be introduced to America's shooting public is Taylor's and Co., Inc. 1883 Burgess Rifle. Taylor's tells me they are the only one of the three importers of the 1883 allowed to call the rifle in advertising, the "Burgess." After waiting two years for my rifle and the month plus customs clearance, #46 finally arrived just before Christmas 2009. Upon visiting with Taylor's gunsmith, Tom, I found my rifle's beautiful wood is European walnut with a stain and lacquer finish. He could not say if



*The Burgess (top) is "small framed," light, and handy like the Winchester '92 (bottom). The receiver is much smaller than found on the Winchester '73 (center). This rifle is sure to find a happy home with Cowboy Action Shooters!*

it was the French Walnut Colt put on his special Burgess rifles, only that it was European walnut. The case hardening is cyanide true color case hardening, not painted on nor the Turnbull charcoal case hardening, which is very time consuming and is custom work.

Because this order of 20 inch barreled .45LC Burgess rifles is the first in America, Uberti has shipped no specs yet. However, Tom tore down his first Burgess on December 30, 2009. He told me he believes the barrels have a 1 in 16 twist, as that is what Uberti puts in the .45LC barrels on its other rifles. All the screws have metric threads. Tom also took one of the Burgess rifles to their indoor range, and said it would fire and eject the empties as fast as one can work the lever. The Burgess comes as a tuned rifle with lightened springs for the Cowboy Action Shooter. He experienced no misfires, and the empty casings ejected without flaw.

However, if one is emptying live rounds from the magazine, much

slower working of the lever must occur or the rifle will jam like the Uberti Spencers. This is a change for the Cowboy Action Shooter that original 1883s did not have—their springs were heavier. Tom also cautioned owners to let a competent gunsmith do any work they deem necessary because the lever spring has a ball bearing atop it that will fly out somewhere in the room if one is not knowledgeable. This event would result in a search for the spring and ball bearing somewhere in the area! While the bluing is high caustic cyanide bluing, wear will occur with use and/or should one use a leather saddle scabbard for the rifle.

Upon visiting with a Taylor's and Co., Inc. representative, she told me all 20 inch Burgess rifles will hold ten plus one rounds and when the 25 1/2" rifles come, they will hold 15 rounds of ammunition. The carbines will have 20 inch barrels, so their capacity will be the same as the rifles. The first lot into America was .45LC, but the .44-40s will be

*(Continued on next page)*

(Continued from previous page) following. I did not ask the time frame. One can also order fancy wood on the rifles, but it will lengthen the wait for the rifle.

I find my Taylor's and Co., Inc. Burgess to be a faithful reproduction of the Colt 1883. However, the instruction manual shipped with these first Burgess rifles is for an 1873 model Uberti rifle. Upon contacting Taylor's, they said they had been made aware of the error and when the Uberti factory reopened January 11, 2010, Uberti would ship them correct instruction manuals for the 1883 Burgess. Any owner of one should call Taylor's at 1-540-722-2017 to have a correct manual sent to them.

Historically, the leaf sight of the Uberti is accurate according to the page of Colt sights in the Serven Colt book. For Cowboy Action Shooting™ and hunting up through 100 yards, this rear sight is adequate. Like myself, I know a few Cowboy Action Shooters will not only use this rifle for competition but will also hunt with it. The Uberti manual tells one to never depress the lever so far as to depress the safety lock nor touch the trigger when unloading live rounds from a lever gun's tubular magazine.

Since Iowa is in the negative temperatures and I did not go to the indoor rifle range of my

Sheriff's department, I tested Burgess #46 at a -16 degrees and in three feet of snow! The rifle's rear sight was moved to the third notch, which made it dead on at fifty yards. I found no problem hitting every clump of snow the road graders left out on my dirt road. I used Winchester Super X 255gr lead ammunition and found it to feed flawlessly. Then, I used Ultramax 250 grain round nose flat point ammunition and found it to feed flawlessly. Hand loaded 200 grain Oregon Trail ammunition also fed perfectly.

However, when I put in Speer Gold Dot hollow points, the rifle promptly refused to load them into the chamber. Upon visiting with Tom, Taylor's gunsmith, again, he reminded me of something I had forgotten over the years. Uberti rifles are very fussy about the length of the cartridge, and they prefer short rather than a micrometer long. Whereas revolvers for the most part do not care, the rifles do. Thus, the jamming of my Burgess with hollow points. Tom also laughed and reminded me no Uberti is manufactured with the thought of jacketed bullets going down its barrel.

As I said, some of us also hunt with our Uberti rifles. Upon trying another magazine of lead factory ammo, I discovered the trigger would not pull and the hammer

would not fall. After unloading the rifle slowly and reloading it, again, the Burgess was flawless. Once again I contacted Tom, and he said he, too, had had that experience. Because I was wearing gloves at my -16 degree test, I was not squeezing the lever tight enough to depress the lever safety. He and I concurred Uberti could have made it 1/16 of an inch longer, and this problem would never occur. Tom said other Uberti rifles have had the same issue, not just the new Burgess.

Because the Burgess is so smooth (like the proverbial butter) and very close to the original Winchester '92s, which are so famous for their smooth actions, I think the Burgess in the summer or in warmer climates will be a very popular rifle. The smoothness right out of the box impresses me, no gunsmith tuning is needed, and I know Cowboy Action Shooters will use this rifle for many competitions. I am much appreciative Taylor's and Co., Inc. chose to have A. Uberti manufacture this historic firearm. I certainly hope the Colt lovers support their effort and buy a Burgess to add to their shooting inventory. The rifle is a joy to shoot and is very accurate. SASS and Cowboy Action Shooting™ have been a great boon to the revival of the study of America's frontier history and more recreational shooting by families. 🤠

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38/357	158 RNFP
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40 SW	175 SWC
40 SW	180 FP
40 SW	220 FP
41 MAG	215 SWC
45 ACP	185 SWC
45 ACP	200 SWC
45 ACP	230 RN
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# CONSPIRACY

## *The Trial of Oliver Lee and James Gililand*

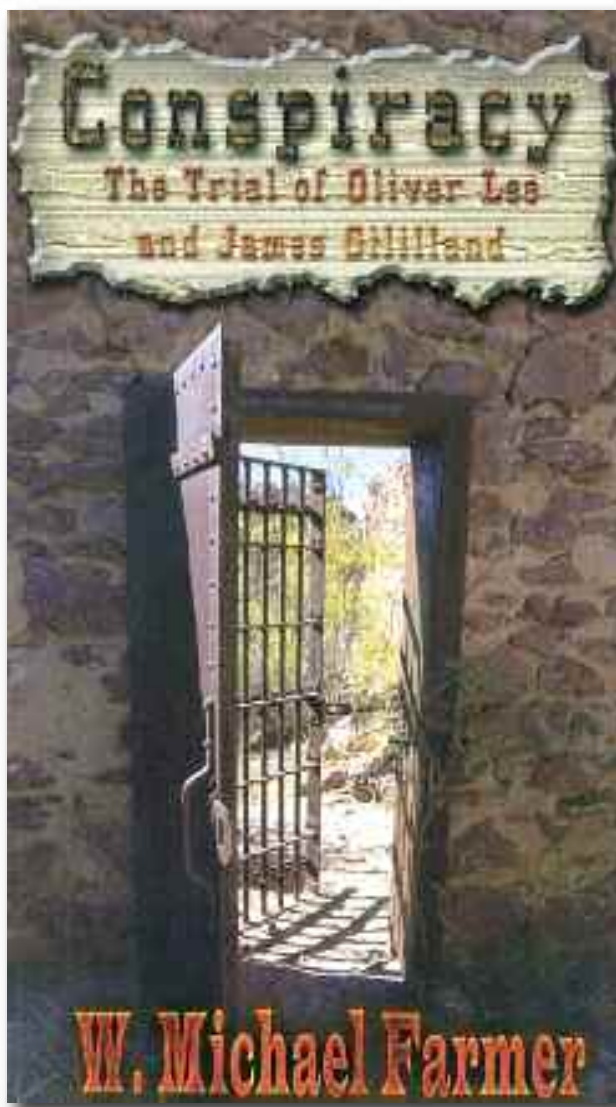
By W. Michael Farmer

Review by Cherokee Razy Rose, SASS #25192

Conspiracy is an example of western historical fiction at its best. It is W. Michael Farmer's third novel about New Mexico Territory in the late 1800s. Dr. Farmer, SASS #43100, Doc Blue, is intimately familiar with the area about which he writes, having lived in New Mexico for some time. Linked to his other two books by the death of historical figure Albert Fountain, this is the story of the circumstances surrounding the trial of two of the accused killers, Oliver Lee and James Gililand, by the reporter Quentin Peach. W. Michael Farmer tells his story through the eyes of "Quent," a young reporter for the *San Francisco Examiner*, who is sent to get the inside scoop, not just the trial facts.

Using Quent to delve into the circumstances of situations and characters involved in the trial gives new perspective to historical figures such as Pat Garrett, Eugene Manlove Rhodes, Tom Catron, Poker Bill Thorton, Albert Fall, and Oliver Lee. It is the trial resulting from Pat Garrett's last big case, where the politics of Yankee Republicans, represented by the rancher barons, and Texas Democrats, who are the small ranchers, comes into full-blown conflict, and the theory of conspiracy is declared by Albert Fall in the closing arguments to the jury. The story is a portrait of an historical event told with the facts and finesse of a skilled and knowledgeable writer of the Old West.

The setting is the little mining town of Hillsboro, New Mexico about 120 miles north of El Paso, home to the courtroom and connected to the outside world by stage and a new telegraph line. The trial begins May 26, 1899 and lasts for eighteen days. Over seventy witnesses are sworn. Even Jack



Maxwell, the key witness who disappeared the day before the trial started, is found and testifies. Near midnight on June 12, 1899, the case goes to the jury. In less than eight minutes, the jury decides.

Dr. Farmer writes word-pictures of people, scenes, and events about this 1890s western town by exposing everything from the food in the restaurants, the madam and her "girls," to the deep-seated fire that long standing blood feuds of the lawless Old West can reveal.

The wounds of the Civil War spill over in Texas for decades, and this trial and its circumstances exemplify those strong emotions connected to the past. The Old West is not just the characters and places about which we become familiar, but an intriguing movement of politics that intertwine with extended families, political favors, and the power money can bring. Of course, that reveals plots and subplots of unsolved mysteries that are well developed in this book and would not disappoint even mystery fans that might be unfamiliar with the historical Old West setting. If it is details you want, it is details you get. And, it includes a love story thrown in for good measure.

Don't miss a list of the Cast of Characters at the beginning of the book. It assists with following the multiple individuals, both historical and fictional. Maps of the town of Hillsboro and of the area where the crimes took place are also informative when reading the accounts of the disappearance. If you are unfamiliar with the historical story or the first two Farmer books, reading the Prologue is also useful. Happy reading.  
(ISBN: 978-1-932695-98-4

is printed by Treble Heart Books.



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 Saturday - Main Match (5 Stages) & Roaring 20's Banquet  
 Sunday - Team, Couples, & Blast Shotgun Awards at High Noon

This Year's Theme is

*The Roaring 20's*

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(Family includes parent(s) / guardian(s) and dependents (under 21))  
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Make check payable to Bar 3 Range & send to Bar 3 Range, 8027 FM 114, Clarksville, TX 75426.



# THE SASS CONVENTION



*... and, the Judge is back!*



*University of New Mexico History Professor Paul Hutton and Jim Dunham (Kid Rio, SASS #2741) hosted the Friday evening history lesson ... how it really was in the Old West and in the Kansas Town Towns.*



*Hipshot presented the Woolly Award for Best TG of 2009 to Cody Conagher. All of the Woolly Awards were richly deserved.*



*SASS World Indoor Champions – Hank Hills, SASS #78028, from Tacoma, WA and Missouri Mae, SASS #80828, from Piedmont, OK. Congratulations!*



*The winner of the Winchester '92 "Take Down" was Utah Blaine, SASS #54601. Congratulations!*

*(Continued from page 1)*

SASS #4 and Hipshot, SASS #7. This year's recipients were Best Annual Match: Heluva Rukus, the SASS New York State Championship. Best SASS Affiliated Club: The Horse Ridge Pistoleros of Bend, Oregon. Best Mounted Shooting Match: Eastern National Mounted Championship, Leesburg, Florida. Best Product: SASS Ruger Vaquero, Fairfield, Connecticut. Best Merchant: Colorado Mountain

Hat Company, Fairplay, Colorado, and last but definitely not least, Territorial Governor of the Year: Cody Conagher, SASS #6986, of Berkley Springs, West Virginia.

A new feature at this year's Convention was the presentations provided by the Wild West Performing Arts Society. Gun spinning, knife and tomahawk throwing, whip cracking, trick roping, stage combat, and stunts were demonstrated every few hours in the Convention Hall. Needless to say,

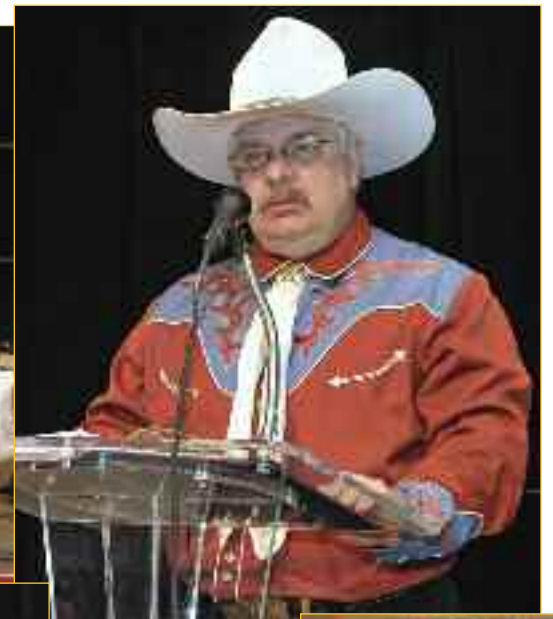
the breaking of the sound barrier by the cracking of the whip kept many a conventioneer fully awake and on their toes! Thank you Dr. Buck Montgomery, WWPAS Trail Boss, SASS #18071, and all the Performing Arts Players. For more information on this new and exciting adjunct to Cowboy Action Shooting™, visit the SASS web site at: [www.sassnet.com](http://www.sassnet.com)

Well Pard, that's it in a very brief nutshell. There's not enough space in *The Catbogy Chronicle* to talk

about all the folks dressed in fabulous period attire, or all the hard working SASS staff personnel, but that's the way it goes when you are part of the providing organization—you sometimes don't get the recognition you deserve. Nevertheless, this doesn't mean your efforts were not recognized. This year's Convention, as the past seven Conventions have been, was totally OUTSTANDING! Thanks to ALL. Please keep up the good work. You're a Daisy if Ya do!



# IS STILL NUMBER ONE



*Between competition events WWPAS members offered classes in the Western Arts.*



See more **HIGHLIGHTS** on page 72

# THE SASS CONVENTION

(Continued from page 71)



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# MEMORIES OF AN AMBUSH

By Red Rock Ranger, SASS #59410  
August 22, 2009

One day whilst I was ridin', 'long the creek known as the Hat,  
I happened on a feller who was ridin' like a bat  
Out of the hot place and his mount was almost done.  
So I asked him what's the matter, "Pard, what's got you on the run?"

He said "I just come down near where the Hat and Pit collide,  
And trouble's brewin' fast so asking help is why I ride.  
Bad outlaws got some folks pinned down, a pure and simple Ambush,  
So grab your guns and follow me We'll cross the Pit where it don't rush."

So off we went, it weren't too far, and soon I started hearin'  
Sounds like none that I have heard as we entered in a clearin'.  
We topped a hill and soon I saw a sight like none I've seen,

Sure nuff the folks was all pinned down, by outlaws onry and mean!

So we headed down the hill to where the Ambush seemed to be,  
And met another feller who was calm as he could be.

I wondered then, just what it was I thought I had been seein',  
And soon found out, twas a Cowboy Shoot, about to be commencin'.

I looked around and sure enough, the stages were all set;  
The Dead Horse Flat, a bad Pack Train, a Saloon to place a bet.  
The Graveyard, Jail, and Schoolhouse were all standin' mighty fine,  
There even was a place to bathe and that nasty Blue Gouge Mine.

Six stages shot on Saturday, and four were shot the next,  
Most folks seemed to have much fun, but some they was perplexed.

The Saturday night festivities, were somewhat dimmed by storm,  
But them crazy Plainsmen shot it up in the rain like it was the norm!

When things was finally finished, and the scores they were all tallied,  
It was clear to see that Ramblin Dave was a man who never dallied.  
And, Marsha Dillon, smooth and fast, took top for the women kind.  
Congrat's to both, for shootin' well, and leavin' the rest of us behind.

Classic Cowboy was Gus Ashcroft, Cowgirl Camp Hag was far from worst,  
Royal Flush took 49'r, and Rico Kid took Duelist first.  
Lady 49'r was won by Redwood Rose, De Sabla Don took Elder Statesmen,  
but only by a nose!

Ladies Frontier Cartridge was took by Jessie Lyn,  
And Marsha Dillon took the lead in

Ladies Senior once again. Ramblin Dave told all the rest of the Senior's "See ya later,"  
And smokey Frontier Cartridge was took by Smokin' Gator.

Junior Boys was Hammerin Hank, Silver Senior was Whiskey Rivers,  
And Wrangler Simpson Shootist gave the rest a case of shivers!  
Kid Kneestone took Senior Duelist, top Gunfighter was Speedy McDraw.  
Ima Goner took Ladies Wrangler, and Tumbleweed Ed top Frontiersman saw.

The Shasta Regulators wish to thank all those that came,  
And thanks to all the sponsors who help us play this game.  
Hope all Cowboys and Cowgirls who came to spend the time,  
Had fun at this year's annual, Ambush at Hat Creek 2009!




**SASS Presents**

**“SMOKE OVER BUFFALO FLATS”**

**SASS West Virginia State Black Powder Shootout, III**

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Registration Begins March 1, 2010 at [www.utahsummergames.org](http://www.utahsummergames.org)  
"Early Bird Registration" discount deadline is April 15, 2010



# COMANCHERIA DAYS 2009

## And the Return of Starry Night, SASS #25197

**F**redericksburg, TX – This night came like an unwelcome relative. The whole town was riled up about the prisoner in my jail cell, but his side of the story deserved a fair tellin’ at trial. The Marshal rode down to San Antone this morning to get the judge and charged me to keep the prisoner alive until his return. Now a lathered up mob of cowboys and town ruffians from the saloon have gathered for the second time today to carry out their own form of justice with a rope. I managed to run them off once already earlier this afternoon, but now their courage has been strengthened by too much



*On Sunday morning, the Master Gunfighter elimination match was held. Phantom, SASS #54973, ended the weekend as the winner of that exciting and strongly contested event requiring speed, accuracy, and steady nerves.*



*One of the highlights of this Comancheria Days was seeing the return of Starry Knight, who became seriously ill in September 2007.*

*By Yuma Jack, SASS #11261  
Photos by Doug Burress Photography, and Snuffy Leroux*



rotgut whiskey and the darkness they hope to hide behind.

It looks like I will have to take some action I had hoped to avoid and defend my prisoner with gunplay. As the mob starts to rush down the street toward the jail, a shot is fired and a bullet rips through the door so close to my ear it sounds like a “beep.” It occurs to me at that moment in this lit office I am too easy a target. “I’d better shoot out this light,” I say to myself. From the desk I grab the spare pistol I had just finished cleaning. I had only had time to load it with one .45 Colt round, which I used to shoot out the lantern and drop the gun back on the desk. Then I rush to the window on the left and pick up a ‘73 Winchester I staged there earlier and fire at the leading four members of the mob ... bang, and bang-bang, (two down), then bang-bang-bang (one more down), and then it took the last four rounds to stop the fourth ... a big man.

I put the empty rifle down and move to another window. Closer now, the rest of the mob continues to advance. I draw my Colt .45 with my

left hand and drop one man with my first shot and then two bullets each for the next two attackers. I holster the empty pistol and draw my other Colt .45 with my right hand. I put one more shot on the third man to put him down for keeps and then fire four shots into the first man stepping up on the porch, dropping him in his tracks.

I holster the second pistol, and grabbing a street howitzer from the rack, I dash for the side door leading to the alley alongside the jail. From behind a stonewall crossing the entrance to the alley, I am able to attack the left flank of the mob. There are several on the porch attempting to bash down the door. My first scattergun shot drops the nearest ruffian. With my second shot I hit another man’s left arm but he turns on me with a gun in his right hand. In a flash, I reload the double 12 gauge, cock the hammers, and fire at him again. That shot takes him out of the fight.

The remaining members of the mob turn to rush me in the alley. I fire the scattergun again at the clos-



*Next year I’m bringing a guncart!*



*It was a BONUS shot!*



*Stage 1, Jail Rush, was every jailer’s nightmare! The mob wanted your prisoner!*

# Cody-Dixon



**Yep! That's a Trapdoor in the main match! The Texican Rangers offered the "Cody-Dixon" category at Comancheria Days again this year. Shooters in this category fire at the same pistol and shotgun targets as everyone else, but instead of shooting 10 or so rounds at the normal rifle targets, the Cody-Dixon competitor fires five shots from big bore lever (Cody) or single shot (Dixon) rifles at a longer range targets (75 - 100 yards). It gives an opportunity to shoot those Sharps, High Walls, Spencers, and even Trapdoor Springfields on the main match stages.**

est hombre. Without even looking to see the result of that shot, I again shuck out the spent casings, throw two more shells into the double chambers, slam back the hammers, and fire both barrels point blank simultaneously at the shadowed figure nearing the corner of the porch. He is thrown backward into the street. As I unload the shotgun again preparing to continue the fight, the mob apparently decides it has had enough of the hellfire I have delivered to them, and the remaining vigilantes quickly scatter into the darkness of the unlit street. It's going to be a sleepless night.

The preceding nightmare was the

"Jail Rush" at Stage 1 of Comancheria Days 2009, an event I have written about in these pages in the past. The match is held at Stieler Ranch, in the Hill Country of central Texas. The present owner, Becky Patterson, graciously allows the Texican Rangers to call the ranch "home." This is an actual historic "Old West" working ranch owned and run by members of the Stieler family since the 1870's and provides the setting for 14 wide-open Old West stages with permanent props. The stages include a jailhouse, the Jersey Lily, a stagecoach, a locomotive and caboose, a street-front, a blacksmith shop and

*(Continued on page 76)*



# Winners



**The top places overall were captured by (l) Picoso Kid, SASS# 55762, for the men and (r) Kow Katcher, SASS #53134, for the ladies. These two competitors each picked up top honors in three side matches as well.**





## Comancheria Days 2009 . . .

*(Continued from page 75)*

corral, and a cemetery. The club has also added Fort Cimarron and a "High Noon," and a new outhouse stage is in construction. Comancheria Days celebrates an unbroken peace treaty between the local German settlers around Fredericksburg, Texas and the local Comanche. Every year since 1994, the Texican Rangers have held a match to celebrate the event.

For me personally, one of the highlights of this Comancheria Days was seeing the return of Starry Knight, who became seriously ill in September 2007. I first met Starry Night and her husband, Dutch Dave, SASS #12879, at a match in Fredericksburg, Texas nine years ago. I went to that match by myself and knew none of the people there. Dutch and Starry invited me to join them for dinner at a local German restaurant, and I have enjoyed their friendship ever since. At the time Dutch was an officer in the Texican Rangers, and he greeted everyone with his jovial "Welcome to our range." Over the next few years I had the pleasure of shooting with them both many times. Even after Dutch stepped down from his office, he and Starry Night were regular attendees at Comancheria Days. This was Starry Night's first match since her illness. Her inner strength, perseverance, and the loving assistance of Dutch Dave took her through all 10 stages. She not only

won two side matches, but she was also recognized with the Spirit of the Game Award.

A full day of side matches were held on Thursday and again after the main match on Friday. So if you missed them, it was not for want of availability. There were the usual, fastest pistol, derringer, pocket pistol, rifle, and shotguns. Then there were the long-range events in the South Forty, out to 250 yards for big bore lever action and single shot. The wind was a hair on the brisk side Thursday, so many of the long shooters put this event off until Friday. That resulted in a waiting line at the Long Range stretching almost back to Tuesday!

You could also test your stamina on the "Trail Walk" and your nerve in what the Texican Rangers like to call "Blazing Saddles." This popular side match is kinda like a mounted trail walk. The "steed" is a saddled metal drum fixed to a cart that, in turn, is mounted on rails. These side match events did not pass without humor, though, as I recall watching one highly competitive shooter race down the "Trail Walk" only to have his holster rig at knee level before reaching the first set of targets!


The main match, kicked off by Match Director Sheriff Robert Love, SASS #8960, commenced on Friday morning with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer under beautiful cool Texas skies. The targets, while big and close, were nonetheless

challenging. The stages were written and designed by Sheriff Love. Many were based on silver screen oaters and characters that do not turn up often in matches I have attended, such as Walter Brennan in *The Westerner*, the original 3:10 to Yuma with Van Heflin, Randolph Scott in *Riding Shotgun*, and Gary Cooper's *High Noon*. Of course, there were also exploits of Quigley, Eastwood, and Bat Masterson.

Now the Sheriff likes to add some extras to his stages by requiring shooters to perform actions other than just plain shootin'. Some might not like those little twists, but to me they add the flavor of fun, even when required to be performed "on the clock." Such activities included shooting a bow and arrow as Arthur Hunnicutt in *Eldorado* on Stage 2, and bull-whipping a gun out of the bad guy's hand as Lash Larue on Stage 6. For those stages, successful execution of the extra activity earned the shooter a bonus.

On Saturday, the main match continued with still fair weather, starting out cool and warming up a bit as the morning sun climbed higher in the sky. At the conclusion of the main match shootin', the scores were tallied by Fatal Star, SASS #40039, in preparation for the evening festivities. The Saturday night awards banquet was held again at the nostalgic Nelson City Dance Hall in Welfare, Texas. This is becoming a Comancheria Days tradition, as this was the fourth year the Texicans returned to this venue. Nelson City

Dance Hall was first opened in 1929 by local rancher, Edwin Nelson, at the junction of two old highways, and became known as Nelson City. Although it appears on maps, it has never had a Post Office and has never been incorporated. The present dance hall and bar includes a replica Old West town that serves as a social area outside the dance hall. And, the décor of the hall is as Western as it gets. The dinner consisted of melt-in-your-mouth Texas-style barbeque brisket, and entertainment provided by emcee Handlebar Bob, SASS #4650, who also assisted Red Scott, SASS #40038, in presenting the awards. Mixed in with the awards were stretch raffles for guns and other prizes provided by the Texican Rangers as well as from match sponsors, Cimarron Firearms and Dry Gulch Mercantile.

Comancheria Days continues to be a match in the "Old West" tradition—from the Stieler Ranch location to the awards ceremony in a western town and dance hall. Especially when the Texas weather cooperates, you can't find a better spot for fun with a gathering of some of the best cowboys and cowgirls from all over. And in 2010, Comancheria Days will also be the match to decide the Texas State Championships. So mark your calendars for April 29 through May 2, 2010. Plan to come shoot with the Texican Rangers and help celebrate Comancheria Days! You can check their website for more information at: <http://www.texicanrangers.com/>. 

Winners		F Cartridge		Side Matches		Fastest '87 Shotgun	
<b>Categories</b>			Doc Horsecutter, SASS #70785	Long Range Single Shot		Man	Dutch Van Horn, SASS #51153
<i>Buckaroo</i>	Indian Ray, SASS #70733	<i>F C Duelist</i>	Yuma Jack, SASS #11261	Man	Picosa Kid		
<i>Buckarette</i>	Paloma	<i>Duelist</i>		Lady	Irish Gypsy, SASS #36887	Lady	Starry Knight
<i>Junior</i>	Wrangler Ryan, SASS #72685	<i>Man</i>	Texas Slim, SASS #43510	Long Range Lever		Man	Phantom
49'er		<i>Lady</i>	Lady Wolf Rambo, SASS #36713	Man	Boot Strap Richard, SASS #79130	Lady	Lady Wolf Rambo
<i>Man</i>	Joe Darter, SASS #38268	<i>S Duelist</i>	Texas Mac, SASS #43494	Lady	Starry Knight	Fastest Hammer Shotgun	Dragon Hill Dave, SASS #59561
<i>Lady</i>	Idaho Sue, SASS #38585	<i>Gunfighter</i>		Man	San Gabriel, SASS #48081	Man	Picosa Kid
Senior		<i>Lady</i>	Dee Horne, SASS #25603	Lady	Yankee Texan, SASS #56796	Lady	Irish Gypsy, SASS #36887
<i>Man</i>	Hopalong Herbert, SASS #53264	<i>Cody-Dixon</i>	Rowdy Yates, SASS #141	Fastest Rifle		Derringer	
<i>Lady</i>	Kow Katcher	<i>Lever</i>	Double Down Dan, SASS #36183	Man	Phantom	Man	Waterloo Blue
<i>Silver Senior</i>	Alley, SASS #18036	<i>Single Shot</i>	Big Iron Patnode, SASS #60632	Lady	Kow Katcher	Lady	Yankee Texan
<i>E Statesman</i>	Ed Sieker-Texas Ranger, SASS #15960	<i>B-Western</i>	Wild Bill Munch, SASS #49702	Fastest SxS Shotgun		Man	Texas Slim
<i>Modern</i>	Picosa Kid	<i>C Cowboy</i>		Man	Cob-Eye Zack, SASS #19609	Lady	Fatal Star
<i>Traditional</i>				Lady	Kow Katcher	Blazing Saddles	
<i>Man</i>	Waterloo, SASS #46072					Man	Picosa Kid
<i>Lady</i>	Kate Wyatt, SASS #38826					Lady	Kow Katcher
<i>Frontiersman</i>	L.W. Hannabass, SASS #27436						



# MINI SHOOT ADDS TO THE 2009 DURANGO HERITAGE CELEBRATION

By Mad Dog Too, SASS #2814

Cowboys dream in color. If they are from the Durango, Colorado area, they dream of cowboy heaven. One of the most beautiful spots in the world, Durango is the epitome of the western life style. Durango with its historic downtown, filled with turn of the century charm and splendor, is on or should be on everybody's "Bucket List." Durango is also known for its historic narrow gauge steam train that travels through the San Juan Mountains from Durango to Silverton; a great way to see the scenery the Four Corners has to offer.

The Four Corners Gunslingers, with the capable help of Ramblin' Rose, SASS #2811, created a formula for a SASS Cowboy Action mini-match that is hard to beat. After moving to Durango three years ago, Ramblin' Rose became involved with Mrs. Camp's Town Ladies and the Durango Heritage Celebration. Ramblin' Rose and her husband, Mad Dog Too, felt a western celebration would not be complete without a SASS shooting event.

This year was the first Durango Heritage Celebration Cowboy Action Mini-Match. There were six stages, with enough action to keep everyone on their toes. The day started with a typical cool Colorado morning; by the time the first shot went down range, most competitors were down to their shirtsleeves. Every SASS category was recognized with beautifully designed awards down to third place. With careful category picking, almost everyone won an award and a door prize. Shooters came from as far away as Missouri, California, and Montana.

The award ceremony following the match included a BBQ lunch provided by Appa Lucy. Great friends, great food, and a great day; it just doesn't get any better! Be sure to save the dates for next year—October 7<sup>th</sup> to October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Remember, shooters who register for this match also have the opportunity to take part in numerous other Old West and Victorian activities that make up the Durango Heritage Celebration. For more information, visit

<http://www.durangoheritagecelebration.org/>.



Durango feels Cowboy; a stroll down historic Main Ave in your cowboy duds cannot be beat. Mesa Verde National Park is short drive away; it is known for its phenomenal views of primitive history in the area. A train ride to Silverton is a memorable day not to be missed. Durango, with more restaurants per capita than San Francisco, has food for the most discriminating taste. Please try to join us for this fun-filled and historic event next October. You won't be disappointed, whether you're a shooter, a Victorian lady, or just anyone who loves this period in America's history.



## Winners

<i>Wrangler</i>	Colorado Blackjack, SASS #58441
<i>Silver Senior</i>	Cerveza Slim, SASS #9724
<i>Buckaroo</i>	Young Gun Lyle, SASS #81108
<i>49'r</i>	Durango Pointman, SASS #81107
<i>L Wrangler</i>	Palisade Peach, SASS #58442
<i>F Cartridge</i>	Honest John Sparks, SASS #19102
<i>L 49'er</i>	Stumble Leena, SASS #35071
<i>Senior</i>	Longshot Larry, SASS #46460
<i>C Cowboy</i>	Largo Casey, SASS #19191
<i>F C Duelist</i>	Big Sage, SASS #49891
<i>B-Western</i>	Hopalong Cassidy, SASS #777
<i>L Senior</i>	Kitty Newton, SASS #60664
<i>E Statesman</i>	Old Gun Diego
<i>S Duelist</i>	California Franz, SASS #3107



# RANGE WAR 2009

By R.J. Law SASS Life #15466

**Port Huron, MI** – The Wolverine Rangers had another successful SASS Michigan State Championship/Range War over Labor Day weekend. Two hundred forty one shooters came from the states of Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Indiana, and New York, along with 29 shooters from Canada over the Blue Water Bridge near beautiful Port Huron, making Range War truly an international shoot. Congratulations to Overall Winner and Michigan State Champion, Colt McAllister, SASS #13823, and to Michigan State Ladies Champion, KJ Stevens, SASS #62782. Congratulations also to all of our category winners and all other winners.

One of the “perks” of being the Captain of the Wolverine Rangers is I get to pick the theme for Range War. Each year I try to “feed” the cowboy in all of us by selecting an interesting theme for the story lines on our ten stages. In 2007 we used the western movies of native Michigan son, Tom Selleck. In 2008 we paid homage to the great and one time Western writer, Dutch Leonard (3:10 to Yuma, Joe Kidd, Hombre, and others ...) who resides in Oakland County,

Michigan. This year we decided to honor the courageous men and women of Buffalo County, Wyoming who fought the big ranching interests (mostly foreign owned) in the Johnson County War and the Invasion of Johnson County, Wyoming.

The small family Johnson County ranchers banded together to repel an invasion of 50 armed “Regulators” who were hired to “replace” the Buffalo County, Wyoming government with interests loyal to the large cattle interests in 1892. There was also rumored to be a “dead list” with approximately 30 names on it, including the Sheriff of Johnson County, William “Red” Angus, and the foreman of the Small Ranchers Stock Grower’s Association, Nate Champion.

The Johnson County War and the invasion of Johnson County is a prime example of the courage, fortitude, and rugged individualism that typifies the American persona. We were proud to honor these courageous men and women in our 2009 Michigan State Championship, amply called Range War.

Now I know (and Match Director Deuce Stevens, SASS Life #55996, frequently reminds me) most top shooters ignore the story lines that



**Colt McAllister and K.J. Stevens—  
Michigan State Champions and  
Overall Match Winners.  
Congratulations!**

accompany the shooting scenarios for stages in major championships. Many of the best shooters focus on the shooting scenario and often don’t even read the storylines. My theory is if anyone really cares to spend the time to read our story lines (which

Posse Marshals do not read out loud before each stage), we want them to be entertaining, educational, and perhaps even relevant. Besides, it is the average shooter who pays the bills. Anyway, enough about our story lines, now about our shoot ...

This year we continued our tradition of posting the shooting scenarios (and story lines) for all of our stages on our website at [www.wolverinerangers.org](http://www.wolverinerangers.org). Our primary purpose is to promote the Michigan State Championship and to get shooters thinking about Range War. All of our stages are posted approximately two weeks before Labor Day weekend, and several of our local clubs use the shooting scenarios for their local matches that precede Range War. This helps to generate excitement for Range War among our shooters. We will post all of our shooting scenarios and the entire Shooter’s Handbook approximately two weeks before 2010 Range War, which will take place on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>. Shooters will be able to download the entire Shooter’s Handbook from our website before coming to Range War if they so choose.

*(Continued on next page)*

WINNERS		C Cowgirl		49er		MI Champ	
<b>Michigan State Champions &amp; Overall Match Winners</b>		<i>1<sup>st</sup> Place</i>	Red Dooley, SASS #80398	<i>1<sup>st</sup> Place &amp; MI Champ</i>	Doc Noper, SASS #65017	Frontiersman	Hondo Dan, SASS #45041
<i>Man</i>	Colt McAllister, SASS #13823	<i>Cowboy</i>	Deuce Stevens, SASS #55996 Life	<i>L 49er</i>	Honey B. Quick, SASS #47009	<i>1<sup>st</sup> Place</i>	Marcus Allen, SASS #4357
<i>Lady</i>	K.J. Stevens, SASS #62782	<i>Cowgirl</i>	K.J. Stevens, SASS #62782	<i>MI Champ</i>	Ledge Lady, SASS #61439	<i>MI Champ</i>	Mike Fink, SASS #39047
<b>Categories</b>		<i>1<sup>st</sup> Place &amp; MI Champ</i>	Doc Roy L. Pain, SASS #28321	<i>F Cartridge</i>	I.M. Crossdraw, SASS #8321	<i>Gunfighter</i>	Lassiter, SASS #2080
<i>Buckaroo</i>	Mini Doc, SASS #82314	<i>Duelist</i>	Jackee Dee, SASS #68882	<i>1<sup>st</sup> Place</i>	Slippery Pete, SASS #40726	<i>1<sup>st</sup> Place</i>	Cayuse Jack, SASS #19407
<i>B-Western</i>	Faygo Kid, SASS #26408	<i>1<sup>st</sup> Place &amp; MI Champ</i>	Deuce’s Uncle Johnny, SASS #61848	<i>MI Champ</i>	Miss Elaineous, SASS #45042	<i>L Gunfighter</i>	Laporte Lil, SASS #33413
<i>L B-Western</i>	Pearly R. Ma Teeth, SASS #29198	<i>L Duelist</i>		<i>L F Cartridge</i>	Stone Creek Drifter, SASS #58853	<i>1<sup>st</sup> Place &amp; MI Champ</i>	Two Rig A. Tony, SASS #54423
<i>MI Champ</i>	Pinky Buscadero, SASS #74038	<i>1<sup>st</sup> Place &amp; MI Champ</i>		<i>F C Duelist</i>	Tacoma Tad, SASS #38282	<i>Senior</i>	
<i>C Cowboy</i>	T-Bone Dooley, SASS #36388	<i>E Statesmen</i>		<i>1<sup>st</sup> Place</i>		<i>1<sup>st</sup> Place &amp; MI Champ</i>	
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Place</i>	Ethan Callahan, SASS #41005	<i>1<sup>st</sup> Place &amp; MI Champ</i>		<i>MI Champ</i>	Split Rail, SASS #24707	<i>L Senior</i>	Katie Callahan, SASS #23077
				<i>F C Gunfighter</i>		<i>1<sup>st</sup> Place</i>	Smokin’ Iron, SASS #22149

(Continued from previous page)

Deuce Stevens was Match Director again for Range War, and he did another superb job. Anyone who is successful at anything has a certain degree of an obsessive-compulsive element to their nature. Match Director Deuce Stevens is no exception. Deuce is a perfectionist when it comes to stage design. He thinks and re-thinks the scenarios to ensure the stages are safe, fair, interesting, and fun to shoot. Deuce's wife, KJ Stevens, also plays an important role in helping to design the stages and in the process as a whole. It really is a partnership between them.

Our mission each year is to make sure that Range War is a competitive and fun shoot for anyone who wants to come to participate in our annual match. We know we are in the entertainment business. We want our shooters to have a fun weekend, good food, good entertainment, and friendly competition with their pardns in a stress free environment.

On Thursday, multiple World Champion T-Bone Dooley, SASS #36388, held a shooting class aided by Fish Creek Charlie, SASS #71950, and Ringo Fire, SASS #46037. The class was full and everyone who attended came away with some new insight on what it takes to compete at the highest level.

On Friday, we had our first Wild Bunch mini-match along with our normal side matches. Saturday morning our opening ceremonies commenced at 8:30 a.m. with the safety meeting given by Match Director Deuce Stevens and an opening prayer by First Lieutenant Bad River Marty, SASS #23076. We then shot five stages on Saturday in pleasant late summer weather.

(Continued on page 80)



<i>MI Champ</i>	Lucky Lennie, SASS #22244	<i>L Young Guns</i> <i>1st Place &amp; MI Champ</i>	Keel Over, SASS #41310	<i>Two-Handed</i> <i>Man</i>	Deuce Stevens, SASS #55996 Life	<i>Lady</i>	Ruby Red Jo, SASS #71481
<i>S Gunfighter</i> <i>1st Place &amp; MI Champ</i>	Bad River Marty, SASS #23076	<b>Side Match Winners 2009</b>		<i>Lady</i>	K.J. Stevens, SASS #62782	<u>LRR Pistol Caliber</u> <i>Man</i>	Fireball, SASS #7709
<i>S Senior</i> <i>1st Place</i>	K.C. Jones, SASS #39124	<u>Derringer</u> <i>Man</i>	Six Gun Scotsman, SASS #68879	<u>Speed Rifle</u> <i>Man</i>	Deuce Stevens, SASS #55996 Life	<i>Lady</i>	Ruby Red Jo, SASS #71481
<i>MI Champ</i>	Moe Gunns, SASS #26854	<i>Lady</i>	Honey B. Quick, SASS #47009	<i>Lady</i>	K.J. Stevens, SASS #62782	<u>LRR Rifle Caliber</u> <u>Lever Action</u> <i>Man</i>	Clint Chisum, SASS #42877
<i>L S Senior</i> <i>1st Place &amp; MI Champ</i>	Cactus Kay, SASS #15157	<u>Pocket Pistol</u> <i>Man</i>	Three Gun Cole, SASS #50738	<u>Speed Shotgun</u> '87	Lassiter, SASS#2080	<i>Lady</i>	Tessa Two Gunner, SASS #72924
<i>Wrangler</i> <i>1st Place &amp; MI Champ</i>	Colt McAllister, SASS #13823	<i>Lady</i>	Honey B. Quick, SASS #47009		Colt McAllister, SASS #13823	<u>LRR Single Shot</u> <i>Man</i>	Nunica Kid, SASS #68454
<i>L Wrangler</i> <i>1st Place &amp; MI Champ</i>	Tessa Two Gunner, SASS #72924	<u>Speed Pistol</u> <i>Man</i>	Ethan Callahan, SASS #41005	<i>Lady</i>	Katie Callahan, SASS #23077	<u>Cowboy Trap</u> <i>Team</i>	Slow Don, SASS #66977, & Mad Murray, SASS #45591
<i>Young Guns</i> <i>1st Place &amp; MI Champ</i>	Apache Wolf, SASS #65272	<i>Lady</i>	Jackee Dee, SASS #68882	<i>Lady</i>	Deuce Stevens, SASS #55996 Life	<i>Top Shooter</i>	Ethan Callahan, SASS #41005
		<i>Gunfighter</i> <i>Man</i>	Lassiter, SASS #2080	<i>Lady</i>	Honey B. Quick, SASS #47009	<i>Fun Game</i>	Sinola Kid, SASS #30558
		<i>Lady</i>	Laporte Lil, SASS #33413	<i>Man</i>	T-Bone Dooley, SASS #36388	<i>Singles</i>	Mad Murray, SASS #45591
				<u>LR Pistol</u> <i>Man</i>	Three Gun Cole, SASS #50738		



**SASS PRESENTS**

**HOOTEN**

**HOLLER**

**ROUNDUP IIX**

**The 2010 SASS Kentucky State Championship!**

**10 Main Stages**

**May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010**

Side Matches Friday April 30<sup>th</sup>  
SASS Rules Apply!



PLEASE print so that we can READ your information.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ SASS # \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please with \_\_\_\_\_

Match Details will be included in confirmation letter and online.

All SASS Categories will be honored. Please note that SASS has changed some categories. Categories with fewer than 3 shooters by April 10 may be changed.		Make checks payable and mail to: <b>Alan Billips</b> 115 Watercrest Circle Winchester, KY 40391 alanbillips@yahoo.com
Write in your CATEGORY HERE _____ (circle) Men or Ladies		
Junior and Buckaroo Cats main match entry is Free.		
Main entry	\$65 _____	
Unlimited Side Match Pass	\$15 _____	
Saturday Night Dinner at range	\$15 per person _____	
Weekend Dry Camping **	\$25 _____	
make reservation before sending camping money?		
Total \$ _____		

\*\* If camping, please contact Double Eagle Dave at 423-399-4146 to make reservations BEFORE sending money with application. Reservation MUST be made.

Additional Information about Hooten and the State Match including Maps, Hotel Info, Photos, etc. can be found at [www.hootenoldtown.com](http://www.hootenoldtown.com) or by calling Shotgun Red at 606-356-8772 contact email addresses are on the web site.

Enjoy the atmosphere of our western town  
 Range is located in McKee Kentucky 35 miles South of Richmond, KY  
 take highway 421 to McKee then 89 for 2 miles




**SASS Presents**

**"Green Mountain Mayhem"**

**The SASS 2010 Vermont State Championship**

May 28-30, 2010  
St. Johnsbury, Vermont

Match Sponsor: Moulton Lead  
([www.moultonlead.com](http://www.moultonlead.com))

Organized by The Verdant Mountain Vigilantes

Registration information:  
[www.greenmountainmayhem.com](http://www.greenmountainmayhem.com)  
or call: Three Barrel Chris at (802) 259-2631


Side Matches - Friday  
10 Stages - Saturday & Sunday  
Saturday Dinner included in Entry Fee



**Moulton Lead**







**Thunder Valley Days "XI" 2010**

June 24, 25 & 26, 2010


11th Annual SASS Maryland State Championship

Presented by the

Single Action Shooting Society

Atlantic Guns

Damascus Wildlife Rangery



All the fun and games, you can get in the Bucks and they just do the complete show.

Honoring the Wildlife Management Chapter of The Buck Nation League of America Inc. the match will be held at the Buck Nation League Wildlife Management Chapter 3016 Walden Hill Dr., 21711, near Damascus, MD. All SASS categories are available and SASS rules apply. You must be a SASS member, in good standing, to participate. Registration is limited to the first 500 shooters. Seating is on a first come basis. We have a minimum 650 rule and that also in 7 foot wells. **THERE ARE NO CATEGORY CHANGES AFTER YOU PICK UP YOUR SHOOTERS PACKAGE. A MINIMUM NUMBER OF 1 SHOOTERS REQUIRED PER CATEGORY.**

There is a 10:00 a.m. Thursday registration and 5:00 a.m. Friday. Friday will be the first 5 stages and a BBQ dinner at our BBQ bar included in the match fee. Saturday is the second five stages and the awards dinner at the bar hotel. The 10:00 a.m. registration fee includes: Free overnight parking, with no firearms, in available open rooms. Additional match details and schedule will be sent with your confirmation. Current category participants will receive the 10:00 a.m. registration fee. Current entries get to attend solo match shooting on Thursday, the BBQ on Friday and a shooter's lodge. Contributions must be a SASS Member and done in person on-site.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Alias \_\_\_\_\_  
 SASS # \_\_\_\_\_ Category 1st Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd Choice \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Use one form per shooter. Total all entries on the top applicable when there are multiple entries on the same check.

Phone (Not on web) (410) 271-1212  
 Cash payment of fees and other shooting equipment is fine. But you do not want to carry all the cash with you. Instead, you can use a credit card and then use a personal check to pay the rest. The cash that you use to pay your fees. Please verify that registered fees are being used for the match.

Fees (Main Match, includes the Friday BBQ)	Main Match T- Lead Shooter 50	\$90.00 =
(2nd Young Gun or Buckaroo is free)	Main Match Spouse 50	\$65.00 =
	Main Match VG (13 - 16) 65	\$45.00 =
	Main Match Buckaroo 13 & Under	\$15.00 =
	Pre registration Only 3 Stage Match	\$10.00 =
Late fee (Postmarked after June 1, 2010)	\$20 X _____ Per Shooter =	
	Saturday Awards Banquet 65	\$30.00 =
	Conventioner @	\$25.00 =
	<b>Total</b>	

**No refunds after May 30, 2010 all previous cancellations are subject to a \$25 processing fee.**

An affidavit with check payment to prove that registration fee has been paid is required for all categories except the 13 & Under, 13 & Under, and 13 & Under. All proceeds go to the Wildlife Management Chapter of the Buck Nation League of America Inc.

The location is the Holiday Inn (Huntingburg) at 1st, West 1st and Newberry Village Ave. The Holiday Inn has a new block of rooms at a second rate. Call 812-948-8952, and reserve your room for the match (Thunder Valley Days).

If you would like to be a sponsor or vendor, applications available on the web site or you can contact with the match office contact Charlotte, aka Chick (check out 2010 SASS 2010) by e-mail [904000@angersonline.com](mailto:904000@angersonline.com). Additional information a copy of the application which includes all directions are available on the web site.

THUNDER VALLEY DAYS WEB SITE: [www.WildlifeRangery.com](http://www.WildlifeRangery.com)

**Range War 2009 . . .**

*(Continued from page 79)*

On Saturday afternoon Mike Fink, SASS #39047, and Moe Guns, SASS #26854, ran our popular Cowboy Trap event. It is an annual tradition at Range War where our cowboys and cowgirls get to shoot their cowboy shotguns on the Blue Water Sportsmen's Association trap range. Also on Saturday afternoon, we had the charity raffle benefiting the Kimberly Anne Gillary Foundation. The mission of the Foundation is to donate automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and training to local Michigan high schools. One of the AEDs donated by money raised at Range War was used earlier this year to save the life of Larry Ratkowski, a Michigan grandfather who went to Hamilton High School to watch his grandson play in a baseball game.

After dinner on Saturday night The Dooley Gang put on their famous Karaoke show. T-Bone and Red Dooley, SASS #80398, did a great job aided by Fish Creek Charlie. The highlights of the Karaoke show included Deuce Stevens singing "International Harvester" and Lassiter, SASS #2080, singing "Riders In The Sky."

On Sunday we finished with our remaining five stages followed by our banquet at Alexander's. Our mission for the banquet is to allow some time

for our shooters to engage in some socializing before dinner and have an adult beverage or two, serve a good dinner, issue the awards and raffle prizes, and then get our shooters out at a decent time. We know some of our shooters plan on leaving after the banquet to go home, and many of our shooters tend not to be night owls. Dinner was served at about 6:00 p.m., and the awards presentation and pictures were completed at approximately 8:45 p.m. Raffle awards/door prizes included a new '73 Uberti Border Rifle (with an action job donated by Colt McAllister) won by Doc Molar, SASS #18470, from Indiana; a pair of USFA Rodeos won by Stranger, SASS #72244, from Michigan; and a Stoeger double barrel shotgun won by first time Range War shooter Skinny Bob, SASS #79601, who drove from Minnesota.

Everyone seemed to have a great time, and we look forward to having all of our shooters back and to meeting new friends in 2010. Our entertainment for 2010 will be multiple Western Music Association winner, Juni Fisher, who put on a great show in 2008. Please check out Juni's website at [www.junifisher.com](http://www.junifisher.com). We look forward to seeing everyone over Labor Day Weekend in 2010.

*Thanks to Tin Type Charlie, SASS #64685, and Artie Fly, SASS #25397, of Major Photography for the excellent photos. A*



**11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
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COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP**  
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All SASS rules and class dress rules apply

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Young Guns & Buckaroos	\$25.00 _____		
Thursday Night Shoot	\$7.00 _____	Sporting Clays	\$28.00 _____
SAT. EVENING BANQUET (not included in match fee. Free for Buckaroos and Young Guns)			\$20.00 _____
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SHOOT**  
May 21-23, 2010

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Use this as a warm up for the  
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Entry fee is \$55.00 and includes all matches plus Saturday  
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Entry forms and additions information can be found at  
[www.sjwf.org](http://www.sjwf.org) or [www.trbcas.org](http://www.trbcas.org), or contact  
Blanco Billy at [blancobilly@copper.net](mailto:blancobilly@copper.net)  
505-632-8743



## Miss Dorothy, SASS #18445 October 1, 1944 – August 20, 2009

By Slo Poke Sara, SASS #69250

**Donegal, PA** – On August 20, 2009, our club, River Junction Shootist Society located in Donegal PA, lost a wonderful friend.

I have known Miss Dorothy, Dorothy S. Wagner, for about 11 years. She was one of the first ladies I met at our club while I was just a mere observer of Cowboy Action Shooting™. After Miss Dorothy talked with me and showed me the ropes, she inspired me to give this a try, and before I knew it, I was hooked.

For over 15 years, Miss Dorothy fought a long, hard battle with breast cancer. She never gave up the fight and never complained. She always made time for the problems someone else was facing in their lives, putting her fight on the back burner. She had such courage and strength. If I am faced with such a fight, I hope I can be as strong.

If you have ever had the honor of having Miss Dorothy in your life, you are a very lucky person. I know I am, and I have wonderful memories of the special

times and laughter we have shared.

She was and always will be a very special friend to me and to all who knew



and loved her. Our “Happy Posse” at River Junction Shootist Society will not be the same without her, but we are very grateful for the time spent with her.

We take comfort in knowing Miss Dorothy is now at peace and not fighting this most terrible disease. I know she’s looking down upon us with her beautiful smile, and talking a blue streak about Cowboy Action Shooting™ to anyone in Heaven who will listen!

We love you and will miss you, Happy Trails, Miss Dorothy, until we meet again. 🤠



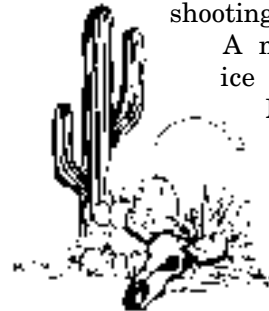
## TWO CALIBER FRANK, SASS #64408

By Headshot, SASS #57823

**St. Maries, ID** – Two Caliber Frank, Frank Williams, lost his battle with cancer March 25, 2009. He was quoted as saying, “I’ve been into guns since I was twelve years old, I just never got organized until April 2005.” That is when he joined SASS and the Panhandle Regulators at Plummer, Idaho.

Frank was always at the work parties, as well as at the shoots. He enjoyed the wonderful people he met at the matches and the shooting action.

A memorial service was held in Medford, Oregon, on April 3, 2009, at Hillcrest Memorial Park. 🤠



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## ART TO SHOOT NICELY, SASS #61875

December 29, 1954 – October 26, 2009

By Ozarks Ranger, SASS Regulator #39553

**Willard, MO** – It is with great sadness the Southern Missouri Rangers report the loss of one of their members, Art to Shoot Nicely, aka Earl Stoutzenberger, on October 26, 2009 after a sudden heart condition. Just days before, Art had been present at the Missouri State Shootout in Branson, Missouri. During the social event he portrayed Doc Holiday, which was enjoyed by all who were present.

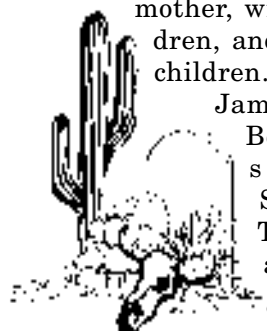


Art was a member of the Bolivar congregation of the Jehovah's Witness, Bolivar Chamber of Commerce, Ozark Professional Locksmith Association, and the Arabian Horse Association. He loved animals, and once said he was not a coddler of animals, but a watcher, instead.

being a member of SASS and The Southern Missouri Rangers, Art belonged to a local reenacting group called The Legends of the West. It is here, along with his wife of twenty-five years, Catherine, he got the opportunity to play, so explicitly, the character of Doc Holiday.

He leaves behind his father, mother, wife, three children, and eight grandchildren. His brother, James Dare Belknap, and son-in-law, Silent Thunder, are also SASS members. Besides

Art was a person who daily demonstrated the Cowboy Way. Soft spoken and with a great sense of humor, he was a pleasure to be around and shoot with. He will be missed not only by his many family members, but also his many friends with whom he shared his love of life. Happy Trails, Art ... until we meet again.



## LUCKY PETE, SASS #52143 (James C. "Pete" Wright)

May 26, 1936 – October 18, 2009

By Woodfox, SASS #34179

**Gibsonburg, OH** – The Sandusky County Regulators lost a member of our SASS family. Our pard, Lucky Pete, went to the trail in heaven.



Pete was a master mechanic for the trucking industry and faithfully served our country in the U.S. Army. He was a devoted Life NRA member, SASS, The North American Hunting Club, Sandusky Co. Sportsmans Club, and The East Toledo Baptist Church.

Pete loved Cowboy Action Shooting™ and always helped any time he was asked. Many times he lent a gun to a new shooter or anybody that had gun trouble. He helped us build our range, Stony Bottom, in the coldest days of the year. We even named a target after him, and he was thrilled.

Pete would have made Bill Ruger proud as he would only shoot Vaqueros. For all of us lucky enough to know him, he will always be in our hearts and prayers. So with heavy hearts we bid farewell and adios to our pard, Lucky Pete.

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\*\*\*

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Main match category \_\_\_\_\_ SASS # \_\_\_\_\_  
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*If registering more than 1 shooter, please submit a Registration Form for each shooter. We will be using the new SASS categories.*

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Awards – 2:00PM

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SASS membership required.

For more information contact Powder Wash Kid at 970-826-0150,  
E-mail: [wtowsy2009@yahoo.com](mailto:wtowsy2009@yahoo.com) – send application and check to:  
The Northwest Colorado Rangers  
2611 County Road 30, Craig, CO 81625



# BUNKHOUSE BIDNESS

By *Bad Penny, SASS #1453*



*Bad Penny, SASS #1453*



**R.T. Waters pauses for breath.**



**Sandytown originals: (left to right) Short Fused, Nervous Ned, Undertaker, and Slick Sid.**



## The Sandytown Boys

c/o Otter Valley Rod and Gun Club  
9908 Plank Rd., Eden, Ontario,  
Canada N0J 1H0  
Slick Sid (519) 866-5459

There can be no doubt Slick Sid, SASS #2563, is the Grand Old Man of Cowboy Action Shooting™ in Southern Ontario, Canada.

It was back in 1992 he and Nervous Ned, SASS #2652, began the area's first monthly Cowboy Action shoots at the Otter Valley Rod and Gun Club.

Mind you, neither of them had the faintest idea about what they were doing!

A lifetime shooter, Slick Sid had been active in handgun silhouette, shooting that sport until the sameness of it all bored him to tears. He turned to IPSC, which didn't bore him half so much as it made him mad.

"It was a lot of work, all of which the club had to do, and then the governing body of the sport took all the money," he says, still sounding aggrieved.

One day he was rocking on the porch trying to prevent his eyes from fluttering shut as he read, ".38 Special

vs. 9 mm" in *Guns and Ammo*. In the magazine was an article on Cowboy Action Shooting™. Here was something bright, shiny, and almost brand new, something he just had to show his pard in the Otter Valley club, Nervous Ned.

"Is this something we could do?" was the question. When no one said, "no," they were off.

They put steel silhouette targets out on the grass, walked back, loaded, knocked them over, unloaded, walked out, set them back up, and walked back ... and while they had a real fun afternoon, it was obvious there was room for some refinements. About the same time they met up with Loan Arranger (yes, he was an executive at a bank), from the Detroit Sportsmens' Club across the border, who was also hankering after a new and fun shooting sport to take up.

"We joined SASS to get more information," Slick Sid remembers. "We got that tiny little rule book (remember how thin that used to be?) and a club start up package that was, back then, just a

series of photographs."

That's when they became Slick Sid, Nervous Ned, and Loan Arranger, and the Sandytown Boys were born.

They moved fast. The series of photos were taken to a foundry, and steel targets were made—not big targets mind you, the smaller ones were cheaper, naturally, and props were carpentered together and collected. A steam engine with a real ringing bell, outhouses, barber's chairs you could be placed in with hot towels over your face so you couldn't see anything until the buzzer went off, picnic tables that could be made into wagons with a seat, fake wheels, and some barrels on them, and Ole Splinters, a fine wooden steed fit to ride the river on.

This was close enough to the Big Bang at California's Coto Cowboys that started the whole Cowboy Action Shooting™ thing, so there was hardly any competition for these hardy pioneers. All they had to do was toss a coin for monthly matches to be sched-

uled at DSC on the second Sunday of each month and hosted by the Sandytown Boys on the fourth Sunday. Posses of Canadian and American cowboys trailed across the international border to the only Cowboy Action shoots for miles around. Sometimes there were more Americans at the Sandytown shoots and more Canadians at DSC, but they were all 100 per cent cowboy!

The Next Big Thing was a no brainer. A Can/Am annual two day shoot. The Labor Day weekend was deemed perfect. Six stages on Sunday at Sandytown, six stages on Labor Day at DSC. That happened once, and a little imagination will tell you why it was a one off. Imagine setting up and shooting a six stage match, casing the guns and loading them and the ammo into cars, tearing down the steel, throwing tons of targets into trailers, and heading for the border as the sun was setting!

There was no delay at the border. The world was different back then and



**Slick Sid shows how it's done.**



**Buckaroo Gunsmoke Creek on Ole Splinters.**

much friendlier to cowboys. After sending out for pizza, it was party time at the Holiday Inn.

Next morning it was up and off to the range to set up six stages as the morning mist rose from the berms. By the time all the baddies were dealt with and the steel back across the border and stored, everyone was wind broke, spavined, and caked between the cheeks.

It was unanimous: "Never again!"

Another coin toss decided the next year's Can/Am would be hosted by the Sandytown Boys. The one after that at DSC.

It was time for another Big Thing. Gathering up 10 to 15 cowboys from wintery Ontario, Michigan, and Ohio, and flying down to big annual shoots in The Real Southwest. The first was Plum Creek in Schulenburg, Texas with a truly magical few days in San Antonio. The cowboys spent the time visiting The Alamo and hiring a boat to cruise the river between courses at selected restaurants, accompanied by a tin bath full of beer and ice. Black Jack McGinnis had us agape at his shooting. Next was Winter Range at The Ben Avery Range by Cave Creek, Arizona. Here China Camp reigned supreme. On one stage he mounted a wooden horse, shot his pistols, and reached for his trusty Winchester. Click. He had not loaded it. He loaded it from his belt, cleaned the stage, and came in 49th out of around 500 shooters for that stage! He had been first at every stage until then. He also won the match handily. That is when many of us decided to make costuming a larger part of our Cowboy Action Shooting™ endeavors.

It is hard not to look back on those years as a golden age. But, it was quickly coming to an end. The matches down south had all been three day, even four-day events. When it came DSC's turn for the Can/Am they insisted on a

three-day event and that caused a rift between the two clubs that never healed. It wasn't the only reason, though. Clubs were springing up all over Michigan and Ontario. Soon the Wolverine Rangers would bind the Michiganers together in a wonderful organization, which many Canadian cowboys joined and belong to to this day. It produces the annual Range War that is an annual must shoot. With matches every weekend close to home, there was no need to cross borders, which became harder and harder as the world become more and more insane.

There are two kinds of match directors. The "big and close" adherents have the upper hand today and probably for good. The other kind I call the golf course designers—keen to place sand traps, water, and all manner of obstacles between shooter and target.

"I guess you could put me down as an old time cowboy shooter," says Slick Sid. He still has a hard time not putting up some wooden latticework for you to poke your rifle through to shoot. Of course, it is always too high or too low for comfort. And if he learned a cowboy had very tight and hard to pull on boots, he would design a stage where you rushed out of an outhouse and put on your hat and tugged on your boots on the clock before touching a gun. Your reward was watching him doubled up laughing at the sorry mess you were in!

Slick Sid's was not the only laughter complementing the ring of steel at the Sandytown matches, though. Whole stages were shot from the hip causing near apoplexy. Once there was a shotgun suspended under a draped table a la Tombstone. No one hit anything with it to Slick Sid's huge delight.

"I remember those IPSC shooters," he says by way of a defense, "with their extra capacity mags, red dot scopes, and compensators. It was just



**Preacher Wadi (center) blessing the Can/Am founders, Loan Arranger (left) and Slick Sid (right).**



**Lady Champion Victoria Secret charges the villainous McFaggins on Ole Splinters.**

stand and rip, and they were done. And, I'm not a fast shooter."

Whoa Nelly! He's not called Slick Sid for nothing. He is an elegant, smooth, deadly accurate shooter and fast enough to have won the Senior category in the 2003 Canadian Championships in Alberta. Just don't get taken in by his practiced poker face.

And, he has changed with the times. Winter Range all those years ago was the first sign of the future. It was the first match the Sandytown Boys had been to that someone on a golf cart went from stage to stage hustling posses along to get the mass of shooters through the match efficiently and on time.

Sandytown's targets are big and close these days, though the temptation is strong within Slick Sid to meddle. And, the club layout has been transformed with

new bays and berms. But some traditions are immutable. The annual Halloween pumpkin shoot, wherein vast pumpkins are reduced to thin slivers of orange mush by four man teams of shotgun wielding cowboys is still a great delight to all.

"Call me middle of the road, now," he grins. "And, it is really darned amusing to see the hot shots miss those big, close targets."

Cowboy Action Shooting™ is still giving Slick Sid his monthly chuckles every fourth Sunday from May to October. *J.*



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# U.S. COWBOY LONG RANGE AND TRAP CHAMPIONSHIPS

By O Bar Freddie, NMTG, SASS #22369



The Tres Rios Bandidos of Farmington, New Mexico Territory, are hosting the first U.S. Cowboy Long Range Championship and U.S. Cowboy Trap Championship at their range September 23-26, 2010. The Long Range will consist of six targets from 300 yards to 800 yards for the single shot rifles and 10 shots at 400 yards for the lever action, rifle caliber. The single shot portion of the Championship will be shot as two matches with 30 rounds per match. It can be shot in one day or split and done over two days. The Championship will be the combined total of the single shot and lever action matches. SASS rules apply.

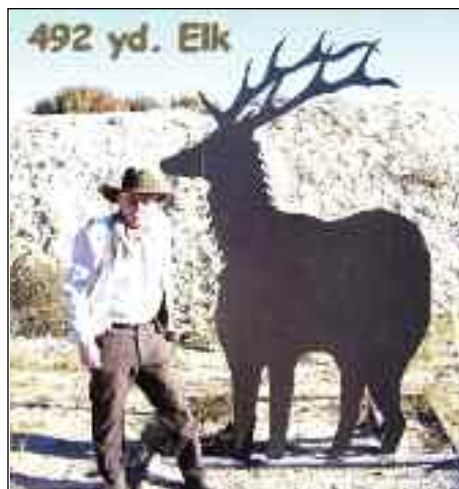
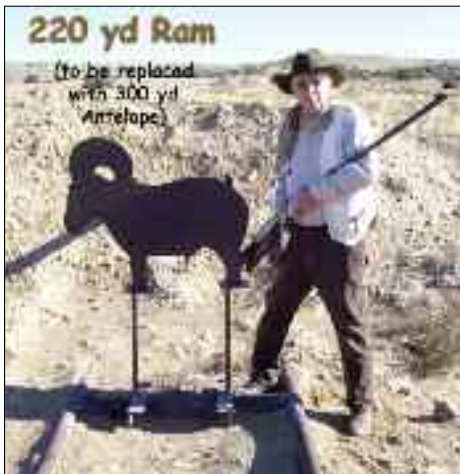
The U.S. Cowboy Trap Championship will consist of 100 targets shot from 16 yards. SASS legal shotguns must be used except doubles can have ejectors for this Championship. Legal shotguns will be available and a practice field will be open.

These Championships will be open competition. SASS membership is not required.

We will also be hosting our Eighth Annual Shootout at Three Rivers, a 10-stage match with side matches, speed shoots, and warm up stages. The Saturday night festivities will feature an open Chili Cooking Championship, pot luck, and open grill.

We will be holding our Fourth Annual Buffalo Shoot May 23, 2010. This would be a good chance to check out our Range and get some good sight settings.

Watch The Catbony Chronicle for ads and check our web sites [www.sjwf.org](http://www.sjwf.org) and [www.trbcas.org](http://www.trbcas.org) for the latest information.



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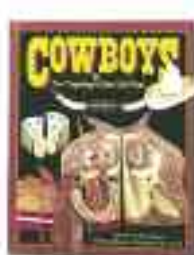
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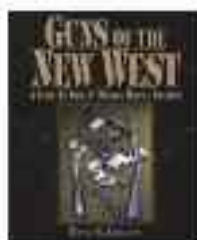
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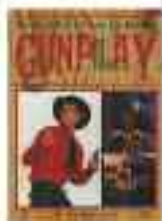
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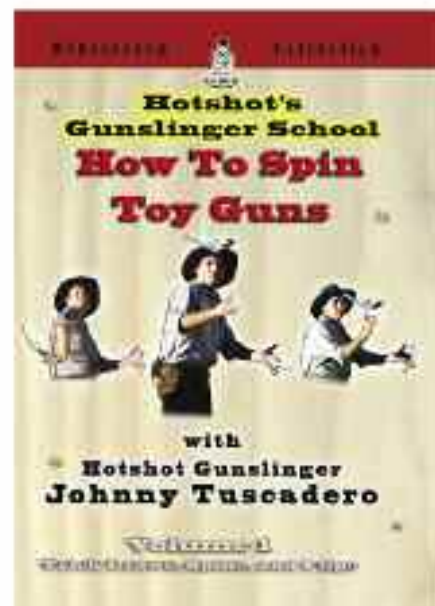
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■ The Single Action Shooting Society® is proud to offer Corporate Memberships to businesses involved in SASS® and Cowboy Action Shooting™.

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- Five SASS® Marshal Lapel Pins
- Five SASS® Decals
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