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(See pages 24, 25)



# The Cowboy Chronicle



The Monthly Journal of the Single Action Shooting Society®

Vol. 27 No. 11

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November 2014

# END OF TRAIL 2014

By Captain George Baylor, SASS #24287 Life Regulator

Photos by Black Jack McGinnis, SASS #2041, and Mr. Quigley Photography



*Cobra Cat shooting the Top Gun Shoot-off.*

*This 10-day event was blessed with wonderful weather, green hillsides, and exciting, competitive shooting. Cowboy Action, Wild Bunch, Plainsman, Mounted, Side Matches, and Shoot-offs rounded out the very crowded schedule.*

*Between shooting and shopping, there was plenty to do for everyone!*

**Founders Ranch, New Mexico, June 19-29, 2014.**  
If this were a Dime Novel about the old west it might start out something like this:

“I had ridden a long way, all the way to New Mexico, several miles east of Albuquerque to a lush, green hill  
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## SASS Cowboy Chronicle

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### Correction - OOPS!

On page 36 of the September Cowboy Chronicle, we erroneously reported "... Mini Doc, SASS #82314, managed to squeak by Maverick Mark, SASS #57134, to claim the top [Young Gun] honors." Maverick Mark was referenced in error and should have been Maverick, SASS #92789, from West Virginia. Maverick Mark reports he wishes he was still a Young Gun. Apologies to everyone.



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## The Cowboy Chronicle



### Editorial Staff

**Skinny**  
Editor-in-Chief

**Misty Moonshine**  
Managing Editor

**Tex and Cat Ballou**  
Editors Emeritus

**Adobe Illustrator**  
Layout & Design

**Mac Daddy**  
Graphic Design

**Prairie Mary**  
Advertising Manager  
(505) 843-1320 • Cell: (505) 249-3573  
Mary@sassnet.com

**Staff Writers**  
Capgun Kid  
Capt. George Baylor  
Chilkoot  
Col. Dan  
Col. Richard Dodge  
Joe Fasthorse  
Larsen E. Pettifogger  
Palaver Pete  
White Smoke Steve  
Wolverine Wrangler

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Chronicle Administrator  
215 Cowboy Way  
Edgewood, NM 87015  
(505) 843-1320  
FAX (505) 843-1333  
email: SASSCHRON@sassnet.com  
http://www.sassnet.com

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**WARNING:** Neither the author nor The Cowboy Chronicle can accept any responsibility for accidents or differing results obtained using reloading data. Variation in handloading techniques, components, and firearms will make results vary. Have a competent gunsmith check your firearms before firing.

**B**uckarettes Patina, SASS #76840, and Tornado Tucker, SASS #100747, enjoy a photo op at the 2014 END of TRAIL Mounted Championship. A full report on the event can be found in this issue.



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*Skinny*  
SASS #7361



# SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

*By Skinny*

This is already a big issue, with the extensive coverage of END of TRAIL 2014, so I'm not going to take up a lot of space this month with an editorial. Instead, I thought I'd take a moment to cover the old topic of how to submit an article to *The Cowboy Chronicle* for publication. Many requirements remain as they always were, while a few have altered somewhat due our new digital format. So here we go:

Please submit articles in MS Word or something compatible. Open Office and Apple Pages (saved as MS Word) are also fine. Size restriction used to be 800-1500 words, which is still a good target to shoot for, but we can accommodate larger reports in our virtual magazine, if the material warrants it. We may choose to break very lengthy articles up into two or more parts, to run in consecutive issues, however.

Please do not embed your photos in the Word document. They can be extracted for use in the *Chronicle*, but it can be a chore to do that. Instead, send your photos separately, in one or more emails, as attachments. Three to six photos per email usually works best. It's best to send JPEGs, but other formats are acceptable, and it's best to keep them at about 100 dpi and 1000 pixels (10 inches) on the short side. That will allow us plenty of leeway when it comes to cropping and adjusting them for publication.

Usually, a dozen or fewer photos are sufficient for an article, but as you can see from this issue's END of TRAIL reports, we will use many more for a "big" event. Photos need not have captions, but captions always make photos more interesting. Ideally, the caption would consist of one or two sentences that say something about the picture that

*(Continued on next page)*

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## 2014 EVENTS CALENDAR

### WEST COAST

2014 EVENTS SCHEDULE TO BE ANNOUNCED

### EAST COAST

2014 EVENTS SCHEDULE TO BE ANNOUNCED

### CROSS COUNTRY TRUCK

2014 EVENTS SCHEDULE TO BE ANNOUNCED





## Submission Guidelines . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*

is not obvious and/or is not implicit in the body of the article. "Sam making smoke" is a title but not a caption. "Sam, SASS #XXXXX, shooting his first black powder match; after much deliberation, he decided to give it a try and now he's hooked" is much better. A caption may also serve to let everyone know why the picture is worthy of being published in an international newspaper.

Short video clips may also be included. MPEGs, AVIs, WAVs, etc., may all be embedded in *Chronicle* pages, but keep in mind that these be viewable only in the digital edition, not in the archived PDF versions. A better option would be to post your video to YouTube and then provide us with the YouTube link. Those will be viewable even through the PDFs, provided the reader is connected to the internet.

The above is aimed primarily at match reports, but the basics hold for any type of article. Since taking over as Editor-in-Chief, I've had many inquiries on how to submit an article. Hopefully, this clears up most of those questions. Folks have also asked me how you get an article published in *The Cowboy Chronicle*. Without fail, my answer is, "Send it in."

Please submit all articles to my attention at [skinny111@icloud.com](mailto:skinny111@icloud.com).

—Skinny



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# END OF TRAIL 2014

*(Continued from page 1)*

more than a mile high. I was hot, tired, and dusty. So was my horse. I followed the trail up the hill and over the crest. Down the other side, short trees and bushes blocked the view of the valley below. Suddenly I could see the town. It was quite a sight. It was a boomtown, with brightly painted buildings as well as tents that had just been put up for the big week. It had everything a cowboy could hope for, five saloons, saloon girls, sutlers, stores and shops of all types, including several gun shops and gunsmiths, plus entertainment, medicine shows, trick shots, actors, musicians, and saloon girls. Did I mention saloon girls? The saloons ranged from the fairly genteel Belle Union, where dancers and musicians entertained, to the Happy Jack, where high stakes poker games took place without worry of card sharks or someone beating four aces with a Colt .45. Then there was the Gem, a ver-

itable den of iniquity. Ironically you had to walk past it to get to the beautiful chapel on the meadow.

“Just outside of town, on the ‘bad’ side, were the Long Hunter Saloon and Hot Tamale’s Cantina. Gun-fights broke out at both of those places with regularity. For that matter, a lot of gun-fights started in Taylor’s

Gun Shop. Hmm, come to think of it, there were about a dozen places where shooting went on almost all day. But in town a weary cowboy after a long trail drive could get new duds from head to toe before meeting those saloon girls. Anything we needed was here. All types were coming, drifters, outlaws on the run, bounty hunters, lawmen, soiled doves and saloon girls, school marms, gentlemen, scoundrels, and, of course, cowboys, lots of cowboys, all in search of adventure.”

The view from that turn in the trail is indeed breathtaking. This is where the heart of Cowboy Action Shooting™ beats.

By the time contestants started arriving people had been working on props, buildings, roads, signs, targets, etc. for some time. A remarkably small number of workers got the ranch ready for the event. Misty Moonshine, SASS #83232, said, “We may have a smaller team here at END of TRAIL than most large[r] matches, but we make one helluva team!” Yep, they do.

The first END of TRAIL™ was in California in 1982. This is the 33rd annual. It was in California through 2004 and moved to New Mexico in 2005. If you were last at END of TRAIL™ in 2005 you probably wouldn’t recognize the place. The improvements have been steady and impressive. I’m a relative newcomer. This was my tenth END of TRAIL™. It was the best I have attended. It was, in fact, so good, I’m going to break a general rule about reporting on events. Normally we emphasize the good things and gloss over or ignore the glitches. I won’t. Tex

instructed me to “tell it like it is,” so the warts will not be covered up. Make no mistake; it is my goal to convince you to come to END of TRAIL™ next year. The overall quality of this year’s event should convince you to come. The END of TRAIL™ organizers, officials, and workers have earned your participation next year. If you do, it will be the high point of your SASS year, perhaps your SASS career.

If you’re still mad about END of TRAIL™ leaving California, and some people are, it’s time to come. The

*(Continued on next page)*



*One of the newest additions to town is Chickaroo's Mercantile. Chickaroo is a local cowgirl and opens her shop for every match held at the Ranch ... her energy and enthusiasm is contagious ... and the Ranch is proud to have her!*

## ~ ~ ~ THE TOWN ~ ~ ~



*The bustling town provided everything a cowboy could want ... everything from duds to guns, places where grudges could be settled without hurting any of the “innocent” bystanders, dens of iniquity, and salvation for the soul on Sunday morning!*



## END of TRAIL 2014

*(Continued from previous page)*

statute of limitations has expired. If, in the past, someone treated you in a manner a paying customer should not be treated, if a worker or official was rude to you, if you were a vendor and were unhappy with something, come back. Time has passed. New people are running the event. Mistakes have



*Founders Ranch now has a 5-Stand and Sporting Clays facility ... and both were in operation during END of TRAIL. The 5-Stand competition was a three-person team affair ... and lots of fun once the rules were well understood! Seen here is the top scoring blackpowder team—Tex, Half-a-Hand Henri, and Mica McGuire.*

## WB SHOOTERS MEETING



*Wild Bunch™ Committee leader, Happy Jack, and Wild Bunch™ Range Master, Wild Bodie Tom, explain the “rules” in effect for this match.*

been corrected, some quite dramatically. Lessons have been learned. The Wild Bunch™ has changed. A new generation is leading. Come back. Why? You ask. Read on.

On Thursday, June 19th registration opened, and, up the hill, the Founders Ranch Shotgun Sports Club began hosting shotgun side matches with the Five-Stand Wild *(Continued on page 10)*

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# END OF TRAIL 2014

*(Continued from page 9)*

Bunch™ Team Clays Side Match and the Wild Bunch™ Clays Course Side match.

On Friday, June 20th those courses continued, and down the hill on the range the Wild Bunch™ Warm Up Match was held. At all of the warm up matches contestants shot at the same targets as on the main match, but with a different course of fire.

### Wild Bunch™ Match

The Wild Bunch™ Action Shooting Match was held over three days beginning Saturday, June 21; four stages a day. Wild Bunch™ is more grueling than the average Cowboy match. There are more rounds. The targets are farther away. The stages are more physically taxing. Most of the contestants appreciated the easier conditions. The shotgun side matches continued with the addition of the Wild Bunch™ Wobble Trap Two-Man Team Match. The other side matches were held, speed events: 1911 Speed Pistol, Speed Rifle, and Speed Shotgun.

### Wild Bunch Stages

Wild Bunch stages are not the same as cowboy stages. An example: Stage 5, Bay 5 required 25 revolver, 5 rifle,

and 8 shotgun. There were two fence shelves several yards apart. Starting position was standing anywhere between the shelves, rifle in hands. “With rifle engage the right dueling tree targets once each (must be hit to count).” A dueling tree is a rare species of really hard wood called *armorplatum indestructibilis* with a tall post in the center with little round targets hung out the sides so that when hit they fly from one side to the other, making it easy to tell when they’re hit. The rifle tree was further away than the pistol tree. “With the shotgun, engage targets.” (Unlike Cowboy matches, you get one shot at each shotgun target, no make ups. The shotgun starts loaded with six rounds maximum, so reloading two was required.) “Move to the left shelf and with your pistol engage the dueling tree targets once each (must be hit to count). Then engage all stationary targets at least three times each.” There were no make-ups for knockdown or dueling tree misses.

On stages where we shot at moving targets, in Wild Bunch™ we used the pistol. In cowboy we used the rifle, same distances. In most Wild Bunch™ stages we shot the rifle

*(Continued on next page)*

## WB SHOOTING





**END of TRAIL 2014***(Continued from previous page)*

targets with the pistol as well as the rifle. I can find no mention of any clean shooters in Wild Bunch™ in the results.

That evening at the Belle Union the Wild Bunch™ Shooters Dinner served the World Famous Green Chile Cheeseburgers. If you hadn't gotten familiar with New Mexico Green Chiles, you could leave them off, but where's the adventure in that?

Sunday saw four more stages and the shotgun side matches, including a Clays Side Match with Wild Bunch™ 97s and Model 12s, and another with Cowboy shotguns. A Bolt-Action Military Rifle Side Match at-



*After the first day's shooting, the Wild Bunch™ competitors gathered for a free green-chile cheeseburger social.*

tracted Springfield 1903s, Krags, Mausers, Enfields, etc.

Monday completed the main match, and the side matches included a Four-Person Team match.

Eighty-three contestants competed in Wild Bunch™. Unlike Cowboy, Wild Bunch™ has Men Only categories (no, I don't know why). Men's Modern drew the bulk, with 46 contestants. Men's Traditional (duelist) had 21. Ladies Modern had 13. Ladies Traditional had 3. Ladies, want an END of TRAIL™ buckle? Shoot Ladies Wild Bunch™ Traditional next year.

Simultaneously Cowboy Action Warm up matches started, four stages in the morning, and four in the afternoon. Next year, I predict when you enter, you will pick the warm up flight you want to shoot and an alternate, and when a flight fills up, you will be assigned to your alternate flight. On Monday only four stages were available for side matches because Wild Bunch™ was still going on. In the past, everyone who wanted to was allowed to shoot, making for really big posses, which didn't work. This made everyone involved angry. This time, the first 80 shooters were allowed, and the rest were angry. They could, how-

*(Continued on page 12)*

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# END OF TRAIL 2014

*(Continued from page 11)*

ever, shoot in the afternoon or on Tuesday. There were people who shot every flight they could. Yes, that meant some shot 8 stages in a day.

On Tuesday, all 12 stages were open for warm up matches. Then everyone who wanted to could shoot at least four stages. If you skipped the warm ups you could take an ROI course. There was an ROI course on Wednesday.

## WB TEAM



### Side Matches

Wednesday was side match day, and a long list of side matches occurred. One was the Texas Surrender Side Match. Texas Surrender is an oxymoron because Texans don't surrender. It means hands on your gun or guns, ready to draw. In this case it involved engaging a Texas Star target with your revolver, and four knockdown shotgun targets. The others were Worlds Fastest Cowboy (a 24-knockdown course using your main match guns), Pocket Pistol and Derringer side matches, Rimfire Revolver and Rimfire Rifle Side Matches, Speed Rifle Side Match, Double Barrel Speed Shotgun, 87/97 Speed Shotgun.

Long Range Side Matches included Single Shot Rifle—black powder and smokeless, Buffalo Rifle, Lever Action Rifle—rifle caliber and pistol caliber. Buffalo Rifle is distinguished from Single Shot Black Powder by the fact Buffalo Rifles are .40 caliber and larger.

### Cowboy Swap Meet

Simultaneously the first END of TRAIL™ Cowboy Swap Meet took place in the Belle Union. Simultaneously to that was the Plainsman Mini-Match.

## SWAP MEET



### Plainsman Mini-Match

And there's a story about the Plainsman match, which had one of those glitches. The Shooters Program had it at 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the schedule, but on the Special and Side Match page it said, "Meet Tex on Bay 3 at 10:00 a.m."

At the Shooters Safety Meetings for the warm up matches and the side matches we were told it was at 10:00 a.m. This was also posted on the bulletin board.

Unfortunately, the old military saying applied, "There's always that three percent who don't get the word." One of the ones who showed up late was Big Dave, SASS #55632, who decided to go over to the bay "early," and arrived just after 11:00 a.m. We had completed stages one and two and moved to the next bay for three and four. We induced Big Dave to shoot three and four. Seeing him shooting, Tex, SASS #4, said Big Dave deserved to be able to shoot the first two stages, too. So several of us volunteered to stay and help. We finished the match and went to the first bay... and the rifle targets were gone! They would not be used on the main match, which had no "long range" targets, so workers had taken them to the barn. T. A. Chance, SASS #4072 match director, stepped up and sent a crew to the barn to retrieve the targets and bring them down. So Dave got to shoot all 4

*(Continued on next page)*

## SIDE MATCHES





## END of TRAIL 2014

*(Continued from previous page)*



*Coyote Kay made a special appearance at this year's END of TRAIL. She presented a special \$1000 stipend in Coyote Calhoun's name to the top ranking SASS Scholarship candidate.*

stages. He wound up taking third in Plainsman Traditional.

Sadly, the shooters who arrived at 2:00 p.m. could not be accommodated. This won't happen again. We need all the Plainsmen we can get.



*Tex introduces the expanded SASS Board. Cat Ballou, Justice Lily Kate, and Misty Moonshine now provide additional leadership for the Single Action Shooting Society ... and their presence is already being felt!*

## Opening Ceremonies

That evening the traditional END of TRAIL™ World Championship Opening Ceremonies happened with the usual pomp and circumstance. The Star Spangled Banner *(Continued on page 14)*

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# END OF TRAIL 2014

*(Continued from page 13)*

at END of TRAIL™ is always stirring. This year Audrianna Aragon and Shannon Goldrick, both seniors at Moriarty High School, sang it. Then the flags of every



*The Regulator Class of '14. There were several more, of course, but these folks were present during the Opening Ceremonies. Regulators are the ones we all lean on to get things done!*

country represented came up to the stage accompanied by their country's national anthem. I will note that while all of the countries were well represented, Canada's Legendary Lawman, SASS #73160, in a perfect Northwest Mounted Police uniform stood out. Well, after all, it is a very colorful red uniform. One ceremony that gets me every time was when Tex invited all veterans and active service personnel to stand. The majority of the audience stood up. These days service to our country is rare, but not in SASS.



*Justice Lily Kaye presents the 2014 Spirit Award to Mose and Bella Spencer. Congratulations!*

Justice Lily Kate, SASS #1000, presented the 2014 SASS Scholarship winners. The SASS Scholarship fund has now given \$603,000.00 in scholarships to worthy students. The 2014 class of Regulators was named. Regulators

## SCHOLARSHIP



*Justice Lily Kate recognized two of this year's scholarship recipients who were in attendance ... Irish Leadlinger and Apache Wolf. Congratulations!*

are the people in SASS who make things happen. There are a lot of hard working SASS members who deserve that badge, but no one knows about them outside their own clubs. Get to work telling SASS about them, folks.

Then came the END of TRAIL™ Kick Off Party with hot dogs and hamburgers for all. The Andovers provided music on stage.

### Main Match

Thursday morning, after a 7:00 a.m. shooters safety meeting, the early wave posses started shooting the match at 7:30, on a cool, clear morning with a bright sun downrange. Yes, that meant black powder shooters got to see a large expanse of white smoke after the first rounds. Once you got past the first couple of stages, it was just another beautiful day in cowboy paradise. Low humidity

*(Continued on next page)*

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**END of TRAIL 2014***(Continued from previous page)***KICKOFF PARTY****PLAINSMAN**

and cool breeze makes for perfect black powder weather, and pretty good for the heathen smokeless shooters. The rain gods had been good to Founders Ranch, and everything that was dry last year was green and lush this year. The weather couldn't have been more perfect for END of TRAIL™ itself.

T. A. Chance, for the second year in the row, was the match director. T. A. is a meticulous, careful match director who knows what match features entertain and which ones just tick people off. He also knows how to make them all flow. How many matches have you attended where one or two stages just didn't fit in, say 10 speed shoots and two bulls eye stages? This wasn't like that. There were no choke points, no stages that didn't fit in. There were also no stages that you had to read more than once to understand, and no shooting orders you had to stay up studying

the night before.

Scoring was manual, no iPads in sight this year. It worked very well. Scoring guru CD Tom < SASS #10411, and crew did their usual great job.

Stage 9 is a pretty good example of how the stages worked. It was in the Long Hunter Saloon, one of three permanent "sets" built to professional standards and designed (very well) for shooting stages, not just looking good. Inside the building front is a large bar facing downrange. You started with rifle staged on the carpet at the right end of the bar, shotgun on the table left of the bar, and revolvers holstered. You started standing upright on your hind legs with both hands on a beer mug. It looked very realistic, with "beer" inside that bubbled realistically. But it was cleverly sealed and didn't pour out when the beer was knocked over. I kind of pitied the beer drinkers shooting this at 3:30 p.m.

The theme of the event was Dime Novels, and the "story" behind each stage read like a paragraph from a dime novel of the era. "It was a mighty fine day when I rode into town to see that yellow haired girl. But, when I walked into Long Hunters, there she sat with A. Z. Fulford, and they're looking mighty friendly. A. Z. was the meanest, lowdown skunk in town. Whoa, Hotshot Fulford was there, too, with his boys, Mean and Onry, and

*(Continued on page 16)***WWW. Western and Wildlife Wonders. Com**

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# END OF TRAIL 2014

*(Continued from page 15)*

right behind them was Major Fulford and his boys, Dirty and Evil. Now the Fulfords and the Johnson's don't have much use for each other, ever since my great grandpappy sold Foxie Fulford that blind horse. Looked like I best defend myself. THEM DANG FULFORDS!"

It's a gunfight

To start the clock you muttered, yes, muttered, "Them dang Fulfords!"

Now the beer mug was in your hands. Our posse marshal explained what he had been told at the posse marshal meeting. "If, when the stage is over, that mug has fallen off the bar..." shooters who didn't know T. A. Chance thought, here we go, procedural city. No, "...it's a gunfight." An audible sigh of relief penetrated our hearing protectors.

In front were three cowboys at rifle range, well, close rifle range. The middle one was Hoss Cartright size. "At buzzer with rifle engage rifle targets four shots on the middle rifle target, Then double tap sweep all three targets. Then, from any one spot along the bar to the table, with revolvers engage the revolver targets using same instructions as rifle. Shoot the four shotgun targets."

That's it. Some points to note: The "should be banned"

## MAIN MATCH



*TA Chance was again "the man" behind the Cowboy Action stage designs and the Match Director for the event. TA's matches always are fun to shoot, pleasing to the competitors, and run smoothly and on time ... as they did again this year. He'll return next year, but to help ease the burden on his broad shoulders, Lassiter has agreed to be his co-Match Director. It's going to be great!*



phrase, "from left to right" was missing. You could sweep from either direction. It's a gunfight. Also, you could shoot any firearm from any location. Yes, the rifle was staged on the right. You might want to shoot it there, but it didn't matter where your feet were. For revolvers, you

*(Continued on page 18)*

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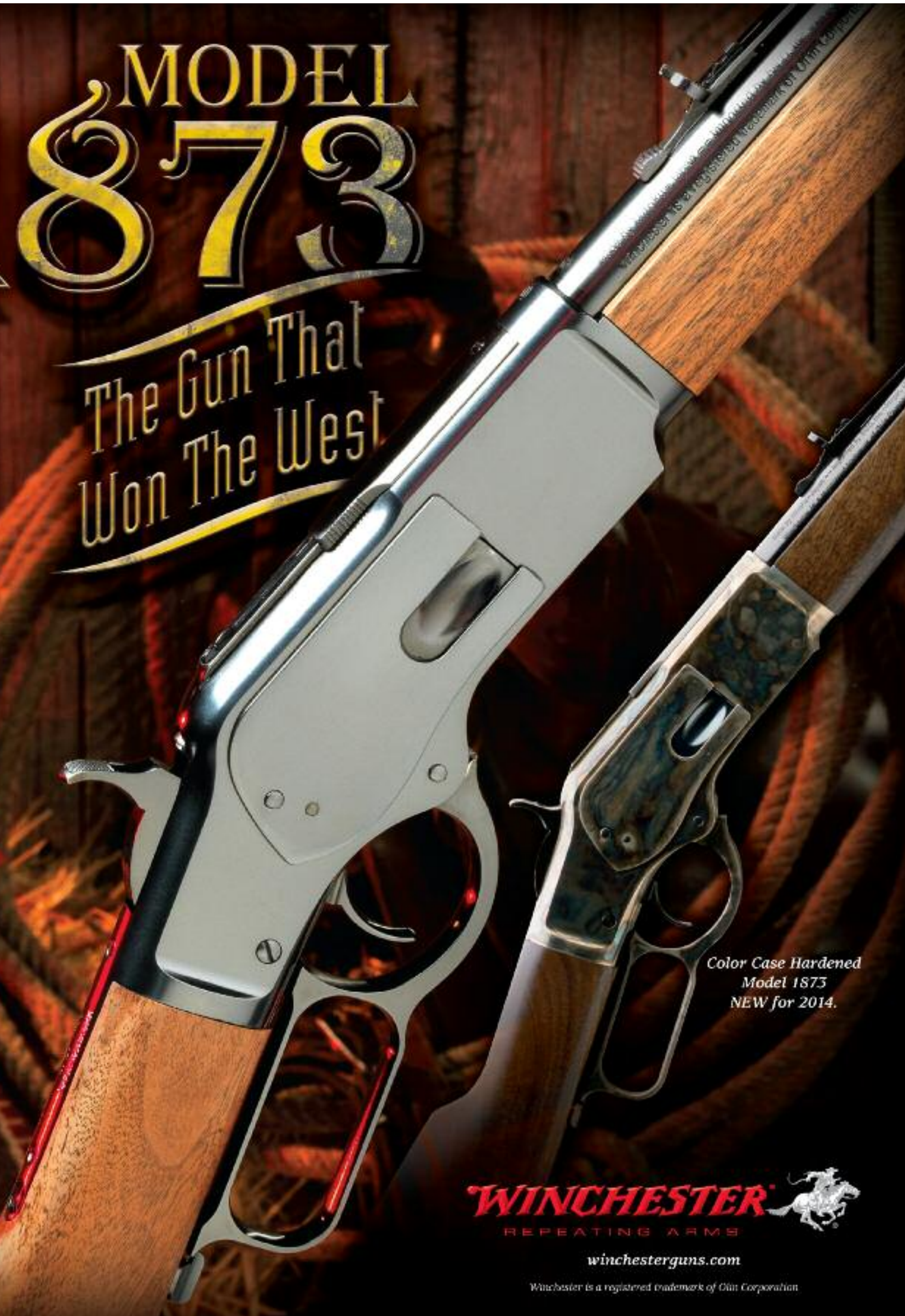
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# END OF TRAIL 2014

*(Continued from page 16)*

could go over to the table or stop along the way. The shotgun, well, you probably had to pick it up, but it didn't matter where your feet were. There are no foot faults in a gunfight. In all the stages there were as few instructions or restrictions as possible. You weren't told, "Restage your rifle." But you probably wanted to put it down before you shot the revolvers, so anywhere within the safety rules was fine. All of the stages went pretty much like that. Stage 10 had the (in)famous mover on railroad tracks, this year, appropriately, a locomotive. You shot it with the rifle. In the Wild Bunch™ match we had shot it with the pistol. If you want really difficult shooting tasks, you might consider shooting Wild Bunch™. Cowboy Action Shooting™ is for entertaining the paying customers, shooters. Ten to twenty people at END of TRAIL™ might be capable of being overall champion on their best day. If you write stages to challenge them, what does that do to the other 500 shooters?



It should be noted that 127 clean match pins were awarded. Those 127 will probably do their best to come back next year. Everyone likes getting a clean match.

### Categories

In the past controversy and sometimes hurt feelings occurred when participation requirements were put on sparsely attended categories. Bad idea. Basically, "If you come, we will build it." This year there was no talk of not having any of the "usual" categories, and the numbers to make a category were lowered. Misty Moonshine explained it this way: "We offer ALL categories... even Silver Senior Gunfighter. If, however, the category doesn't meet the minimum requirements (seven men/three ladies)... The category doesn't "make it" and the entrants in that category are moved to the next one (for example, if Tex signs up for Silver Senior Gunfighter, and the category doesn't end up with seven entrants, then he would be placed in Senior Gunfighter.)



The minimums didn't apply to the "over 75" categories. If you're 76 and can still shoot END of TRAIL™,

## MAIN MATCH



against youngsters. On the other hand, Junior Boys, Junior Girls, Buckaroo and Buckarette have no minimums, either. In this case each of those categories had at least eight anyway. But this meant Gran Patron (80+) and Cattle Baroness (75+) had categories with two shooters. Additionally, some age based categories you don't usually see had full plates. Silver Senior Duelist (65+) had 17. I suppose next year we will see Elder Statesman Duelist. Gunfighter continues to grow, with Senior Gunfighter (60+) 18, Frontier Cartridge Gunfighter 10, and still had 17 in Gunfighter.

### Choose your category wisely

If you're thinking, "Hey, I'll come next year if I can find a lightly entered category I qualify for." If you're a guy, well, "ain't gonna happen." Every category for guys under 75 and over 15 was heavy, just as it should be at the World Championship. Ladies, on the other hand, can expect to get a buckle if they enter Lady Gunfighter, Classic Cowgirl, Ladies Frontier Cartridge, and Ladies Frontier Cartridge Duelist because they usually have fewer than 10 contestants. I tried to enter Ladies Frontier Cartridge Duelist, but they said I had illegal equipment.



### 4H Club Brass Pick Up

Big matches are "lost brass" matches. It's been that way since before I joined in the last century. Picking up brass takes time, and big matches are trying to run a total of more than 500 shooters shooting four stages a day each, or more than 2000 stages shot per day. So it adds up. The plan has long been to have some group such as Boy

*(Continued on next page)*



## END of TRAIL 2014

*(Continued from previous page)*



*Badlands Bill (Bill Oglesby) is a fancy/trick shooter of world renown and an expert gunsmith/manufacturer. He provided another of his phenomenal shooting exhibitions during END of TRAIL.*

Scouts police up the brass, sort it, and sell it back to shooters after the match. But now not only is brass expensive, for some categories it's sometimes not available at all. There are people who want "their" brass back, not just any brass of their caliber. There are people who don't go to big matches over the loss of \$12 in brass. So SASS hired a local 4H Club full of energetic kids to police up the brass as we went along. It

worked so well it might spell the doom of lost brass matches. We tipped the kids, and they didn't have to sort and sell brass back to us. They got over \$3000, enough to fund their shooting program for a year, and we got "our" brass back. Oh, and everybody finished on time.

### Side Match Awards

Thursday night was Side Match Awards night. This is

## POKER TOURNAMENT



where I'll mention another "glitch." There were a lot of side matches. Wylie Fox Esquire, SASS #94735, was sure he had won first place in the difficult Long Range Single Shot Black Powder Rifle category. So he sat with his friends in order to bask in the brief glory.

Sadly, his category was not called at all. And getting the award the next day in private is not the same thing. So I'm noting it here in an effort to make up for it. Additionally, Tex said to tell you, Wylie, that at next year's END of TRAIL™, should you return, Tex will re-award first place Long Range Single Shot Black Powder rifle at the Wednesday night opening ceremony in front of several hundred people. So please come back.

This year's END of TRAIL™ Poker Tournament was in the Happy Jack Saloon. In years previous to 2013, the Happy Jack was reserved for VIPs. Now it is open to everyone.

Cowboy Scott Connors provided musical entertainment.

*(Continued on page 20)*

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# END OF TRAIL 2014

*(Continued from page 19)*

## Friday Shooting

On Friday we shot another four stages. I noticed a trend. Our posse finished ahead of the printed schedule for the second day in a row. This indicated well-written stages that didn't have any roadblocks. But finishing on time or early is a big deal at most matches and rarely seen. This was as smooth as I've seen at any major match.

It should be noted that in mid-afternoon the CEO of SASS, Misty Moonshine, showed up at our posse with a big tray and gave Trail Mix to all of us. The CEO!

## Soiled Doves, Derringers, Daggers, and Madams

The Derringers and Daggers Saloon Show and Soiled Dove and Parlor House madams costume contest highlighted Friday night's entertainment in the Belle Union. Free Margaritas added to the attraction. First prize in both

## SOILED DOVE



*Handlebar Bob has been MCing the Soiled Dove festivities for the past few years. It's obvious he's having way too much fun! He's seen here with the #1 Parlor House Madam and the #1 Soiled Dove. It's good to be the MC!*



categories was a Bond Derringer. Second was a Damascus steel dagger by Redwing, and third place received Redwing daggers. Judge Roy Bean, SASS #1, inventor of the Soiled Dove contest, told me once he envisioned it as the cowboy equivalent of a wet T-shirt contest. But SASS being the family sport it is, has caused it to evolve into a show that is, at most, PG. Artie Fly, SASS #25397, and Sexie Sadie Fly, SASS #25398, of Major Photography took photos of ladies and cowboy admirers.

Frederick Jackson Turner, SASS #28271, performed his unique style of music in the Gem Saloon. If you haven't heard it, you really should hear "The Wreck of the Old 97" and other SASS songs.

## Shooting Costume Awards

Friday night the shooting costume awards, both for the Wild Bunch match and the main match, and the Best Gun cart awards were given out. Cat Ballou, SASS #55, noted with some sadness that the popularity of the Rugged Gear and other commercially made "baby carriage" style of gun cart has caused the number of gun cart entries to go down dramatically. Perhaps this will encourage some of you to bring your Conestoga Wagon or War Wagon or buckboard gun cart next year.

## Vendors

The number of vendors was not as large as it was a few years ago when diesel was \$2 a gallon. But it was obvious that efforts to get vendors back were beginning to bear fruit. I talked with the folks at Bronco Sue Hatters, for example. They were lured back by lowered vendor fees and the fact that there was only one other hatter, stalwart regulars Colorado Mountain Hat Co.

I've been talking to every vendor I can get to for several years, and I note that some vendors are very successful, and some aren't. The successful vendors share some traits:

1. They have something SASS shooters want. The classic example is 2013's SASS Vendor of the Year, Cowboy Shooters Supply. The Brisco Kid, SASS #26032, and Kiamichi Queen, SASS #26033, sell guns, reloading supplies, gunsmithing services, hard-to-find ammunition (12 gauge Winchester AA Extra-Light Target rounds, for example), American Pioneer Powder, Federal Primers, etc. They're now the rep for American Pioneer Powder at END of TRAIL™.

2. They greet everyone who walks in. If they're busy, a nod, a wave, or "Be with you in a minute," works fine. Ignoring customers doesn't.



*During END of TRAIL the office staff take over special administrative and sales tasks ... and provide a bright, smiling face for our guests. Slipnoose, Roxie West, and Amber Oakley are seen here in the Mercantile.*



*The Tea Tent was a favored tradition at END of TRAIL in California. In the past few years it has been revived and is now once again a mature END of TRAIL attraction. Under the proprietorship of Sunshine Belle the Tea Tent offers a comfortable, cool respite from the heat and a chance to sit back and relax from the day's rigors.*

*(Continued on next page)*



## END of TRAIL 2014

*(Continued from previous page)*

3. They have signs outside. I counted four vendors I could only call "The store with no name #1," etc.

The food vendors were all friendly and hard working. For the second year in a row I lunched off the ice cream truck, Sky's Foods. We could use more food vendors.

This year, after U. S. Grant, SASS #2, "counseled me" about last year's article, I'll make sure I mention that all of the firearms manufacturers were represented. Diamond J Gunsmithing represented EMF quite well. Taylor's & Co. had their usual store, as did Ruger Firearms, Cimarron



Firearms, and Pietta. Bond Arms had a tent. Long Hunter Shooting Supplies was in their usual store.

The store next to the SASS Mercantile is now the home of River Crossing, a long time supporter of SASS. It was nice to see Miss Tabitha, SASS #26972, and Mad Mountain Mike, SASS #4385, had a permanent place for their wares. Their clothing is unique and seriously authentic, and they have sup-

*(Continued on page 22)*

## VENDORS



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# END OF TRAIL 2014

*(Continued from page 21)*

ported SASS in many ways for several years.

Redwing Trading Co., Buckaroo Bobbins, Dodge City General Store, White Wolf Trading Co., Chickaroo's Mercantile, and Old Scyene had old west clothing. There was room for more.

Bob and Sherri Mernickle, of Mernickle Holsters, had their usual booth, always a friendly, cheerful place. As usual Bob had some new items. He never stops improving his products. We'll get to them in a future Dispatches column.

Protect Ur Ears had a tent and was busy doing hearing protectors all week. Over by the Gem Saloon Doc's Old

## VENDORS



Slick Magic (Slick McClade, SASS #69490), and the Outlaw Gang (Colt Faro, SASS #54579) shared a tent. Slick put his Sure Hit Sights on my Vaqueros before the match, and Colt put in Shotgun Boogie short stroke kits Saturday night.

Of course the SASS Mercantile was in its usual spot and busy. Jim Downing, the Gun Engraver, was in his usual corner of Taylor's & Co. and constantly engraving guns.

The big, air conditioned Indoor Trading Post had several long time vendors, Earthwalkers, White Wolf Trading Co., Bullets and More, Hearing Protection Services, and Colorado Mountain Hats. Dillon Precision, a serious force in reloading equipment and long time sponsor was there as usual. Newer vendors Wilderado Silverworks and Body Bueno had booths there, too.

West was cheerfully selling chaps. Doc, a long time rodeo leather worker began to concentrate on SASS because the SASS customers were so friendly and nice. It has paid off. (Note Items 1, 2, and 3 in my list above.) END of TRAIL™ T-shirts, bags, caps, etc. were at Adventure Designs by Roger Peterson.

Yes, I'm sure I've missed some vendors. (See #3 above.) I apologize. They were all in the article submitted. They were edited out for space. That's my story, and I'm stickin' to it!

### Saturday Shooting

On Saturday came the last four stages. It was amazing how well the stages "flowed." Each was unique. Each followed the philosophy, "It's a gunfight." There were no spelling contests, no memory tests. People still screwed up

*(Continued on next page)*



**END of TRAIL 2014**

*(Continued from previous page)*

**VENDORS**



and occasionally, shot the wrong target, threw a rifle down and didn't notice the lever closed, or missed a giant target five yards away. You still needed to use your front sight. Shotgun targets were all knockdowns, no aerials. Altogether now, "It's a gunfight."

**Fast Times at Founders Ranch**

As you can imagine, with fairly big, reasonably close targets, there were some really fast times. The overall winner, Cobra Cat, SASS #19275, took 184.32 seconds to shoot 12 stages. That's an average of 15.36 seconds per stage. Matt Black, SASS #54580, had the fastest stage time of the match, winning stage 6 with a time of 9.42. Stage 6 was ambidextrous with 22 shots from two shoot-

*(Continued on page 26)*

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# END OF TRAIL 2014

*(Continued from page 23)*

ing positions about five yards apart. It was “easy” in the respect that it had “dumps” from the rifle and revolvers. But if you didn’t think, it was challenge enough for you, I ask the simple question? Was your time faster than 9.42?

Matt Black, by the way, won six stages overall, but on the first day an extractor failure gave him a 67-second stage and 501 rank points. He still won Junior Boys, which amazed him. Another former champion lost because of a split case. There is no room for error at END of TRAIL™. Murphy and his minions are patiently waiting to strike.

Fourth overall was Junior Girl Sass Kicker, SASS #91899. Yes, except for three guys, a junior girl beat us all.

Saturday night was the “EPIC Saturday night bash! The Dooley Gang hosts a Saturday Night Party worthy of the World Championships! Music, dancing, prizes, and fun!”

Speaking of prizes, a total of 40 guns were given away at END of TRAIL™. 40. Got that? 40 guns were given away at END of TRAIL™. I want to make sure you didn’t miss that while speed-reading the article. 40 guns!

Saturday night is when you dress up at END of TRAIL! making it the perfect night for the Best Dressed Costume Contest. The contest is concluded with a promenade of all contestants through the Belle Union. This is where the other partygoers see costumes that may have cost thousands and took years to perfect. Costumes are

*(Continued on next page)*

## TOWN SCENES





# END of TRAIL 2014

*(Continued from previous page)*

## TOWN SCENES



one of the things that make Cowboy Action Shooting™ unique among shooting sports.

The Dooley Gang is as well known for their legendary partying ability as for the number of World Champions in the original gang. The quality of END of TRAIL™ parties has benefited from their services.

### Shoot-Off Showcase

Sunday morning came the Sweet 16 and Top Gun Shoot-offs and Wild Bunch™ Action Shooting Top eight Men and Top eight Ladies. These shoot-offs were designed and executed in a manner that made them extremely exciting to watch. This is coming from someone

*(Continued on page 28)*



# END OF TRAIL 2014

*(Continued from page 27)*

who usually considers watching shoot offs as exciting as watching golf or curling. But the course of fire was very fast, all shooting, no gimmicks. The final between Holy Terror, SASS #15362, and Lead Ringer, SASS #87957, was so close that watching it from the balcony of the Happy Jack (as close as I'll get to a shoot off at END of TRAIL™), I couldn't tell who won. (The video is on my Facebook page, and probably other places. Maybe you can tell who won it by watching. Okay, spoiler alert: Lead Ringer won, but you can't tell from the video. The winner's final target falls first, and the loser's is on top, so there's no doubt.)

Then came the awards ceremony where 300-plus

awards were given out expeditiously. For a complete list of shooting results, visit <http://www.sassnet.com/EoT/>

Next year's END of TRAIL™ Match Directors were introduced, the legendary T. A. Chance and the legendary Lassiter, SASS #2080. The two of them should be able to put together a match that is even better than this year.

The dime novel comes to an end too soon: "Some of us were licking our wounds. Others were hugging their trophies and belt buckles. We had all seen old friends and met new ones. But it was time to move on. Within a few hours most of us had ridden up the hill and on to our next adventure. I knew I'd be back, and I knew I would be bringing friends with me, and we would all have guns."

*(Continued on next page)*

## AWARDS



*Misty Moonshine presents the Waddie Award to Brodie Lane, who stepped in and assumed the Waddie Czar job at the last minute ... and did a wonderful job. Her efforts were instrumental in ensuring a smooth-running END of TRAIL. Thank You!*



**Overall World Champions:**  
*(l) Wild Bunch—Last Chance Morales and Idaho Sixgun Sam; (r) Cowboy Action—SASS Kicker, and Cobra Cat. Outstanding shooting ... and all are wonderful representatives of the sport!*



*Lassiter has been a long time friend of SASS. Years ago he volunteered to recruit "adult supervision" for the END of TRAIL Side Matches. He has now agreed to work with TA Chance as the Co-Match Director for END of TRAIL starting in 2015.*





**END of TRAIL 2014**

*(Continued from previous page)*

**PARTY**



*(Continued on page 30)*



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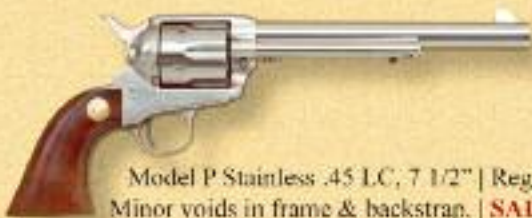
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# END OF TRAIL 2014

(Continued from page 29)



SASS is always pleased when celebrities choose to attend and play the game with us. Viper, NRA's Kayne Robinson, shot Wild Bunch™ ... and did himself proud!



Founders Ranch is very proud of the Cowboy Memorial Chapel built with donations and fundraisers by SASS members. Much remains to be done to complete the interior. Mica McGuire and EZ GZ of Albuquerque donated a set of stained glass windows that add considerably to the beauty of the facility.



The Happy Jack Saloon has always been a VIP hideaway ... but is now open to everyone. It's a great place to get out of the sun and have lunch and a cold drink during the day ... it's also a den of inequity in the evening when the cards come out!



Frederick Jackson Turner returned again this year as an entertainer and a competitor. His collection of SASS/cowboy songs are a guarantee to please.

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**END of TRAIL 2014**

*(Continued from previous page)*

**BOOK SIGNING**



*Book signings are a traditional part of END of TRAIL. David Grassé is seen here selling a signed copy of his book, **The True, Untold Story of Commodore Perry Owens, to Mo Lassies.** New Mexico is also home to several of the famed World War II Navajo Code Talkers. We're rapidly losing the original members of that group, but are fortunate to have copies of the books they have authored chronicling that exciting episode in our American history.*

*(Continued on page 32)*



**SASS is Proud to Launch the Refer a Friend Program! Refer a Friend today and Earn!**

Our new Refer a Friend Program, is a great way to get your friends to become members of SASS, and you benefit from it! All you have to do is Refer a friend to become a SASS member, and both of you will receive an additional 3 months to your Membership!



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# END OF TRAIL 2014



(Continued from page 31)

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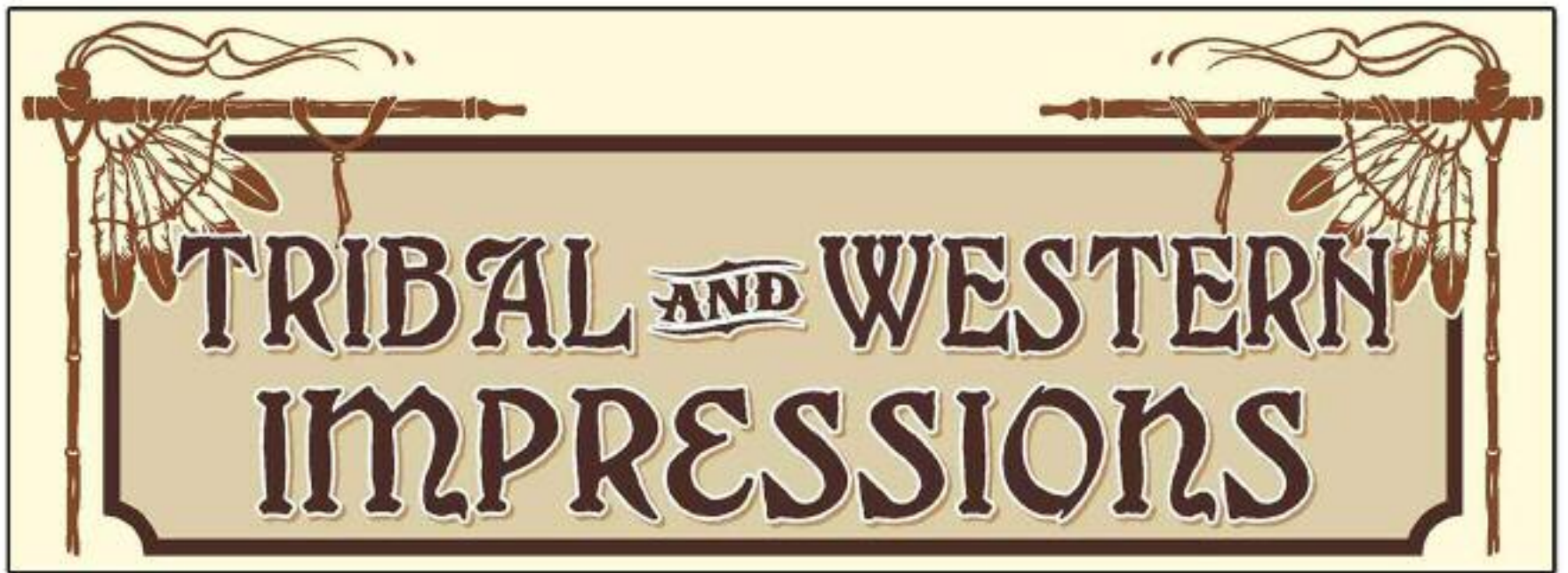
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## COWBOY CLOTHES

Howdy. I am puzzled and a bit disappointed in all the discussion of people not wearin' period clothes. I really don't understand why this is even an issue, or why the topic is open for discussion. Hockey players wear skates and basketball players wear shorts and cowboy shooters wear... sneakers? It clearly states in the handbook the dos and don'ts of what to wear, and what is accepted for each class... when I started I was impressed with how easy it was to understand, and enjoy the sport partly because of the "look" of the people around me! I understand that the details of period clothing is more interesting to some than to others, but according to your rulebook you don't have to break the bank. A good pair of canvas pants cost less than a pair of jeans and are just as comfortable. Wide-toed period cowboy boots or brogan shoes can be purchased for the same price as sneakers, and insoles and arch supports can be added for comfort. You can look the part without counting stitches. Vendors are helpful. When you consider the cost of the guns, ammo, leather and gun carts, heck it ain't the clothes what's expensive, unless you want them fancy duds. Sure there may be some gray areas, but I don't think blue jeans, ball caps, tennis shoes and work boots fall there. And I don't get why pictures of shooters wearing them are in your magazine. If someone showed up with a laser grip on their pistols they wouldn't be allowed to

shoot. You have a rule book and it is very reasonable. I'm a bettin' if the rules were enforced, like any sport, they would be followed. I bet a P for a shooter wearing jeans would chase away those "blues." On the other hand, maybe the reluctance to follow the rules reflects a lack of understanding – in that case, there needs to be additional guidance and support to make proper costuming as easy as buying a fast gun.

Respectfully submitted,  
Primer  
SASS #92157

*In fact, blue jeans are and always have been legal attire at SASS matches, as they are authentic to virtually every Hollywood Western up to sometime in the 1980s. I appreciate that you don't like them and that they are not authentic to the true Old West, but they are legal. "Designer" jeans, however, are not. As for footwear, I agree competitors should make the effort to wear appropriate-looking footwear. However, SASS has always strived to accommodate those with specific medical conditions. If someone can produce a doctor's letter stating that he must wear some specific type of footwear (or any other type of wear) for medical reasons, he should be allowed to shoot, even if that wear is not authentic.*

—Skinny *A.*

## THE COWBOY WAY IN MONTANA

I became involved with SASS after trying several other shooting sports but being disappointed with the attitudes of the other shooters. I found cowboy action shooting while looking at different shooting sports on YouTube... and I'm so glad I did! I shoot with the Bigfork Buscaderos and my fourth match ever was the state shoot last year.

I was very excited to go to the Montana State Match (hosted by the Sun River Rangers) this year. I decided to change classes after a pard mentioned that my costume was very close to B-Western. So I switched from a cross draw to a double strong side as the rules state. I was very careful to make sure I was properly attired. What I failed to notice was that my 66 Winchester lever rifle was not legal for that class. I found out when I was 200 miles from home and had left my legal '94 Winchester in the gun safe. I was super bummed, as I had not brought my cross draw holster or any of my other costuming to shoot as a

Wrangler. One of the Sun River Rangers, Poverty Bill (SASS #45790) offered to share his Marlin lever gun, which of course is B-Western legal. I was really grateful to be able to compete in the class I had intended. Bill wouldn't even let me pay for the ammunition I used.

By the end of the match I had finished second in my class. It had been a great weekend. My family wanted to go on a little Montana history tour on the way back to the Flathead Valley. Our plan was to go to Great Falls, Helena, Butte, Dillon, Bannock and Virginia City, but 10 miles away from the range my pickup broke down. Two hundred miles from home and 30 miles from the nearest parts store, I commenced to figuring out what the problem was. Before I even got the hood up, a pickup pulled in and Poverty Bill said, "What's the problem cowboy?"

After a quick investigation we discovered that there was fuel but no spark. I decided the issue must be the

*(Continued on next page)*



## The Cowboy Way in Montana

*(Continued from previous page)*

pick-up coil and possibly the distributor rotor. Bill offered to drive us 30 miles to Great Falls for parts. Once back, I installed the new parts but still no spark. So Bill drove us *back* to Great Falls to buy a coil. I mentioned to the NAPA store clerk about the shoot and how great Poverty Bill had been to us. The clerk replied, "I've heard that about you cowboys."

Back at the truck, I installed the new coil. We now had spark but another problem... spark was jumping to and from places spark should not jump. I determined that the distributor cap must be cracked. Bill drove us *back* to Great Falls for a third time! Bill had driven us a total of 180 miles and spent more than four hours helping us get going.

We finally did get the truck going. When it did fire up and we were sure it was going to be ok, Bill said, "If you guys need anything else, don't call me!" He laughed big and loud and drove away after refusing to let me pay for his fuel. Poverty Bill had saved my weekend and my vacation twice!

Since joining SASS, I have found the cowboys to be the salt of the earth. Always willing to help a partner, and just as willing to help a stranger. When I was getting started last year, many cowboys jumped in to give me advice, teach me tricks, loan me guns and even give me equipment to get going; cowboys like Hardwood Harry (SASS #53873), Sage Creek Gus (SASS #64320), Longshot Ed (SASS #81538), Billy Two Hares (SASS #58104), and of course Poverty Bill. These guys are the embodiment of the spirit of the game and are a credit to the sport and the "cowboy way." I am blessed to call them my pard and to be a part of this sport.

Captain Cain,  
SASS #99356  
Kalispell, Montana

*Most of us are drawn to Cowboy Action Shooting™ for the sport and for a love of Old West firearms. But, as you point out, this brotherhood, willingness to help, and general good-naturedness, is what keeps many of us involved for years thereafter. Your story is typical of what I've heard time and again*

—Skinny 🐉

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Cat Ballou, SASS #55



# CREATIVE COSTUMES ABOUND AT THE 33<sup>RD</sup> END of TRAIL

By Cat Ballou, SASS #55

**Founders Ranch, NM** – Due to some early monsoon-like rains, Founders Ranch was lushly green this year after three years of severe drought. So the stage was set for costume contest participants to display some of their finest. We have three costume contests every year at END of TRAIL—Wild Bunch™, daytime Shooting Costumes, and Saturday evening Best Dressed.

Once again, our costume contests sponsor was Wild West Mercantile from Mesa Arizona, C. S. Fly, SASS #5078, and Claudia Feather, SASS #2816, proprietors. They have sponsored these major contests for many years, and we are so appreciative of their continuing support.

Costume contests couldn't exist without the hard work of the costume judges, and we have some of the best. Judges for the Wild Bunch™ contest were Captain Cooper, SASS #43639, from California and myself. Judges for the Shooting Costumes were Copper Queen, SASS #20449, from Utah, and Sloan Easy, SASS #28129 and Creek Harding, SASS #4546, from California. Best Dressed Judges were Copper Queen, Sloan Easy, and a new judge, Wild Horse John, SASS #85994, from Wyoming. Costume wranglers were Sundown, SASS #285, and Sunshine Belle, SASS #91375, both from New Mexico. Thanks to all the judges for their dedication to costuming. They make my job as a "talking head" quite easy!

Some very creative costumes were displayed this year, *(Continued on next page)*

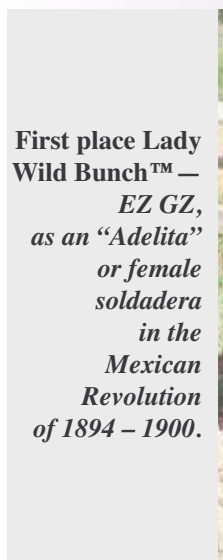
## WILD BUNCH



First place Wild Bunch™ — Capt. as a US Army 11th Cavalry Captain in the 1916 Mexican Incursion.



Second place Wild Bunch™ — Doc McCoy as a 1913 US Army Colonel wearing ribbons denoting his service from the Indian Wars through the Spanish American War.



First place Lady Wild Bunch™ — EZ GZ, as an "Adelita" or female soldadera in the Mexican Revolution of 1894 – 1900.



Third place Wild Bunch™ — Texas Ghost as William Holden's character, Pike, from The Wild Bunch.



Third place Lady Wild Bunch™ — Wicked Felina as a 1904 U.S. Marine – one heckuva cute soldier!



Second place Lady Wild Bunch™ — Texas Tiger ready to go on the hunt for Pancho Villa.

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## Creative Costumes Abound at the 33rd END of TRAIL

(Continued from previous page)

### SHOOTING COSTUMES



First place Lady Conventioneer—*Frontier Faith*, looking very fetching in her 1888 traveling outfit.



First place Junior Shooting Costume—*Jus One Shot*, portraying a working cowboy in Colorado.



First place Shooting Costume—*Capt. George Baylor*, as an 1885 working Wyoming cowboy. He is wearing shotgun chaps, cuffs, spurs, and a wide-brimmed hat as well as a slicker for bad weather.



First place female Waddie—*Sunshine Belle*, in her prairie dress. She was the Tea Tent hostess.

#17218) outfit portrayed the Native American witch doctor from *The Missing*. Frankly that film scared the *Bejesus* out of me and so did his costume! Outstanding!

And then there were the B-Western Ladies. Barbary Coast, SASS #21965, looked as if she had just stepped out of an early Wild West show in her bronc riding attire. Aspen  
(Continued on page 38)



First place Conventioneer—*Willamette Kid*, as an 1885 Western Indian policeman.



First place Lady Shooting Costume—*Sonora Blaze*, looking so B-Western in her striking red outfit.



First place Lady Sutler—*Lotta Lead Lorri* from *Mr. Quigley Photography*, dressed as a Plains Indian.



First place male Waddie—*Squid*, in his 1860's Navy uniform.


and I want to point out a few. Best Dressed B-Western Men and Ladies really took center stage for me. Henry O. Flipper, SASS #80718, based his outfit on a 1940s film character in *The Harlem Kid*. And Calvin N. Hobbes' (SASS

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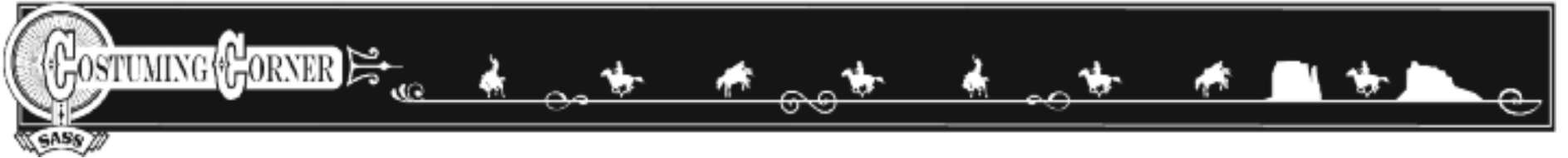
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## Creative Costumes Abound at the 33rd END of TRAIL

(Continued from page 37)

Filly, SASS #50535, Evergreen Rose, SASS #37972, and Sonora Blaze, SASS #69510, did a take off on the Steve Martin film, *The Three Amigos*, although they were “The Three Amigos,” attired in sparkly Mexican attire and even strumming guitars! And Little Jersey Yellow Rose, SASS #87431, dressed as Crazy Cora from the Tom Selleck movie, *Quigley Down Under*. Unfortunately, Tom Selleck did not accompany her.

First place Lady Wild Bunch™ was EZ GZ, SASS #83885. She portrayed an *Adelita*, or female *soldadera*. *Soldaderas* were female soldiers that accompanied their men fighting in the Mexican Revolution. Both of EZ’s great-grandparents actually fought on both sides during the Rev-

olution. Her costume depicts “La Rosa,” decorated with beautiful roses, a part of Mexican culture. Her vintage sombrero is also adorned with roses. *Muy bonita!*

However, after three decades of costume contests, this year we had a first. Captain George Baylor< SASS #24287, won first place in all three contests, Wild Bunch™, Shooting Costumes, and Best Dressed. Let me describe his “spot on” Wild Bunch™ outfit:

*A U.S. Army 11<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Captain in the 1916 Mexican Incursion. The uniform is the M1916 khaki field uniform with shirt pocket flaps. The sterling silver Captain’s bars on the collar are the smaller type issued prior to WWI. Officers wore black ties and their trousers had front pockets. The*

(Continued on next page)

### END OF TRAIL 2014 COSTUME CONTESTS RESULTS

#### WILD BUNCH:

|                 |                      |    |
|-----------------|----------------------|----|
| <b>Men</b>      |                      |    |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Capt. George Baylor, |    |
|                 | SASS #24287          | TX |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Doc McCoy,           |    |
|                 | SASS #8381           | VT |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Texas Ghost,         |    |
|                 | SASS #50125          | TX |
| <b>Ladies</b>   |                      |    |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | EZGZ,                |    |
|                 | SASS #83885          | NM |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Texas Tiger,         |    |
|                 | SASS #74829          | NM |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Wicked Felina,       |    |
|                 | SASS #3483           | TX |

#### SHOOTING CATEGORIES:

|                      |                     |    |
|----------------------|---------------------|----|
| <b>Sutler/Vendor</b> |                     |    |
| <b>Man</b>           | Doc the Drifter,    |    |
|                      | SASS #73791         | CO |
| <b>Lady</b>          | Lotta Lead Lorri,   |    |
|                      | SASS #53646         | AZ |
| <b>Waddies</b>       |                     |    |
| <b>Man</b>           | Squid,              |    |
|                      | SASS #59827         | NM |
| <b>Lady</b>          | Sunshine Belle,     |    |
|                      | SASS #91723         | NM |
| <b>Gun Carts</b>     |                     |    |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>      | Posey County Lefty, |    |
|                      | SASS #42337         | IN |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>      | Ninety Caliber,     |    |
|                      | SASS #50218         | OK |

|                       |                 |    |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----|
| <b>Conventioneers</b> |                 |    |
| <b>Men</b>            |                 |    |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>       | Willamette Kid, |    |
|                       | SASS #2625      | AZ |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>       | Minnesota Clay, |    |
|                       | SASS #45970     | TX |

|                        |                      |     |
|------------------------|----------------------|-----|
| <b>Conventioneers</b>  |                      |     |
| <b>Men</b>             |                      |     |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>        | W. A. Ward,          |     |
|                        | SASS #11723          | CA  |
| <b>Lady</b>            |                      |     |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>        | Frontier Faith,      |     |
|                        | SASS #94293          | TX  |
| <b>Junior Shooting</b> |                      |     |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>        | Jus One Shot,        |     |
|                        | SASS #99132          | CO  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>        | Georgia’s Phantom    |     |
|                        | Rider,               |     |
|                        | SASS #21446          | GA  |
| <b>Lady Shooting</b>   |                      |     |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>        | Sonora Blaze,        |     |
|                        | SASS #69510          | CO  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>        | EZGZ,                |     |
|                        | SASS #83885          | NM  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>        | Serenity,            |     |
|                        | SASS #64982          | CAN |
| <b>Men Shooting</b>    |                      |     |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>        | Capt. George Baylor, |     |
|                        | SASS #24287          | TX  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>        | Sundown,             |     |
|                        | SASS #284            | NM  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>        | Black Diamond Bob,   |     |
|                        | SASS #94536          | NM  |
| <b>BEST DRESSED:</b>   |                      |     |
| <b>Junior Boys</b>     |                      |     |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>        | Nico the Kid,        |     |
|                        | SASS #88599,         | NM  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>        | Jus One Shot,        |     |
|                        | SASS #99132          | CO  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>        | Nick Nitro,          |     |
|                        | SASS #94156          | UT  |
| <b>Junior Girls</b>    |                      |     |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>        | Fast Draw Fawn,      |     |
|                        | SASS #94157          | UT  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>        | More Guns An Ammo,   |     |
|                        | SASS #92217          | CA  |

|                                |                        |     |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|-----|
| <b>Junior Girls</b>            |                        |     |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>                | Eagle Wing,            |     |
|                                | SASS #97695            | NM  |
| <b>Military</b>                |                        |     |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>                | Capt. George Baylor,   |     |
|                                | SASS #24287            | TX  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>                | Hank Hills,            |     |
|                                | SASS #78028            | WA  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>                | Rye Creek Roberts,     |     |
|                                | SASS #18503            | AZ  |
| <b>Couples</b>                 |                        |     |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>                | Legendary Lawman,      |     |
|                                | SASS #73160            |     |
|                                | & Serenity,            |     |
|                                | SASS #64982            | CAN |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>                | Marshal John Morrison, |     |
|                                | SASS #94154            |     |
|                                | & Wild Cattle Kate,    |     |
|                                | SASS #94155            | UT  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>                | Rev. Willie Dunkun,    |     |
|                                | SASS #61027            |     |
|                                | & Miss Julep,          |     |
|                                | SASS #97794            | IL  |
| <b>B-Western/Silver Screen</b> |                        |     |
| <b>Men</b>                     |                        |     |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>                | Lt. Henry O. Flipper,  |     |
|                                | SASS #85718            | NM  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>                | Calvin N. Hobbes,      |     |
|                                | SASS #17218            | TX  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>                | Dakota Dennis,         |     |
|                                | SASS #97670            | AUS |
| <b>B-Western/Silver Screen</b> |                        |     |
| <b>Ladies</b>                  |                        |     |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>                | Barbary Coast,         |     |
|                                | SASS #19365            | TX  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>                | Aspen Filly,           |     |
|                                | SASS #50535,           | CO  |
|                                | Evergreen Rose,        |     |
|                                | SASS #37972            | WA  |
|                                | Sonora Blaze,          |     |
|                                | SASS #69510            | CO  |

|                                |                            |     |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-----|
| <b>B-Western/Silver Screen</b> |                            |     |
| <b>Ladies</b>                  |                            |     |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>                | Little Jersey Yellow       |     |
|                                | Rose,                      |     |
|                                | SASS #87431                | NM  |
| <b>Best Dressed Ladies</b>     |                            |     |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>                | Kathouse Kelli,            |     |
|                                | SASS #72384                | AUS |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>                | Dixie Bell,                |     |
|                                | SASS #5366                 | UT  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>                | Heather Hills,             |     |
|                                | SASS #78029                | WA  |
| <b>JUDGES:</b>                 |                            |     |
| <b>Wild Bunch</b>              |                            |     |
|                                | Capt. Cooper,              |     |
|                                | SASS #43639                | CA  |
|                                | Cat Ballou,                |     |
|                                | SASS #55                   | NM  |
| <b>Shooting/Daytime</b>        |                            |     |
|                                | Copper Queen,              |     |
|                                | SASS #20449                | UT) |
|                                | Sloan Easy,                |     |
|                                | SASS #28129                | CA  |
|                                | Creek Harding,             |     |
|                                | SASS #4546                 | CA  |
|                                | Costume Wrangler – Sundown | NM  |
| <b>Best Dressed</b>            |                            |     |
|                                | Copper Queen               |     |
|                                | Sloan Easy                 |     |
|                                | Wild Horse John,           |     |
|                                | SASS #85994                | WY  |
|                                | Costume Wrangler-          |     |
|                                | Sunshine Belle             | NM  |





## Creative Costumes Abound at the 33rd END of TRAIL

*(Continued from previous page)*

campaign hat meets the era's regulations. Crowns varied between 4" and 6" and brims were 3" to 4" with a brown chinstrap, a gold/black acorn officer's hat cord and civilian goggles for wear in the 1914 Dodge Touring Cars used in the expedition. The trouser belt is the 1915 style. The holster is non-regulation, but officers could and did purchase their own. The Army did not issue left-handed holsters (Capt. Baylor is a lefty.) Shoes are M1905 marching shoes with leather M1916 puttees (leggings).

That is just amazing research to develop this award-winning costume. Capt. Baylor's other winning costumes can be seen in the accompanying photos along with their descriptions. Congratulations to Captain Baylor for his all-around first place wins!

Lastly, my thanks to all the participants in the costume contests at this year's END of TRAIL. Thank you for your continuing interest in promoting costuming as an important part of our sport. You really are all winners!

Hope to see you all at the SASS Convention in San Antonio, Texas in January. 🐾

## BEST DRESSED



**B-Western Men (r-l)**—first place, Henry O. Flipper as Mr. Johnson from the 1940's film, *The Harlem Kid*; second place, Calvin N. Hobbes as the Indian witch from the film, *The Missing*; third place, Dakota Dennis as a Hollywood type Sioux warrior chief.



**—Best Dressed Couples—**  
first place (middle) *Legendary Lawman and Serenity* as Lt. Col. Young and his wife visiting the fort commander; second place (right) *Marshal John Morrison and Wild Cattle Kate*, keeping their town safe from the outlaw element; third place (right) *Reverend Willie Dunkun and Miss Julep*, a 1880's preacher and his wife.



**Junior Boys (l-r)**—first place, Nico the Kid, as a boy Sergeant in the *Butterfly Hussars New Jersey 6th Regiment*; second place, Jus One Shot, as a Classic Cowboy; third place, Nick Nitro as a "gamlin" man.



**Junior Girls**—first place (middle) *Fast Draw Fawn*, in an 1875 purple Polonaise dress; second place (r) *More Guns An Ammo*, in a gown for going with grandma to the evening theatre; third place (l) *Eagle Wing* as a Navajo female hunter.



**The Best Dressed Judges (l-r)**—Copper Queen, Sloan Easy, and Wild Horse John. They do a fabulous job every year and welcome to new Judge, Wild Horse John.



**Best Dressed Ladies (l-r)**—first place, Kathouse Kelli, in a 1886 walking dress; second place, Dixie Bell in a, 1870's afternoon visiting gown; third place, Heather Hills as an 1894 Victorian bloomer velocipede rider.



**B-Western Ladies (l-r)**—first place *Barbary Coast* as a rodeo bronc rider; second place, *Aspen Filly, Evergreen Rose, and Sonora Blaze* as "The Three Amigas;" third place, *Little Jersey Yellow Rose* as *Crazy Cora* from *Quigley Down Under*.



**Military (l-r)**—first place, Capt. George Baylor, in an 1873 10th Cavalry dress uniform; second place, Hank Hills, as a turn of the century US Marine Sargent; third place, Rye Creek Roberts, as a Kansas guerilla fighter







Texas Jack Daniels,  
SASS #8587



# END of TRAIL 2014

## MADAMS, DOVES, AND FUN, OH MY!!!

*Derringers and Daggers event raises \$8000 for SASS Scholarship Fund*

*By Texas Jack Daniels, SASS #8587*



*First place in the Soiled Dove contest was Diamond Blaze from Texas looking very "fetching."*



*The Bodacious Babes.*



*Wildcat Belle was quite the "gal" in her red outfit. She was the fourth place Soiled Dove.*

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f t

**T**here were all kinds of jewels, ales, and harlots on Friday night at the annual Derringers and Daggers party benefiting the Scholarship Foundation at the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual END of TRAIL. And even Hug'N'Kisses. See what you missed? The party was a rousing good time with 30 gallons of frozen margaritas and free hotdogs, beer, soda, and water for all. In addition, the CEO (Chief Entertainment Officer) herself, Misty Moonshine, SASS #83232, and several of the office staff slaved over the hot grill, cooking hundreds of hot dogs for those in attendance. With the great turnout for the D&D evening, over \$8,000 was raised for the Foundation, as well as providing a fun event for contest-

*(Continued on next page)*





## END of TRAIL 2014 • Madams, Doves, and Fun, Oh My!!!

*(Continued from previous page)*



*Emcee Handlebar Bob, who always has the right amount of "bling," with first place Parlor House Madam Helda Huginkiss and first place Soiled Dove Diamond Blaze.*



*The Judges really have a difficult job it seems. (NOT!)*

House Madam Winners. Amber Ale, SASS #66175, and Kathouse Kelli, SASS #72384, second and third respectively, were presented a Redwing Damascus Knife with a JM Leather Sheath. Wildcat Blue, SASS #77506, Happy Valley Harlot, SASS #84435, and "Stella" (Bella Spencer), SASS #63491, third through sixth respectively, took home a Redwing Steel Knife with JM

*(Continued on page 42)*



*Kathouse Kelli all the way from Australia took third place Soiled Dove.*

ants and spectators!

The Beautiful and Bodacious Babes... yep, it was a B-Western night all right... did their best to convince the Judges they were the Babes of their dreams. Diamond Blaze, SASS #97568, fit the bill perfectly and was chosen as the winner of the Soiled Dove contest, while Helda Huginkiss, SASS #32799, took Parlor House Madam honors.

Bond Firearms Cowboy Defender Derringers were awarded to the Soiled Dove and Parlor

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**END of TRAIL 2014 • Madams, Doves, and Fun, Oh My!!!**

*(Continued from page 41)*

Leather Sheath.

The Judges, who were extremely taxed and befuddled (NOT), were presented a Redwing Dagger with JM Leather Sheath in appreciation for all their burdensome and laborious efforts in judging all the beauties that were out to win them over with their wives. Each Judge, with a stiff upper lip, completed his duties in fine fashion and included: Texas Ghost, SASS #50125 (Texas); Possum Skinner, SASS #60697 (Louisiana); Savage Sam, SASS #78935; (Australia); White Lightning Jack, SASS #58650 (New Zealand); and El Vaquero Malo; SASS #89077 (New Mexico).

Events like this require sponsors and funding. This entire event was funded outside of SASS for the pleasure and enjoyment of all our SASS cowboys and cowgirls. The Foundation is especially grateful to have such fine sponsors.

**Thanks to all our sponsors:**

- Taylor's and Company – 1911 Pistol and 1873 Rifle
- Bond Firearms – Bond Cowboy Defender Derringers
- Jim Downing, The Gun Engraver – 1873 Rifle Engraving
- Aspen Filly's Gun Engraving – 1911 and Derringer Engraving
- Cody Conagher Gunsmithing – 1873 Rifle Conversion and Action Job
- Redwing Knives – Damascus and Steel Daggers
- Mernickle Leather – 1911 Leather rig
- JM Leather – Dagger Sheaths
- Major Photography – Event Photography



*The Derringer and Daggers event was hosted once again by Texas Jack Daniels and Shotgun. And once again, they did a fabulous job!*

More thanks goes out to all raffle ticket buyers this year supporting the SASS Scholarship Foundation. With

*(Continued on next page)*

**END OF TRAIL 2014  
 COSTUME CONTEST RESULTS  
 SOILED DOVES/PARLOR HOUSE MADAMS**

**SOILED DOVES**

- 1<sup>ST</sup> Diamond Blaze, SASS #97568 (CO)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Amber Ale, SASS #66175 (NM)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Kathouse Kelli, SASS #72384 (AUS)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Wildcat Belle, SASS #77506 (TN)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Happy Valley Harlot, SASS #84435 (VA)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Bella Spencer, SASS #63491 (KY)

**PARLOR HOUSE MADAMS**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Helda Huginkiss, SASS #23799 (CO)

**JUDGES**

- Texas Ghost, SASS #50125 (TX)
- Possum Skinner, SASS #60697 (LA)
- Savage Sam, SASS #58650 (AUS)
- White Lightning Jack, SASS #58650 (NZ)
- El Vaquero Malo, SASS #89077 (NM)





## END of TRAIL 2014 • Madams, Doves, and Fun, Oh My!!!

*(Continued from previous page)*



*Amber Ale from New Mexico was the second place winner in the Soiled Doves contest.*

their help, the SASS Scholarship Foundation has awarded over \$600,000 in scholarships since its inception. With the generous donations, the fund continues to thrive and grow. Thank You! For more information on the SASS Scholarship fund please visit: <http://sassnet.com/Scholar-main-001A.php>

The happy raffle winners were Shamrock Sadie, SASS #78511, who won the Taylor's and Company 1873 Rifle with Jim Downing Engraving, converted to

.45 ACP with action job by Cody Conagher.

Phantom, SASS #54973, had the lucky ticket for the Taylor's and Company 1873, 1911 Pistol with Aspen Filly Engraving and Mernickle Leather and Redwing Bushing knife.

Crosscut Hardy, SASS #54701, generously bought raffle tickets and took home the Bond Firearms Cowboy Defender Derringer with Aspen Filly Engraving.

Diamond Blaze, SASS #97568, in addition to being the top Soiled Dove, also came away with a Redwing Dagger with JM leather sheath for selling the winning rifle raffle ticket.

Kathouse Kelli, SASS #72384, was awarded a Bond Firearms Cowboy Defender Derringer for raising the

most money for the Scholarship Fund through the raffle.

The Scholarship Foundation Fund Raising Committee continues to look for more and exciting ways to expand this event to raise funds. They are always looking

*(Continued on page 44)*

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### END of TRAIL 2014 • Madams, Doves, and Fun, Oh My!!!

*(Continued from page 41)*

for suggestions on how to improve the enjoyment of attendees and ensure the Foundation continues to garner member support. Please contact Shotgun, SASS #17153, at [TXShotglass@sbcglobal.com](mailto:TXShotglass@sbcglobal.com) to share suggestions and ideas. Some ideas already shared: skit competitions, casino games to win raffle tickets, and real time gun & gear raffles/auctions/giveaways.

Again, thanks for your continued support of the Foundation and Derringers & Daggers. The Foundation, the committee members, and scholarship recipients appreciate your generosity. 🤠

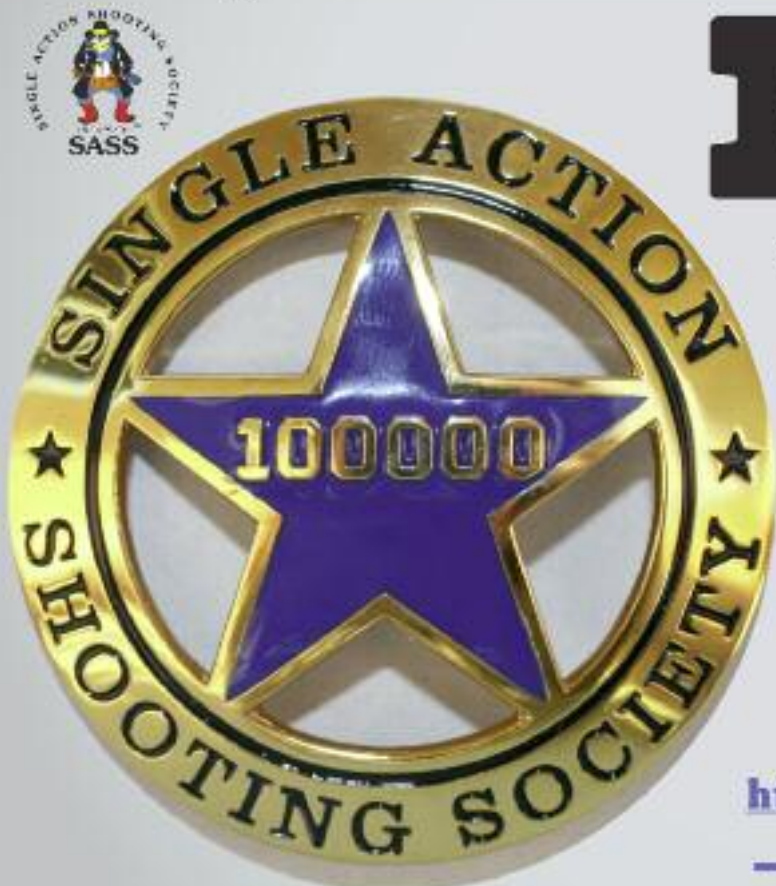


*Happy Valley Harlot from Virginia was very pleased with her dagger.*



*Kentuckian Bella Spencer became "Stella" for the evening.*

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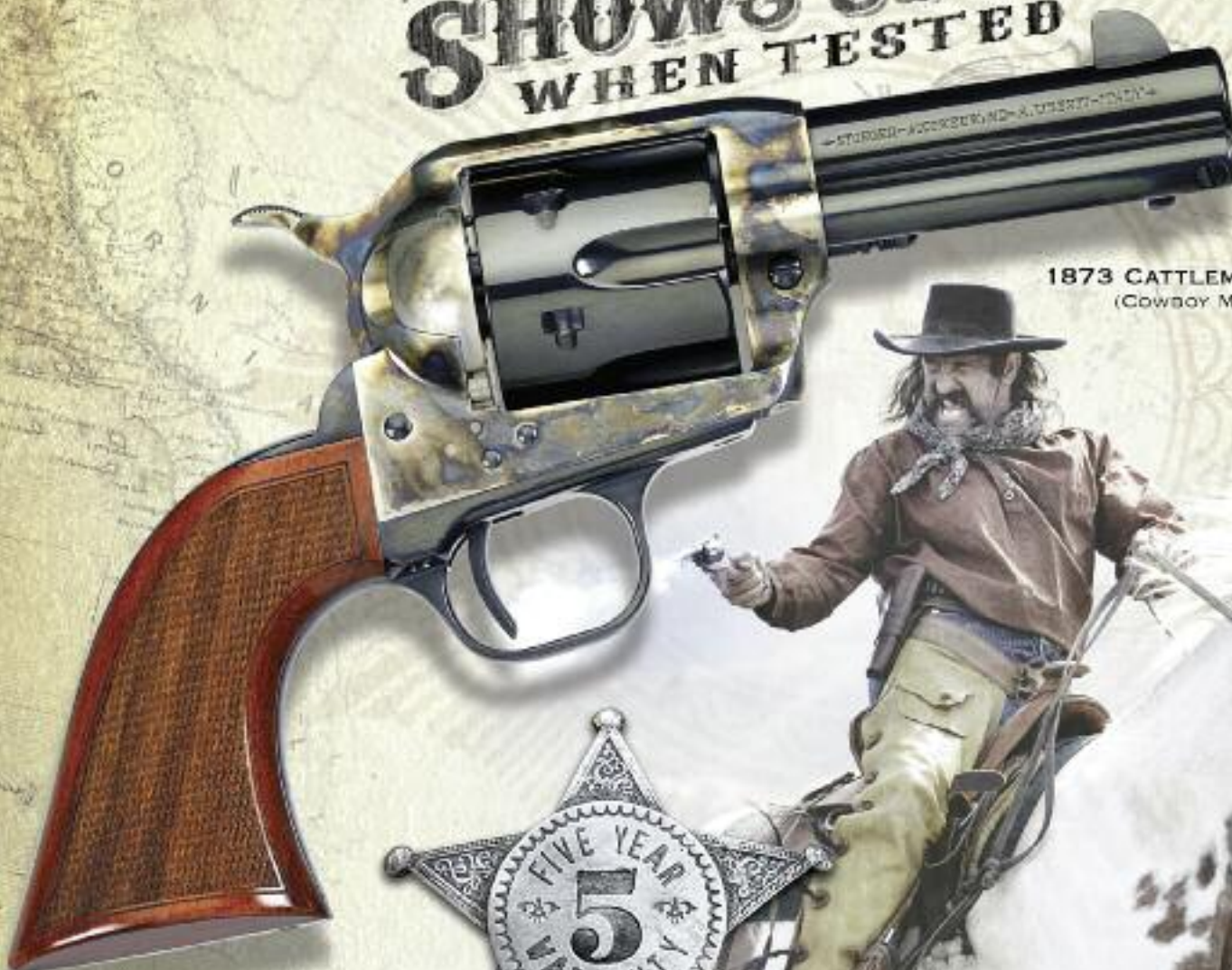
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# SHOOTOUT UNDER THE MIDNIGHT SUN INDEPENDENT WOMEN OF THE WEST 2014

By Little Nelchina, SASS #68078  
Photos by Tripod, SASS #57588

**B**irchwood Recreation and Shooting Park, AK. We had a rip-roaring good time at the 2014 Shootout Under the Midnight Sun, SUMS for short. As always, the Alaska Territorial Championship, as hosted by the Alaska 49ers, was a rootin'-tootin' three days with old and new friends and great shootin'.

Most of our cowboy shooters were Alaskans this year. Many members of the 49ers joined with Kootenai Brown, SASS #87192, from the Golden Heart Shootist Society and D. H. Hauler, SASS #12815, and Yukon Deb, SASS #86992, from the Juneau Gold Miners Posse. The Lower 48 exception was Noah Fitz, SASS #74211, from North Carolina, who participated thanks to a gift from his wife Kim—now there's a great example of true love for you. Noah also graciously gave us a batch of jim-dandy 49ers badges to use as we pleased, and the first two were given to our brass pickers Cassie and Maggie. Registration and side matches were held Friday, July 4, including buffalo gun, speed rifle, and knife throwing. The theme of Saturday and Sunday's main match was Independent Women of the West, and scenario stories were submitted by members of the club. Match director Marshal Stone, SASS #83366, and his assistant Tripod, compiled the stories and the ATBs. It was a nice theme, to focus on the ladies this time.

We enjoyed learning about women of the Old West while shooting up a storm, including tales of Narcissa Whitman and Eliza Spading braving the trail to Oregon, and Lucia Darling educating students in the first school in Montana. Minnie Freeman saved her pupils during the great

blizzard of 1888. Sarah Winemucca (Thocmentony) helped her Piute people in time of war. The bank robber Cora Hubbard, gambler Lottie Deno, and entertainer Klondike Kate worked on the wilder side of the Old West. Crusaders Clara Shortridge Foltz, Caroline Nichols Churchill, and Bethenia Owens-Adair and government agent Alice Fletcher worked to make the world a better place. Stagecoach Mary Fields followed her own path as a loyal servant, freighter, and mail carrier.

The Alaska Kid, SASS #99860, won the inaugural chili cook-off on Friday night, set up by Ruben Ryback, SASS #89756, trophies by Tripod. (The apron is a traveling trophy, but the winner gets to keep the chili hat!) The chuckwagon was headed up by Lizzy Mae, SASS #92428, who did



SUMS overall champions, Taino and Lanky Jane.



*(Continued on next page)*





## Shootout Under the Midnight Sun 2014 • (Independent Women of the West)

*(Continued from previous page)*



well in her first year as chief cook and bottle washer. Eileen Widowmaker, SASS #89757, and Georgann assisted and contributions were made by other club members. They kept us fed with tasty vittles throughout the weekend, including two lunches, dinners and snacks. Tripod acted as official photographer, and Lanky Jane, SASS #83283, rounded up registration. Flaco Joe, SASS #83282, led the faithful in Cowboy Church on Sunday, and led the side matches with Scout Brown, SASS #36048. The weekend was rounded out with vendor Arnie's Bullets keeping ammo shoppers busy and everyone got door prizes. Thanks go out to our generous sponsor, Action Target, and donors Birchwood Recreation and



Shooting Park, Brownell's, Bullets Jewelry, Bullet Splat Jewelry, Crazy Cow Trading Post, CW Tack & Western Wear, Desperado Cowboy Bullets, Dixie Gun Works, Evil Roy Shooting School, Great Northern Guns, H2Oasis, Inuitions Day Spa, Kempf Gun Works, Lee Re-

loading, Midway USA, Mike's Quality Meats, Moose's Tooth, Northern Knives, Redding Reloading, Redwing Trading Company, Recollections, SAS Alaska Custom Holsters, Sportsmans Warehouse, Starline brass, True West Magazine, and Unique Tek. Manzanita Jack, SASS #84584, our Solicitor General, did a great job rounding up our donations. Thanks to Lasting Impressions and ST Machining LLC for creating our awards.



The first day, Mother Nature smiled upon us, but we had rain after that, not that it slowed down the shooting much. The stages were fun and challenging enough to keep shooters on their toes. A couple favorite stages: #3 with the gambler and cards targets, and #7 with the double Nevada sweeps. Marshal Stone took it easy on us with no poppers and only one stage of six shotgun targets—a relief for those of us who are not shotgun fans! We enjoyed the new stagecoach prop and other improvements thanks to Ruben Ryback and The Alaska Kid.

Congrats to Trooper John Smith, SASS #5561, for being the only clean match shooter this year. The competition was hot in many categories. Taino, SASS #33670, was top overall man, and Lanky Jane was top overall lady.

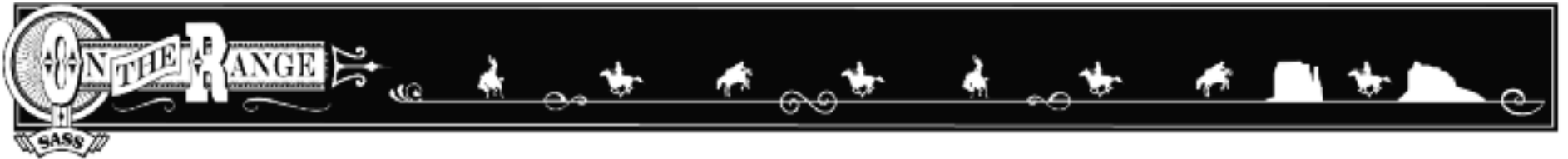
This match, like all SASS matches, relied heavily on club volunteers. Thanks to everyone who helped with Shootout Under the Midnight Sun. And gracias to our participants—you can't have a gunfight if nobody shows up!

We're already thinking about next year's Shootout. Keep an eye on our website at [AlaskaCowboyShooting.com](http://AlaskaCowboyShooting.com) and come see us next summer. The first week of July is always a good time to visit Alaska, so put us on your calendar! 🤠

### WINNERS

|              |                                  |    |                 |                               |    |
|--------------|----------------------------------|----|-----------------|-------------------------------|----|
| 49'er        | Taino<br>SASS #33670             | AK | L 49'er         | Bearclaw Becky<br>SASS #76196 | AK |
| Cattle Baron | Trooper John Smith<br>SASS #5561 | AK | L Silver Senior | Tripod<br>SASS #57588         | AK |
| Cowboy       | Tombstone Kenny<br>SASS #76195   | AK | L Wrangler      | Lanky Jane<br>SASS #83283     | AK |
| Duelist      | Marshal Stone<br>SASS #83366     | AK | Senior          | Tequilla Jack<br>SASS #91009  | AK |
| Elder        | D. H. Hauler<br>SASS #12815      | AK | S Duelist       | Manzanita Jack<br>SASS #84584 | AK |
| Statesman    | Dan O'Leary<br>SASS #26047       | AK | Silver Senior   | Doc Red Dawg<br>SASS #16761   | AK |
| FC Duelist   |                                  |    | Wrangler        | Flaco Joe<br>SASS #83282      | AK |





# BILLY THE KID'S BREAKOUT 2014

By Capt. Jack McQuesten, SASS #56937  
Special Constable for the Lincoln County Regulators



Opening remarks by Tex and Capt. Jack McQuesten.

**Ruidoso, NM.** Deep in the heart of “Billy the Kid” country, nestled high up in the cool pine covered mountains of southeastern New Mexico, is the home of the Lincoln County Regulators’ cowboy range, appropriately named “Old Lincoln.”

The range consists of five buildings that include a replica of Fort Stanton, a Livery Stable, the Lincoln County Courthouse, a Saloon, and a combined building that houses the Post Office, the Bank, The McSween store and the Murphy-Dolan store. In addition to five shooting bays, there is a wagon, the range office, the Hay Barn structure for spectators, complete with bleachers, and a log cabin “Sheriff’s Office.” The recent installation of three large safety walls separates the various shooting bays and allows for members to go down range to fix or adjust targets without shutting

down the entire range.

July and August in this part of the country is “Monsoon Season,” and we have often received daily showers resulting in several inches of rainfall. This time, we were blessed with only light sprinkles over the three-day match. There were a total of 67 shooters who traveled from Louisiana, Arizona, Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico to join us here in Ruidoso.

The shoot started off on Friday afternoon with our Wild Bunch™ match that was run by J. Frank Norfleet, SASS #94685. We had 27 shooters compete and the overall winner was Half A Hand Henri, SASS# 9727.

This was followed up by a variety of side matches that included the “Hunt for the White Buffalo,” which was large steel buffalo set out at 300 yards. There was also a long range rifle match (100 yards), a long range revolvers match (50 yards), and a Derringer and belly gun match. Doc Lector, SASS #81609, ran all these. In addition to those side matches, we also had speed rifle, speed pistol, and speed shotgun, run by Gunsmoke Cowboy, SASS #84261, and a pretty wild and challenging golf ball match that was run by Dirty Earl, SASS #94084.

After a hard day of slinging lead, the shooters enjoyed a

*(Continued on next page)*



Overall match winners  
Half A Hand Henri  
and Mica McGuire.



Overall Wild Bunch™  
winner Half A Hand Henri.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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## Billy the Kid's Breakout 2014

*(Continued from previous page)*



*Mesa Rose at the banquet.*



*Doc Lector running the long range rifle side match.*

relaxing time at the "Meet & Greet" cocktail party at the newly re-modeled K-Bob's Restaurant.

The main match started bright and early on Saturday morning. We broke up into four posses and commenced to shooting. The six stages, written by Gun-smoke Cowboy and Dirty

Earl, were fun, fast and very challenging.

Upon completion of these stages, the shooters got all "gussied up" and attended a fantastic dinner at Cree Meadows Golf Course & Restaurant. A hearty meal of Brisket, Chicken, cowboy beans, potato salad, corn bread and cherry cobbler was served. The meal was followed up by a great raffle with outstanding prizes, and also a costume contest, judged by Tex, SASS# 4, who had joined us from Founders Ranch. The winners of the Costume contest were Yankee Texan, SASS #56796, for the ladies; and Redding Renegade, SASS #19873, for the men. The best dressed couple award went to Singin' Sue, SASS #71615, and Shanley Shooter, SASS #71614.

Several cowboys and cowgirls took to the dance floor for a bit and then the winner of the Dillon 650 Reloader, Ricardo Hernandez, was announced. Dirty Earl surprised Ricardo with a phone call telling him he won and everyone in the audience got to hear his reaction. What fun! Ricardo and his wife, Ashley, are new to SASS and are just getting into Cowboy Action Shooting™, so the reloader will come in handy!

On Sunday, we gathered once again to shoot the final four



*Costume contest winners Redding Renegade, Yankee Texan, Singin' Sue, and Shanley Shooter.*

stages of the match. Again, these stages were exciting and sure put shooters to the test!

Once the smoke cleared and my lovely bride, Mesa Rose, SASS #97338, tallied the scores, we handed out the awards. Half A Hand Henri was the top lady and Mica McGuire, SASS #18526, was the top man.

As the echo of gunfire faded and the sound of distant rolling thunder commenced, signaling the coming Monsoon, we bid our cowboys and cowgirls safe travels on their long journey back home with well wishes of "Can't wait to see y'all on the trail again."

There are also photos on our FaceBook page:

[https://www.facebook.com/pages/Lincoln-County-Regulators/204639142913546?sk=photos\\_stream](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Lincoln-County-Regulators/204639142913546?sk=photos_stream)

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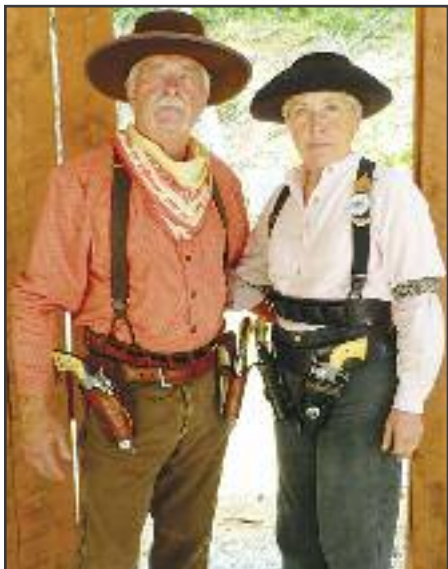
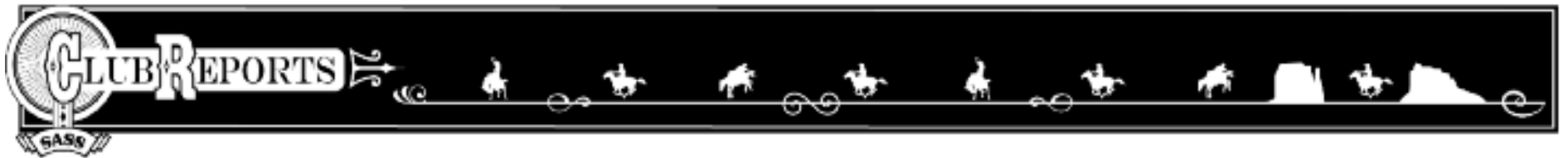
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Rio Drifter, SASS #49244 and Tennessee Tall, SASS #49245

# SHOOTIN' OUR WAY ACROSS AMERICA

## Maryland and Virginia

By Tennessee Tall, SASS Life/Regulator #49245, and Rio Drifter, SASS Life/Regulator #49244

**Federal, Maryland.** Something new for us: The Monocacy Pistol Club shoots on the second Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. Chuckaroo, SASS #13080, said the club allows them to shoot on Tuesday "To keep the the old farts out of trouble." Worked for us! The club is just off Interstate 70 and easy to find— good directions on their website. Easy to find-meaning Rio and I didn't get lost on our first try. Chuckaroo is practically a one-man show, he is Territorial Governor, representing all Maryland Single Action Shooting™ clubs, and is a newly elected Hall of Fame Cowboy.

The Monocacy Irregulars were blessed with a dedicated score keeper, Sassy Buttons and Bows, SASS #16946. She



Major B. S. Walker and One Eyed Jane

didn't shoot but she kept us all moving. D. Q. Dave, SASS #39971; Tug Hill SASS #15764; and Church Key, SASS #33713, kept us laughing with their banter and caustic comments about the shooters' techniques or lack thereof. Hound Dog Henry was shooting his third shoot and did an impressive job among us old folks. Col-O-Rado, SASS #68132, sustained shots across the bow with grace and returned with as good as he got. Otter Bob, SASS #80430, and Wrong Way Pensky, SASS #64517, rounded out the posse. We shot six stages using one bay, proving you don't have to be a big club or have fancy props to have a really good shoot. Folks, thanks for having us.



One Eyed Jane and Prairie City Slim

**Montpelier, VA.** This is our 40th state and begins the countdown to meeting our goal of shooting in all 50 states. Cavalier Sporting Clays was chartered in 1936 in Hanover County. It has 700 members and ranges to be proud of. On their beautifully forested grounds we found bathhouses, electric hookups, and water in a camping area on the banks of Cavalier Lake. The facility's Program Director, Henry Baskerville, provided a warm welcome and a tour of the compound, including a visit to his office which was filled with trophies from past safaris that he guided in Africa. Our shoot with the Cavalier Cowboys was scheduled to begin Wednesday, giving us time for a walk by the lake, drinks on the dock, a shower,

*(Continued on next page)*

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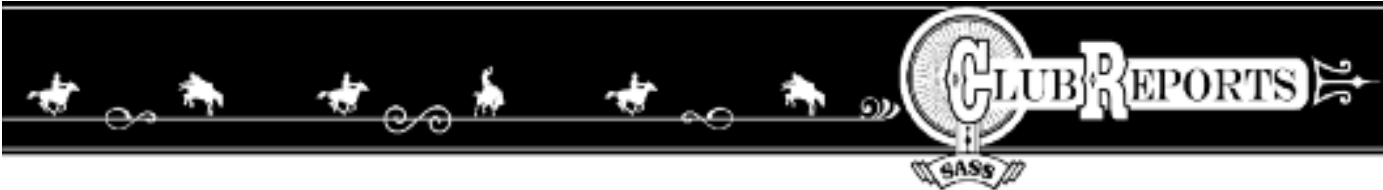
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## Shooting Our Way Across America (Maryland and Virginia)

(Continued from previous page)



Striker and Cockroach

and a restful evening in camp. Cowboys on the trail never had it so good!

Striker, SASS # 77528, called our motley crew together at noon. He, Cockroach, SASS #26100; and Major B. S. Walker, SASS #86184, acted as timer operators for our six stages. Rio and I enjoy hearing how aliases are selected, and Prairie City Slim's (SASS #85628) story involved loads of research. He was determined to have a name representative of a city that no longer existed, so he searched through stories of the old west to find a ghost town whose name appealed to him. He is obviously quite slim, so that went with the town and Prairie City Slim was born. I was pleased to learn that One Eyed Jane,

SASS #85629, is the proud owner of one of Miss Annie's outfits. Miss Annie would be so proud that someone was enjoying her outfit and shooting. Us old folks miss reading Miss Annie's Chronicle articles concerning appropriate women's costumes. Even more so, we miss Miss Annie and her husband, Ten Sleep, since their passing. I discovered that Deadwood Doc Russ, SASS #96968,

actually *is* a doctor-optometrist; does that give him an added advantage since he can see the targets? When we complemented Major B. S. Walker (bet you can guess how he found his alias) on his classic cowboy attire, we found he has as much love for costuming as Miss Annie did. I knew he was hooked when he described his summer attire, his winter outfits, his new leather, and his Festus outfit! A beautiful setting and beautifully costumed shooters made for an enjoyable experience in our 40th state. 🤠

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*Aneeda Huginkiss,  
SASS #23798*



# END of TRAIL

## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP MOUNTED SHOOT 2014

*By Aneeda Huginkiss, SASS #23798*

The sound of thundering horses filled the air, dust swirled through the arena and balloons popped to the percussion of gunfire... the 2014 END of TRAIL Mounted Shoot had officially begun! A fun-filled weekend, packed full of activities was planned for all the Mounted Shooters. Those Buffalo Range Riders sure know how to put on a memorable Mounted Shoot! After lots of persuading, I finally talked Helda Huginkiss, SASS #23799, into going to END of TRAIL with me. She even decided to take a horse and shoot. Boy was I happy, because I couldn't go to END of TRAIL without my sister! We packed up the trailer and early Thursday morning hit the asphalt trail to New Mexico and Founders Ranch. We were traveling with Canyon Cowgirl, SASS #31074, Helza Poppin, SASS #63973, and Patina, SASS #76840, Canyon Cowgirl's granddaughter, a new Buckarett Mounted Shooter. We had so many ponies and clothes we had to bring two trucks and trailers!



*Barbary Coast, training  
Calvin N. Hobbes' horse.*

We got to Founders Ranch, set up pens, got our ponies comfy and organized our trailers. You have to bring lots of clothes to END of TRAIL so you can be part of all the goings on... a girl has to be prepared for anything you know! Sierrita Slim, SASS #4054, and I taught a Mounted Range Officer One class Thursday afternoon to three Mounted Shooters. We went over the updated Mounted Shooter Handbook and the MRO1 course and I am happy to say that all three passed and earned their MRO1 pins! After class we had a Mounted practice for



*— Bam Bam and Canyon Cowgirl —  
Overall man and Lady  
World Mounted Champions.*

anyone wanting to warm their ponies up. Helda and I participated as did Canyon Cowgirl and Patina. Helza Poppin had a little accident with her horse before we left and was unable to ride yet. Her horse turned sharply and unfortunately Helza Poppin didn't! She landed on her left shoulder and had to have surgery to repair the damage. She was out of her sling (which the gals at

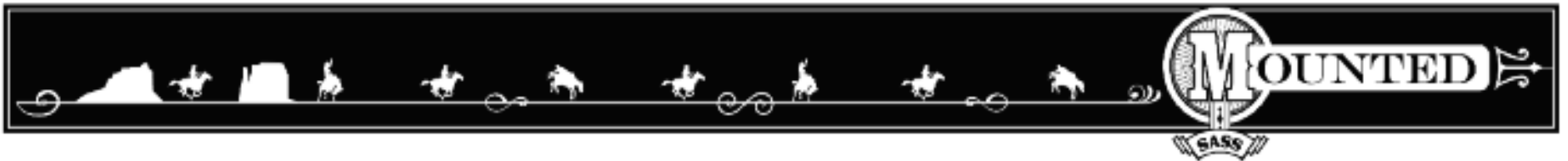
work blinged up for her—it sure was shiny!), but her doc said NO RIDING YET! She brought her horse so she could get used to all the activity and the shooting... she's in training! After the warm up, we all got together for a

*(Continued on next page)*



*Buckarett Patina in her first competition.*





## END of TRAIL 2014 • (World Championship Mounted Shoot)

*(Continued from previous page)*

Potluck dinner. (These Mounted Potluck dinners are legendary—we have some really GOOD cooks, let me tell you!) Everyone brought a dish and a drink and we visited and ate and visited and ate some more! I love the Mounted Potluck Dinners. We always have a great time! Part of the



*Sassy Susie Q gives Quick Draw a try on her unicorn.*

fun of Mounted Shooting is the wonderful people you meet and get to rub elbows with. It's what keeps us coming back! We all hit the hay early so we would be in our best form for the competition Friday! Friday dawned clear and WINDY. (I know it's hard to believe it was windy at Founder's Ranch, haha!) It's always windy for END of TRAIL but it was sure blowing a lot of dirt around with little dust devils dancing through the arena, making

the stages even more challenging! Twenty four contestants gathered around the announcer's booth for the shooters meeting then we all took part in the Grand Entry. I got asked to sing the National Anthem and Helda carried the American Flag around the arena. After the Grand Entry we started shooting! Three stages flew by on Friday, followed by two rifle stages and the world speed stage. In between stages Bad Dog, SASS #86845, and Mrs. Bad Dog, SASS #86851, entertained the crowd with bull whips and horse tricks! Competition was fierce and everyone was focused on winning the Mounted World Championship! After the smoke cleared and we were done shooting for the day, we rode our ponies for a parade through SASS Town. The folks love to see the horses and we saw lots of friends to wave to and visit with. There is always too much to do at END of TRAIL. We hurried back to camp after the parade and put our ponies away and went back to SASS Town for a LOT of shopping and to get our prizes from the prize drawing. Helda went first and got a real nice green vest to wear. I fished around in that big ol' box full of prize cards and drew out a \$500.00 holster rig from Mernickle Holster! Wow... I couldn't believe my luck! Thank you to all the businesses that donate to the prize pool... it is much appreciated! With shopping done, we headed back to camp to get ready for the Soiled Dove and Parlor House Madam competitions. We were invited to dine with the famous



*Arab Angel and Canyon Cowgirl — winners of the Team Stage.*

Rocky Meadows, SASS #18501, and her new hubby at their camp, so we threw on our best saloon girl outfits and went to dinner! What fun that was. We met lots of new

*(Continued on page 54)*

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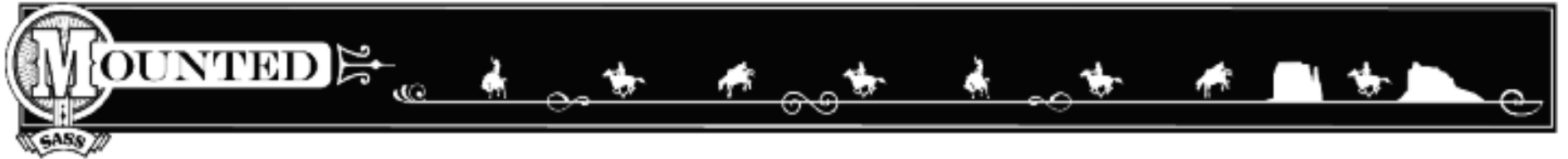
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## END of TRAIL 2014 • (World Championship Mounted Shoot)

(Continued from page 53)

SASS friends there... that's what these shoots are all about! After dinner we made our way back to SASS Town and as we headed into the big tent, Shotgun, SASS #17153, stopped us and told us we had to sign up for the competition. I entered the Parlor House Madam competition last year and won a beautiful derringer, so I wasn't going to enter again this year... I wasn't dressed for that competition anyway! Helda, however was, so Shotgun and I twisted her arm and got her signed up! The Soiled Dove competition was first and there were lots of cute gals in beautiful costumes competing. Then it was time for the Parlor House Madam competition. Helda climbed the stairs to the stage, looking nervous as a cat in a room full of rocking chairs. She actually hates talking in front of a crowd but she had a plan! She had asked the MC for help but once she got to talking, he couldn't get a word in edge-wise! (And she says I talk a lot!) She spun this most awesome story about being a madam from the Bent Elbow Saloon in Silverton Colorado. She said she rode for three days to get to END of TRAIL to find some gals for her bordello, but she was looking for a certain kind of girl—one that could ride, shoot, sing, play guitar and rob trains. Several gals in the audience raised their hands for some of the qualifications.



*Buckarett Tornado Tucker, getting a little assistance.*

I however, being the demure and shy gal I am, was waving my boa and jumping up and down, trying to get her attention. She finally said I met all the qualifications and had me come up on stage and strut my wares (boy is she bossy!) Then out of the audience another gal came up and said she could do all those things too! (She was NOT part of our skit.) We found out later that her alias is Mustang

Maya, SASS #80931, and she's a new Mounted Shooter. We can't wait to shoot with her! You could see the wheels turning as Helda scrambled to figure out what to do! She told her she wasn't dressed for the job. The gal said she could be, so Helda, again thinking quickly, said her cribs were short and she needed girls 5'2" or shorter or they wouldn't fit in the beds. About that time, Shotgun got on stage and told us we were in her territory and invited us to exit the stage... I guess we were done! After much deliberation the Soiled Doves were chosen and Helda won the Par-

lor House Madam contest and a brand new Bond derringer! Way to go Helda... we have matching derringers now. What a fun evening! Saturday again dawned clear but breezy, not WINDY, so much better for shooting, let me tell you. When it's WINDY, the balloons bob up, down and side to side and it's hard to hit them! Imagine running and shooting while your targets bob and weave! We had three more challenging stages we shot with more entertainment in between complements of Bad Dog and Mrs. Bad Dog, then Canyon Cowgirl and I got to shoot shotgun. She had done it in one other competition and did pretty darn good too! (That girl is a natural, I swear!) This was my first time. I was nervous, but was determined to survive! When you shoot a shotgun stage, you shoot five balloons with your pistol, holster, pull your shotgun, slide the safety off, round the far barrel and drop your horses reins (that's the HARD part!) Let me tell you, dropping their reins is SCARY, because the horses speed up a LOT and you have to have both hands on the shotgun! You aim at two balloons in a group and pull the first trigger, then aim at the second group of three balloons and pull the second trigger. Hopefully you hit them all, your horse runs straight and you can pick up your reins and stop before you run out of

(Continued on next page)

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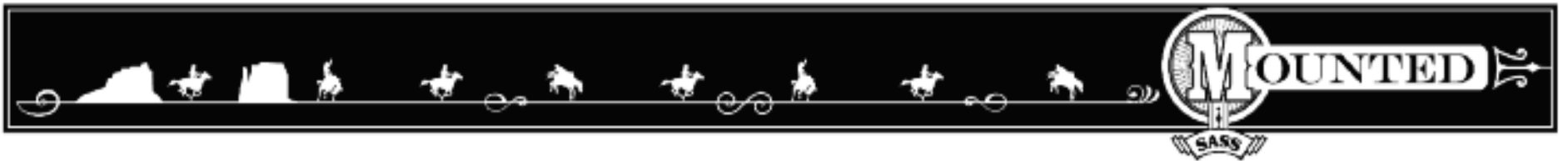
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## END of TRAIL 2014 • (World Championship Mounted Shoot)

(Continued from previous page)

arena... that's the plan anyway! Canyon Cowgirl did great... I think she missed two balloons in both her runs. I however had a bit more difficulty with my runs. (Did I mention that I'm blonde?) When I dropped my reins, my horse rocketed to Mach4, much to my surprise! I was trying to rate him but he wasn't slowing down. I missed the first two balloons (probably because I didn't even aim)! I did manage to aim and hit the next three balloons, gather my reins and stop before the end of the arena... whooooo... I LIVED! That was the good news, the bad news was I had to do it again on another stage. So I reloaded and tried again. I was ready for the ROCKET mode when I dropped the reins this time! I got my first five balloons popped and rounded the far barrel, dropped the



Front Row Joe makes Mounted Shooting look easy!

reins and we were off like a shot again! I got the first two balloons when my horse decided to exit right! I opted to abandon the last three balloons and grab the reins as we were headed right VERY quickly. I got my horse stopped in time... phew! All in all, not bad for the first time shooting shotgun! I lived to tell about it.

And yes, if you're wondering, I am gonna do it again... it was FUN, FUN, FUN! We had a Fast Draw competition after the shotgun stages. We tried to get the SASS shooters out of the audience to come play with us but no one would! (I think they were scared!) So all of us Mounted Shooters signed up to see whom the fastest gun in Mounted SASS Town was! Let me explain how you play this game. You have holsters on, you get one gun

(Continued on page 56)

### Now for the Good Stuff The Winners of the 2014 END of TRAIL World Championship Mounted Shoot

*Overall Lady Mounted Shooter:* Canyon Cowgirl, SASS #31074; *Overall Man Mounted Shooter:* Bam Bam, SASS #86267; *Reserve Lady Mounted Shooter:* Canyon Cowgirl (she rode two horses!); *Reserve Man Mounted Shooter:* Calvin N. Hobbes, SASS #17218.

*Men's 2:* 1st – Front Row Joe, SASS #94312; 2nd – Stuttering Wayne, SASS #71602.

*Men's 4:* 1st – Bad Dog, SASS #86845; 2nd – Bad Dog (he rode two horses too!).

*Men's 6:* 1st – Bam Bam.

*Senior Men's 1:* 1st – Pistola Pete, SASS #92145; 2nd – Sunset Kit Karson, SASS #90431.

*Senior Men's 4:* 1st – Chili Cowboy, SASS #59663.

*Senior Men's 5:* 1st – Calvin N. Hobbes, 2nd – Calvin N. Hobbes two horses, remember?!)

*Ladies 1:* 1st – Rock N Robin, SASS #70046; 2nd – Wild Kat Karson, SASS #90430; 3rd – Arab Angel, SASS #84142.

*Ladies 2:* 1st – Mrs. Bad Dog, SASS #86851, 2nd – Mrs. Bad Dog (yup you guessed it, she rode 2 horses!).

*Senior Ladies 1:* 1st – Icelady, SASS #71603.

*Senior Ladies 2:* 1st – Sassy Susie Q, SASS #59662.

*Senior Ladies 3:* 1st – Helda Huginkiss, SASS #23799; 2nd – Barbary Coast, SASS #21965.

*Senior Ladies 4:* 1st – Canyon Cowgirl 2nd – Canyon Cowgirl (you know why by now!); 3rd – Aneeda Huginkiss, SASS #23798.

*Buckerettes:* 1st – Patina, SASS #76840; 2nd – Tornado Tucker, SASS #100,747.

*Rifle:* 1st – Bad Dog; 2nd – Calvin N. Hobbes; 3rd – Stuttering Wayne

*Shotgun:* 1st – Bad Dog; 2nd – Canyon Cowgirl; 3rd – Stuttering Wayne; 4th – Front Row Joe; 5th – Aneeda Huginkiss; 6th – Wild Kat Karson.

*Extreme Team:* 1st – Arab Angel and Canyon Cowgirl; 2nd – Pistola Pete and Helda Huginkiss; 3rd – Stuttering Wayne and Aneeda Huginkiss; 4th – Wild Kat Karson and Chili Cowboy.

*Fast Draw:* Overall, Aneeda Huginkiss

There you have it... the winners listed for all to see! Congratulations to everyone who won and to everyone who shot!





## END of TRAIL 2014 • (World Championship Mounted Shoot)

(Continued from page 55)

loaded with blanks in the holster, you cross the timer line, draw the gun, shoot five balloons, holster the gun and cross the timer line. Sounds interesting huh, but wait... that would be way too easy, so we made everyone ride a stick horse, or if they didn't want to ride a horse, they could ride a giraffe or a unicorn or a reindeer and they got two chances at the fastest time! I was just helping, but got talked into competing. The hardest part of this whole thing is remembering to holster your gun before crossing back over the timer line... if you don't, you get a 99.999 second time. When the smoke cleared, I had the fastest time of the women and Pistol Roberson, SASS #84143, was the fastest man so we had a shoot off... and I won! (I know it was because of that fast reindeer I was riding, he was an awesome mount... he even moved and sang!) We thought we were done but we forgot to let Pistola Pete, SASS #92149, have his second turn, so it was decided by someone (I will find out who!) that I had to have a shoot off with him. I beat him too! Woohoo... I couldn't believe it! Usually I sliphammer!

I was named Fastest Shooter in the Quickdraw Competition! After the Quickdraw Competition it was time for the famous Extreme Team Stage. If you haven't seen one of these you are really missing out. We have to maneuver obstacles like bridges, jumps and cactus with a partner carrying a gold bag that we have to hand off between the two! Fastest times win. We were all told who we would partner with at the arena; shooters with the fastest times are paired with shooters with slower times to make it fair. Helda drew Pistola Pete; Canyon Cowgirl was paired with Arab Angel, SASS #84142; Wild Kat Karson, SASS #90430, drew Chili Cowboy, SASS #59663; and I got to shoot with Stuttering Wayne, SASS #71602! We



walked the pattern to make sure we knew it. One person runs it one way and the other person has to run it backwards! Helda and Pistola Pete had the fastest time till Arab Angel and Canyon Cowgirl maneuvered the course of fire... they were FAST! Canyon Cowgirl got lost by the last cactus but we all helped with directions (we all screamed at her from outside the arena, of course)! Stuttering Wayne and I were having a great run until his horse, Blair, decided to take a long detour around the barrel. He did not want to make a circle around that darn barrel! Wayne finally persuaded him (I think he mentioned something about Alpo... that usually works!) and

(Continued on next page)



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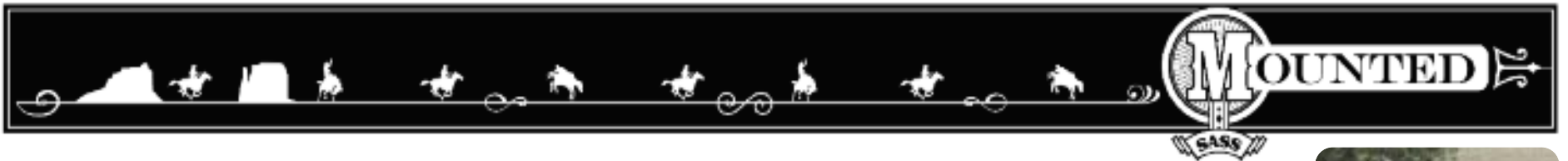


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## END of TRAIL 2014 • (World Championship Mounted Shoot)

*(Continued from previous page)*



we finished a respectable third! The Extreme Team Stage is fast paced, FUN, and the perfect finish to a wonderful match. With several hours before the Mounted Shooters met at the Pizza Barn in Edgewood for dinner we did a little more shopping in SASS Town (you can never shop too much!) then went back to camp and showered. We were pretty dirty. So dirty, in fact, that Canyon Cowgirl asked me what happened to my face and I said "DIRT!" It sure felt good to get cleaned up.

After some wonderful pizza with our Mounted friends, we got dressed up for Karaoke Night in town. We were gonna break out the ball gowns, but decided to dress cowgirl in vests and pants. It was quicker and cooler... and easier to dance in! I got to sing three songs. Judge Roy Bean wanted me to sing "Walkin' After Midnight," one of his favorites, so I did; then I sang "Redneck Woman" and got Helda to help me with "Back in the Saddle" (not the "Back in the Saddle" you're thinking of!) it's a little naughty and got everyone laughing! We sang, danced, and visited with lots of folks we knew and we stayed for the gun drawings but alas, we weren't lucky and didn't win one. But Pistol Roberson won the last one of the night, that lucky guy! Oh well there's always next year! Sunday morning we were up early, breaking camp and getting

ready to head home. The Buffalo Range Riders fed us a yummy breakfast to send us on our way, a new addition to END of TRAIL that we liked a lot! We were sad to go, but know that next year's END of TRAIL isn't that far off. We said our goodbyes and headed North to Colorado and home. You can bet we will be back next year to play at END of TRAIL. If you missed it this year, be sure to put it on your calendar for next year, it's one shoot you don't want to miss! God willing and the creek don't rise, we'll see you there! XXXOOO Aneeda Huginkiss 🐾

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*Captain George Baylor,  
SASS Life / Rugulator #24287*



# DISPATCHES FROM CAMP BAYLOR

## CATCHING UP THE HAT IN THE MUSEUM

*By Captain George Baylor, SASS Life/Regulator #24287*

You've seen the John Ford Cavalry Trilogy, of course, *Fort Apache*, 1948; *She Wore A Yellow Ribbon*, 1949; and *Rio Grande*, 1950. One of the many things they had in common was the U. S. Cavalry troopers wore white hats.

But, being SASS members, you've studied nineteenth century clothing to the point you can't watch any old western movies anymore, and you know that during the post-Civil War period the issued campaign hat was black. In 1872, the contract for the hat was filled with wool hats. They were wildly unpopular with the troops because the first time it rained, they collapsed. Wool is great for a hat you wear only to parties, but not good for actually living on horseback in all kinds of weather. In 1881 the uniform regulations changed, and the black hats were replaced with tan campaign hats that were fur felt.

But white hats looked good on film. John Ford wasn't in the re-enacting business. He was in the business of entertaining moviegoers. If he had cared about authenticity, John Wayne would not have used a Winchester 92 in *The Searchers*, set just after the Civil War, and Monument Valley wouldn't be in any of his movies. A lot of uniform and



*Same concept,  
privately purchased  
officer's hat, from  
D Bar J Hats.  
Insignia and  
officer's acorn braid  
from Coon Creek Old West.*



*Hat on display at the  
National Cowboy and  
Western Heritage Museum  
in Oklahoma City.  
It is described as a  
"privately purchased"  
officer's hat.*

other costume details weren't important. Budget and profitability were. "*Rio Grande* was shot in just 32 days, with only 352 takes from 335 camera setups, and it was a solid success, grossing \$2.25 million in its first year." (Wikipedia)

So wearing a white campaign hat in a SASS Indian Wars uniform costume is wrong, right? Well, maybe not. There's a hat at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. It's "Bone" according to David Johnson at D Bar J Hat Company ([www.dbarjhat.com](http://www.dbarjhat.com)). When you're going through the museum, seeing it will stop you in your tracks. It's on a mannequin wearing a cavalry captain's field uniform. It is captioned as being "privately purchased." Officers wanted to be recognized by their troops from a distance and were paid enough to afford good stuff. This is clearly a quality hat.

It also means, if you want to dress as an Indian Wars soldier of the Custer era, you don't have to wear a black hat. It's safe to assume that if there was one, there were

*(Continued on next page)*

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## Dispatches From Camp Baylor (Catching up The Hat in the Museum)

*(Continued from previous page)*

more. Black hats are hot if you live and shoot in the desert... or most of the west for that matter. The museum hat has a junior officer acorn hat braid over a grosgrain ribbon, and it has metal cavalry sabers on the front of the crown with "6" on top and "D" on bottom. That means the captain was in the 6th cavalry and assigned to D Troop. Normally officers didn't have their company on their hats because that could change. They were assigned to the regiment, and the commanding officer assigned them to various companies as needed. Except for a hole in the crown the hat is in remarkably good condition.

I gave the photo to David Johnson at Winter Range, along with 10th Cavalry sabers and a gold and black acorn hatband from Coon Creek Old West (<http://www.cooncreekoldwest.com>), I had decided I wanted a field uniform to match the 10th Cavalry dress uniform I wear to evening costume contests.

Campaign hats, like most hats out west, could have had several different blockings. A single crease in the middle, with or without finger dents was common, as was the telescope crease with pinch in front. Brims started out straight, but almost any form of curling can probably be found in photos of troops of the era. If you wore one on an expedition for 90 days when you got back to Fort Home it probably didn't look like it did new.

As usual David did a super job. The hat *fits*. This is important. It's windy in New Mexico in the summer. David has my "virtual" head in one of his antique machines, and the hats arrive fitting perfectly. It stays on, and it's comfortable. It's also of 100% beaver, quite thick and stiff, so it's holding its shape well. I get the feeling I could wear it on a long campaign in Indian country and it would look good when we returned.

Another thing you see in SASS Indian Wars Army uniforms that is "wrong" is the wearing of rank on the blue shirts.

The shirt was worn under the "Fatigue Blouse," which was the coat with one row of buttons and a fold down collar. This was 20-ounce wool (though officers, who bought their own uniforms, could and did have them made in higher quality 16- ounce wool) and considered too hot to wear by most SASS shooters. The rank was worn on the coat, not the shirt. So wearing the shirt with no rank on it is correct according to the regulations. Then why does



*Since I put these on I have no trouble finding my guns on a crowded loading table.*

everyone in uniform wear rank on his shirt at SASS matches? Isn't that "wrong?" Well, not necessarily. Despite the regulations, there are photos of soldiers with the rank on their shirts. Local commanders might have made allowances for the climate. They might have been saving the expensive and hard to replace fatigue blouses for dressier occasions. So, if you want fellow SASS shooters to know you're a colonel or a first sergeant, put the appropriate rank on the sleeves (enlisted) or shoulders (officers). Or you can leave off the rank.

### Mernickle's Wild Buttstock Covers

At END of TRAIL I try to visit all of the vendors and ask them "what do you have that's new and different that I can write about?" Then I write about the ones who tell me something worth writing

*(Continued on page 60)*

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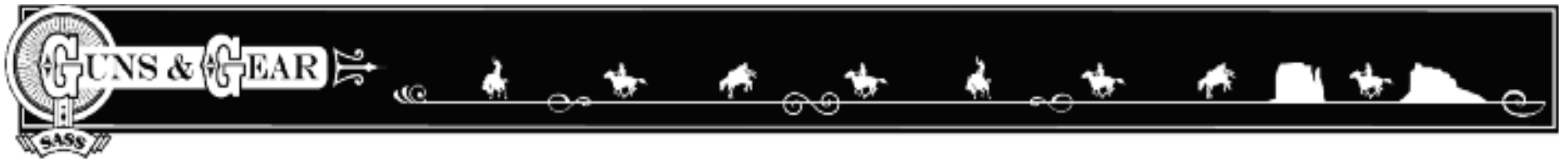
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## Dispatches From Camp Baylor (Catching up The Hat in the Museum)

*(Continued from page 59)*

about. Bob Mernickle (Mernickle Custom Holsters, [www.mernickleholsters.com](http://www.mernickleholsters.com)) always has something new and interesting. This year he had several things, some of which were too early in development for me to test and write about. But out front was a display board of buttstock covers that jumped out at me and slapped me across the face. Bob makes a design of buttstock cover that, with two sizes, fit virtually all SASS long guns. They don't have to



*Evil Roy's signature on a very fancy buttstock cover.*



*The new, fancy buttstock cover designs at Mernickle Holsters. The "Fancy" side can be on either side.*



*The buttstock cover display at Mernickle Holsters at END of TRAIL.*

be custom made for each model long gun. But until recently they all looked alike. They're also very popular, so finding your gun at the loading table became a little dicey at times.

On the other hand, if you have a rifle with bright red or turquoise and a shotgun in fuchsia, odds are the guy next to you won't pick up your rifle by mistake. Customers told Bob they wanted something more distinctive. He handed me three to use for this article. I installed them on three Wild Bunch™ long guns. They were a hit

at every match I've attended since then. I only know fuchsia because a nice lady told me. Guys only see in primary colors.

In addition to the wild colors, he has some with custom tooling. If you have a Mernickle Evil Roy holster rig, it has distinctive star Conchos. If you have a Quick Cal rig, it has sterling silver diamonds on the holsters. Now you can match these. You can also get your alias on it, or fancy tooling. The fancy side can be the left or the right side. So now they range from "all the same" to "what would you like?"

### Eagle Kirinite Grips

While talking with my old friend Raj at Eagle Grips (<https://eaglegrips.com>), I mentioned Bob's colorful buttstock covers. Immediately he said, "I have something that will go perfectly with that." The answer was Kirinite™ grips. In addition to the red ones shown, it is available in several more colors. What is Kirinite™? It is a high grade acrylic material, both dazzling and virtually indestructible, not an inferior plastic or molded material. No acrylic is exactly like it, Kirinite™ must be cut, shaped, and polished. The more it is polished, the more it grabs and bonds to the hand. It looks slippery, but it isn't.

Like everything from Eagle grips, they are well made and finished and fit perfectly. If you want your Wild Bunch™ gun to be noticed, these should do it.

*(Continued on next page)*

Lawmen of The Old West  
*Unmasked*  
LAWMEN OF THE OLD WEST  
*Unmasked*  
Small Book Reviews & The Author's Profile by  
Jesse Wolf Hardin

Books for the lovers of the authentic Wild West  
by Jesse Wolf Hardin

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"Read the truth about these 11 Old West Lawmen and enjoy real history."  
-John Taffin

"The passion of the Wild West nozes off of every page"  
-Bob Boze Bell





**Dispatches From Camp Baylor (Catching up The Hat in the Museum) —**

*(Continued from previous page)*



*Eagle Kirinite™ grips, available in several colors.*

**Frankford Arsenal Media Transfer Magnet for Stainless Steel Media**

In my recent test of Midway USA's (www.midwayusa.com) Frankford Arsenal Platinum Series Rotary Case Tumbler, I mentioned that their Media Transfer Magnet (Product #: 375973) had not arrived. It did, finally, and it works exceptionally well. I said then, don't get the tumbler without the magnet. I still do. Several users of rotary tumblers/stainless media have recom-

mended Original Lemi-Shine as a brass cleaner/polish. It's available at Walmart. I have tried it, and it, too, works remarkably well. A couple of teaspoons are added to a full tumbler of water. Brass comes out bright and shiny and stays that way. Using a rotary tumbler and stainless media results in cleaner, shinier brass with less lead exposure than vibratory tumblers and dry media. This is especially true if you want clean, like new brass after shooting black powder. 🐉



*An additive to get your brass cleaner and shinier in your rotary tumbler that you can get (cheaply) from Walmart, and it works well.*

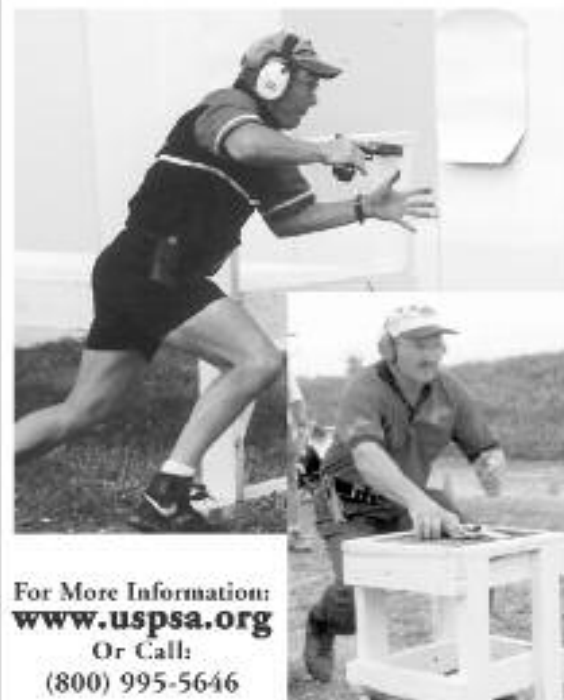


*The Frankford Arsenal Media Transfer Magnet picks up media from the water used to clean the last batch of brass.*



*Then the media is returned to the tumbler for reuse. Pull the release handle, and the media falls off.*

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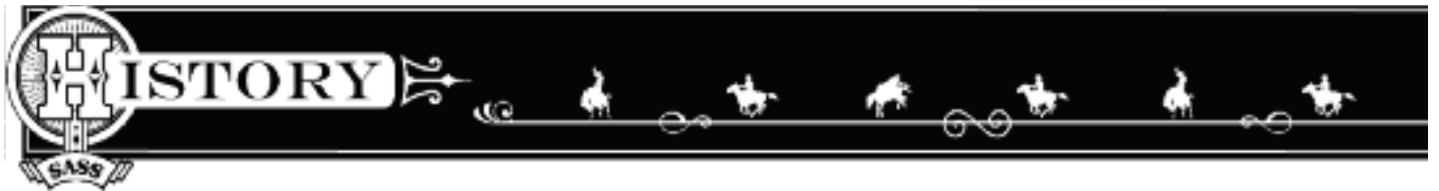
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Col. Richard Dodge,  
SASS #1750



# TIBURCIO LAST CALIFORNIA BANDITO VASQUEZ

By Col. Richard Dodge, SASS #1750 Life



Tiburcio Vasquez

At about 7:00 p.m. on a warm evening of August 26, 1873, young D. F. McPhail was returning to his home in Tres Pinos from Hollister in San Benito County, California. As he walked home from the stage, he was approached by three mounted Mexicans, one on a fine pale palomino, so pale as to appear almost white. The rider hailed the young man, asking the time. McPhail pulled out his fine gold watch to comply. As he glanced down to read the time, he failed to see one of the riders start to dismount, only to be stayed by a gesture from the man on the pale horse. The three men thanked McPhail and continued on toward Snyder's store. McPhail blissfully continued home, unaware of how closely he came to being involved in one of Nineteenth Century California's most heinous crimes.

San Benito County is one of California's poorest, landlocked with much of its area taken by the mountains of California's Coast Range. Pinnacles National Park, the nation's newest, is located in the most rugged peaks and is a challenge for the most experienced hiker. The rich soils like those of California's great inland valley are sadly lacking.

The charming little town of San Juan Bautista, with its lovely mission perched defiantly on the very edge of the



Vasquez Rocks

San Andreas Fault, beckons with promise of a peaceful, even bucolic lifestyle. Even nearby Hollister, the county seat, seems quiet.

But bucolic San Benito's history tells frightening tales of banditos, killings, rustlers, hangings, and outlawry that lasted far longer than in much of the rest of the Golden State.

It is always interesting to note how the peaceful and fun-loving Californios responded to the rude intrusions of the hated *norteamericanos*. A genteel life style two generations old had been destroyed by uncouth immigrants who had, by hook or by crook, taken their land, their heritage, their wealth— everything. True, many of the Californios' social leaders had seen the future and had indeed become leading citizens of the new state, but anger burned hotly in the breasts of many who refused to go quietly into the new order with its injustices, corruption, and discrimination against the "grim old Spaniards."

Many of those who chose to resist the *gringos* are burned into California's history: Joaquin Murrieta, Juan Flores, Solomon Pico, Anastacio Garcia, and Tiburcio Vasquez. Most of them were most active during the early 1850s, when *gringo* law was new and communication was only as fast as the fastest horse. So was transportation, a serious issue in California's vastness. Even while showing a cooperative face to the *gringos*, the Californios secretly wished these sons of the old order Godspeed and provided shelter, provisions, horses and information. Of all these bearers of Californio pride and lost dreams, only one, Tiburcio Vasquez, managed to continue his depredations the length and breadth of California well into the days of the railroad and telegraph and of organized law enforcement.

Vasquez was born in Monterey in 1839 and was raised in the time-honored traditions of the old Californios. He

*(Continued on next page)*



## Tiburcio Vasquez (Last California Bandito)

(Continued from previous page)

was a well-built, handsome man, fluent in both Spanish and English, a superb horseman—as most Californios were—and he cut a fine figure at a fandango. He had a weakness for the fairer sex, as they did for him, and he seemed to care little of their married state, which was to become the eventual cause of his downfall. He was one of those Californios who took great offense at the behavior of the hated *gringos* and became obsessed with the hopeless cause of returning control of California to its rightful rulers, right up to the end.

As a brash youth of 14, when the influx of *gringos* was at its height, Vasquez fell into the influence of one Anastacio Garcia, one of the most dangerous and belligerent of the Californio banditos. Garcia killed Monterey Constable William Hardmount in a fight at a fandango. Vasquez was present and was accused of being part of the fight; though he claimed innocence, he feared arrest and fled. It wasn't long before the two were involved in the murderous Monterey County Toach-Belcher feud, resulting in Garcia being lynched in the jail in 1857. By then, Vasquez was also rustling horses. Captured by a sheriff's posse near Newhall, he was sentenced to San Quentin for the next five years. Ever the rebel, he participated in four unsuccessful prison breaks that resulted in a score of convicts' deaths.

After his release in 1862 and a half-hearted attempt to go straight, he returned to his old ways and once again was captured—for burglary this time—and sentenced for three more years, not a free man until 1865.

By 1870, Vasquez, now a hardened and angry man, formed the beginnings of what would be a most fearsome gang. The notorious Juan Soto and Procopio Bustamante were prominent members. In a raid, he was shot and seriously wounded by Santa Cruz police officer Robert Liddell, but escaped and was nursed back to health by his sisters.

He gained statewide notoriety and condemnation when he led his gang to the small town of Tres Pinos. Today the town is called Paicines due to an underhanded act by the railroad that switched the names of the two towns to shorten its contracted route. There is nothing there except a few farmhouses and a packing shed and it is the Gateway to Pinnacles National Park. In 1873, as Tres Pinos, there were stores and businesses there, including Snyder's Store.

On that fateful day, two of the gang entered Tres Pinos first, dismounted and entered the store, engaging the clerk in conversation. Shortly five more arrived, including Vasquez, who had just spared the fortunate McPhail. Two entered the store and commenced the robbery, tying employees and customers, rummaging through the supplies,

(Continued on page 64)



## LITTLE KNOWN FAMOUS PEOPLE

### Way Out West -

By Joe Fasthorse, SASS #48769



Joe Fasthorse,  
SASS #48769

### Little Archie Clement

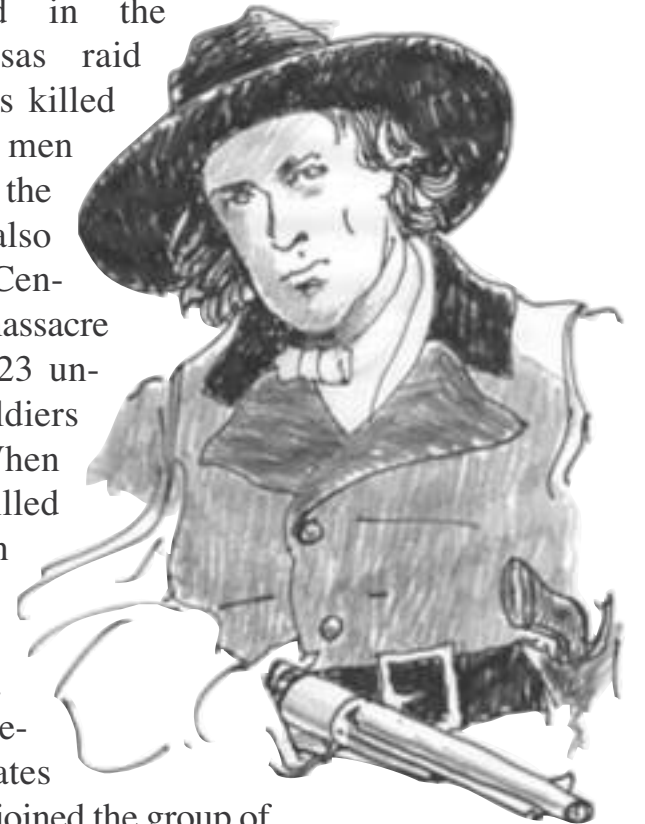
Archibald "Little Archie" Clement was born in Missouri in 1846. He joined Bloody Bill Anderson's Confederate guerillas in 1861 and quickly took a leading role in the gang's military operations, becoming a lieutenant at the age of 17. Although he stood just five feet tall, Little Archie feared nothing and was an expert pistol shot with either hand.

He participated in the Lawrence, Kansas raid where the raiders killed more than 100 men and burned down the town. He was also present at the Centralia, Missouri massacre and helped kill 23 unarmed Union soldiers in cold blood. When Union forces killed "Bloody Bill" in October, 1864, Little Archie took command.

When the War Between the States

ended, Clements joined the group of

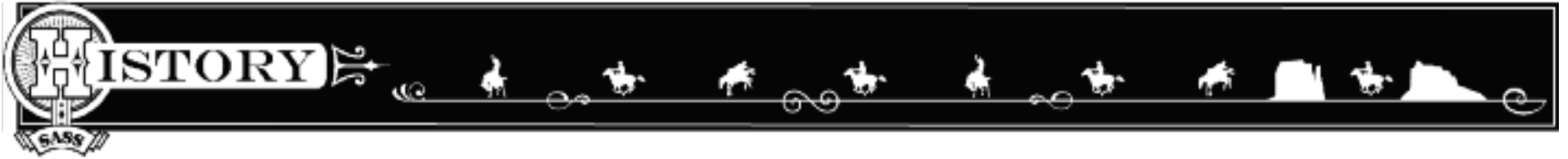
renegades that would later become the James-Younger Gang. In February 1866, Little Archie led the outlaws in the first U.S. daylight bank robbery at Liberty, Missouri, killing an innocent 14-year-old boy. In October of that year, the daring desperadoes robbed another bank at Lexington, Missouri. Archibald "Little Archie" Clements was killed in the firefight that ensued when the Missouri State Militia ambushed the bandit band at Lexington in December 1866. He is buried in Wellington, Missouri. 🐾



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## Tiburcio Vasquez (Last California Bandito)

(Continued from page 63)

taking what cash they could find and any goods that suited their fancy.

Vasquez remained outside with two men as lookouts and proceeded to elevate himself into the upper class of criminal notoriety. The first to fall victim was a Portuguese sheepherder named Martin. As the man approached the store, Vasquez ordered him to stop. Speaking neither English nor Spanish, poor Martin ignored the command and received a revolver ball in the mouth. Falling backward, he struggled to stand and was finished with a shot to the neck from Vasquez' Remington.

Teamster George Redford was next. Tending his team across the street with his back to the store, Redford was unaware of the shooting; he was stone deaf. Vasquez approached him and ordered him to lie down. Finally realizing the danger, the teamster started to run to the nearby stable. Vasquez' Remington spoke again and the unfortunate Redford fell facedown, a lead ball through his heart from behind.

A Mr. Scherrer, a blacksmith, was on the street next to the store when the shooting started. He turned and ran to the Davidson's house next door, calling to them to close the door. As Mr. Davidson moved to close the door and lock it, Vasquez fired again through the door, hitting Davidson in the heart. He fell dead into his wife's arms and they both slumped to the floor.

The gang proceeded to rob the store at their leisure, then took nine horses from the stable, including a fine four-horse team belonging to Redford's employer, and rode leisurely out of town leaving the stricken community to its grief. Snyder was so unnerved that he shortly thereafter sold his business and moved to Santa Ana in today's Orange County.

Though he had spread his outlaw trade far and wide for so many years, the Tres Pinos robbery raised the public ire to outrage. Vasquez decided that northern California was too hot for his taste and moved his operations to Los

Angeles where he was to encounter his most determined foe, Los Angeles County Sheriff William Rowland.

The gang took advantage of their many contacts and friends in the old Californio community and set up camps and hide-outs in several locations, including in a rock formation in southern Antelope Valley east of present day Santa Clarita known to this day as Vasquez Rocks and Robbers' Roost. There were others in Big Tujunga Canyon and Lake Elizabeth. They fostered a community of supporters throughout the area who, either out of empathy or fear, ensured ample supplies of shelter, food, and horses to the banditos.

From here the gang proceeded to terrorize the ranches and towns of Los Angeles County and northward all the way to Fresno County. Rewards began to appear for Vasquez' capture, finally reaching the enormous sum of \$8,000 alive and \$6,000 dead.

Sheriff's posses from Alameda County in the north to San Diego in the south scoured the countryside for the gang, frustrated by the gang's mobility and unpredictable behavior. Operating in small groups of two to five men, the gang sacked towns and robbed stagecoaches and travelers; more than a hundred robberies and atrocities were attributed to them. Time after time, the gang escaped into the countryside, more than once barely avoiding capture.

Finally Vasquez made a fatal mistake. His fondness for the gentle sex was to prove his undoing. He literally stole a willing damsel from her husband, whisking her away to a life of romantic adventure and abandoning her when it became inconvenient to keep her. The lady was saved by a passing *norteamericano* and she was only too eager to aid in Vasquez' capture (at least, that is one story of Vasquez' capture—there are others). He was hiding in the home of "Greek George" Caralambo, which was located in what is now present-day West Hollywood near Melrose Place.

The information was immediately forwarded to Los Angeles County Sheriff William Rowland. Rowland was a careful man, determined to make good on this opportunity to take Vasquez. He patiently gathered information and on the morning of May 15, 1874 sent a posse to Greek







## Tiburcio Vasquez (Last California Bandito)

*(Continued from previous page)*

George's adobe under the command of Under Sheriff Albert Johnson. Six good men were deputized and even a correspondent for the *San Francisco Chronicle* was included to record the event. They arrived at a ridge above the adobe at about 4:00 a.m. in fog so thick that visibility was almost zero, forcing them to wait for the fog to clear.

When they could finally see the, two saddled horses were observed outside the house, one of them answering the description of a speedy mount ridden by Vasquez in more than one of his escapes. While discussing how to best approach the house, a lumber wagon passed by on the road, an ideal solution. The posse stopped the driver and under threat of death ordered him to drive his team along a road that passed near the back of the house. Thus, the entire posse was in position around the hideout without alarm.

The door was kicked in and there sat Vasquez at breakfast. Ever defiant, Vasquez dove through a nearby window in an attempt to reach his horse. Gunfire erupted and a rifle ball in the shoulder and a shotgun blast in the side struck his body. The bandito was down, captured at last, bleeding from his wounds and thought to be dying. Hastily, a wagon was commandeered from a nearby home and Vasquez was transported to Los Angeles, where it was discovered his wounds were only superficial. He would live to stand trial.

Women flocked to Vasquez' cell, bearing all manner of gifts of food and drink and affection, his reputation for gallantry still with him. Tears were shed by dark-eyed señoritas and señoras, both married and single, as they bade farewell to their doomed gallant.

Nine days later, Vasquez was transported under heavy guard to Monterey, where once again the jail was a gathering place for skirted admirers bearing gifts and tears.

Vasquez defended his actions to the court: "A spirit of hatred and revenge took possession of me. I had numerous fights in defense of what I believed to be my rights and those of my countrymen. I believed we were unjustly deprived of the social rights that belonged to us."

Nevertheless, the trial was convened in San Jose and on March 19, 1875 Vasquez was predictably found guilty of murder and numerous other crimes, and condemned to death.

Asked just before his execution, "Do you believe in an afterlife?" He replied, "I hope so... for then soon I shall

see all my old sweethearts again." On the gallows, his one word was *pronto*—"Quick." He was 39 years old and had terrorized California for almost a quarter century.

Even today, Tiburcio Vásquez remains controversial. Seen as a hero by some Mexican-Americans for his defiance of what he viewed as unjust laws and discrimination, others regard him simply as a colorful outlaw. To this day, many people—primarily Mexican-Americans—continue to visit and pay respects to Vásquez' grave in Santa Clara Mission Cemetery in Santa Clara, California. A recent attempt to name a school for Vasquez was met with emotional support and resistance by citizens of San Benito and Monterey Counties.

\* \* \* \* \*

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# 2014 Scholarship Recipient

## Hopalong Cassie, SASS #81945



Justice Lily Kate,  
SASS #1000

*Adapted & Edited by Justice Lily Kate, SASS #1000*



**A** Texas Aggie Howdy from College Station, Texas! My name is Cassie Mohkami, aka Hopalong Cassie, SASS #81945. My brother-in-law, George Stokes, aka Shot Shell, SASS #79405, and my sister, Shelia Stokes, aka Shell Belle, SASS #79406, were the ones who introduced me to the great sport of Cowboy Action Shooting™. I started out shooting with the Thunder River Renegades in Magnolia, TX in 2009. Soon afterwards I joined the Old Fort Parker Patriots in Groesbeck, TX and the Oakwood Outlaws in Oakwood, TX.

I am proud to say that I am a member of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Class of 2018. Starting in September, I will be pursuing a degree in Geophysics. My long-term aspiration is to graduate from Texas A&M University-College Station with a Master's Degree in Geophysics so I can work as a Geophysicist for a leading oil/gas company such as Exxon Mobil.

I have been blessed with the most wonderful support system along the way. My family, friends, and teachers/counselors have helped guide me to success. They have taught me life lessons and skills I will use the rest of my life. My loving sister, Shelia, has been a highly influential person in my life. She has stood by my side through anything and everything. She has been my mentor, best friend, and #1 fan. Without her endless direction and encouragement, I would have never developed into the strong individual I am today.

When I began shooting in 2009, I soon realized that not only had I joined one of the best sports in the world, but I had also become part of a family. My shooting family has been there for me since before I fired my first shot. As they have watched me grow up, they have been there to protect and support me. Thank you so much, you crazy bunch of outlaws!!!! Also, a big thank you to all that have supported the SASS Scholarship Fund. Without your help and donations, this award would not be available.

I am honored to have received one of this year's scholarships. The financial burden of pursuing higher education is lessened on my family and me by your confidence in my future. I am humbled by the recognition, and hope to represent SASS and the Cowboy Way to the best of my abilities. 🤠

# The Foundation for American Society

*By Hopalong Cassie, SASS #81945  
Edited and Adapted by Justice Lily Kate, SASS #1000*

**T**wo hundred years ago, our founding fathers gathered to construct the Constitution to secure the American heritage, guarantee rights among its people, and protect them from the injustices and tyranny they had suffered. Within this Constitution lies the Bill of Rights that guarantees the people of this great nation certain inalienable rights. The second of these God given rights reads, "A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the rights of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." (US Const. Am. 2) Our founders

meant these things to be God given to the people, not government given. They were absolutes, not to be reinterpreted or changed to fit the government of the time. The Second Amendment is the reason that we are a nation at all. Without the people arming themselves and standing for their beliefs and ideals, we would have never been able to create this great nation of ours. The Second Amendment is important to modern society in that it allows us to protect ourselves from tyrannical governments both foreign and

*(Continued on next page)*





## The Foundation for American Society

*(Continued from previous page)*

domestic, as well as keep violent crime rates down.

The Second Amendment aids in the defense against government tyranny both foreign and domestic. As stated by Thomas Jefferson, “When governments fear the people, there is liberty. When the people fear the government, there is tyranny. The strongest reason for people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government.” (*Jefferson, Monitcello.org*) The people of the United States of America prefer not to use arms as a first choice when resolving conflicts, but should not be hesitant to stand up for their independence and fight against foreign invasion. This is true for foreign evils looking to usurp our government through invasion of our mainland. If it hadn’t been for the well-armed citizenry during World War II, the American identity would have been shifted drastically. Just after the tragic bombing of Pearl Harbor, Isoroku Yamamoto, Commander-in-Chief of the Imperial Japanese Navy during World War II said, “You cannot invade the mainland United States. There would be a man with a rifle behind every blade of grass.” (*Yamamoto, famousquotes.com*)

Had it not been for the widespread knowledge of the well-armed citizenry, we could have suffered a mainland invasion during WWII, and who knows what society would be like today. The people cannot fully depend on the government for safety. In other words, Americans should feel the responsibility to hold down their soil, and do so with the right to bear arms. By thinking the government will intervene and amend conditions, not only do American’s run the risk of being overrun by foreign government, but also their very own domestic power as well. Likewise, the Second Amendment allows for the people to eradicate an unjust government that has manipulated the power given by the general public.

Corruption is already beginning to take place in today’s government, according to an NBC news article, “American military drone strikes, three men... all killed in the fall of 2011... were U.S. citizens.” (*Rafferty US News*) The President’s new ability to decide on additional targets to place on the “kill list” is unlawful, due to the fact that with this there is no due process that has to be followed. Currently U.S citizens are now at risk of being killed at the expense of decisions made unjustly by the President. Whether this be protecting against foreign intrusion or

keeping the American government from abusing their power, the people have the individual liberty of the Second Amendment to make their voices heard.

Individuals’ right to possess firearms reduces violent crime. As described by Harry Browne, “The police can’t stop an intruder, mugger, or stalker from hurting you. They can pursue him only after he has hurt or killed you. Protecting yourself from harm is your responsibility, and you are far less likely to be hurt in a neighborhood of gun owners than in one of disarmed citizens – even if you don’t own a gun yourself.” (*Brown, Libertarianquotes.com*) The Second Amendment facilitates the right to self-defense and is not only a private and personal benefit, but is also a right to the defense of the community as well. People with wrong intentions are less emboldened, and less likely to commit crimes if their possible targets own firearms. It has been proved that in areas where an individual’s rights to possess firearms is restricted, there is a higher rate of violent crimes.

According to a Harvard study, “Nations with stringent anti-gun laws generally have substantially higher murder rates than those that do not.” (*American Civil Rights Union*) Restricting civilians from the right to defend themselves, makes them easier prey for criminals. The Second Amendment does not affect whether or not convicts own guns. As long as there are evil intentions, there will be evil occurrences in society. There have been countless situations where the Second Amendment saved somebody’s life during a home invasion. Suzanna Hupp is a perfect example of how an ordinary citizen lost the lives of her family members because of gun restrictions. A man crashed his truck into a Luby’s in Killeen, TX in 1991, systematically executing 23 people, including both of her parents, and wounding 20 others. Ms. Hupp had a perfect opportunity to use a concealed weapon on the shooter, to end the madness and save countless victims, including her parents. Unfortunately, at the time in Texas, concealed carry was illegal, and her firearm was locked in her car. Instead of blaming guns for what happened to her parents, Ms. Hupp said, “I was mad as heck at my legislators because I honestly believed that they legislated me out of the right to protect myself and my family, and I would much rather be sitting in jail right now with a felony offense on my head and have my parents alive to know their grandchildren.” Through her tireless work to protect the Second Amendment, countless people now

*(Continued on page 70)*





Zebulon Vitruvius Pike,  
SASS #96944



# UNFORGIVEN 2013

## YURUSAREZARU MONO

By Zebulon Vitruvius Pike, SASS #96944

The 1954 epic Japanese samurai film *The Seven Samurai* was remade into the American western film *The Magnificent Seven* in 1960, beginning a long and mostly high-quality series of cross-genre appreciations. The latest of these is *Yurusarezaru Mono*, director Sang-il Lee's 2013 reinterpretation of Clint Eastwood's 1992 Academy Award winning *Unforgiven*.

In 1868, the Japanese emperor was restored to the throne, deposing the Shogun Yoshinobu Tokugawa whose family had ruled Japan as hereditary dictators for some 250 years. Shogunate samurai, defeated on the battlefield and stripped of their lands and traditional power, fled to the northern island of Hokkaido hoping to form an American-style republic of their own. The rebellion was eventually to be harshly put down. (See the first part of the 2003 film, *The Last Samurai*). *Yurusarezaru Mono*, begins in the winter snows of Hokkaido 1869 with Jubei Kamata (Ken Watanabe, *Letters from Iwo Jima*; *Godzilla*) being hunted down by Imperial bounty hunters.

If you've seen Clint Eastwood's original, you know the rest. The story advances to 11 years later where Jubei is a widower and failed farmer. His old friend King Baba (Akira Emoto, *The Blind Swordsman: Zatoichi*) finds him



Bringing a gun to a swordfight.

and asks him to join in a bounty killing job to avenge a cut-up prostitute. They pick up Schofield Kid, Goro Sawada (Yûya Yagira), along the way. The bounties are killed. King Baba is captured and killed by town sheriff Ichizo Oichi (Kôichi Satô, *Samurai Western Django*). Jubei returns and takes revenge. Roll credits.

It would be easy to dismiss this film as a scene-for-scene remake, or at best, homage to a classic. But just like *Yojimbo* and *A Fist Full of Dollars*, they are the same story, the one a retelling of the other, but they are also very different films when taken in context. In the opening scene, the hunter's Western clothes and Springfield rifles establish this movie as much in the American Western genre as in the Japanese *jidaigeki* period drama. The broad, open expanses of the filming locations in Hokkaido again make this seem a much more Western film.

Jubei's survival against the bounty hunters' overwhelm-

*(Continued on next page)*

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## Unforgiven 2013 (Yurusarezaru Mono)

(Continued from previous page)



Even the movie poster alludes to the original.

ing numbers establishes him as a killer, even more so than is done in Eastwood's original, which waits until Ned shows up and then tells us about it rather than showing us.

Most of the reviews I've read say otherwise, but I found Watanabe's performance somewhat more emotional. Subtle emotions play over his expressions, almost frame to frame, whereas Eastwood tends to glower constantly and consistently, his emotions described by dialogue. This display, rather than tell style of filmmaking, does tend to leave us wondering at times. The motivations of the sheriff Ichizo are not as clearly defined as they could be and he comes across as more psychopathic than he probably should.

The addition of the Ainu subplot and its parallels with the plight of Native Americans reinforces the impression of this being an American Western. For those not familiar, the Ainu people are indigenous to Hokkaido. Under the Shogonate, they were treated as backward neighbors to be dominated, stolen from and occasionally enslaved. Even so, there were occasional treaties, trade agreements and relative peace. With the Meiji Restoration, the Imperial

Government claimed their lands and their culture was outlawed. What little good "Jubei the Killer" does in the course of the film is attributable to the influence of the plight of the Ainu on the story.

Both the samurai film and the western employ traditional combat tropes. The swiftly drawn sword and flowing slices, the fast draw pistol and shooting from the hip. Eastwood's film tried to dispense with this somewhat but the final fight in *Yurusarezaru Mono* is even more brutal and inelegant. Jubei, with his rusted sword, is no warrior, cer-



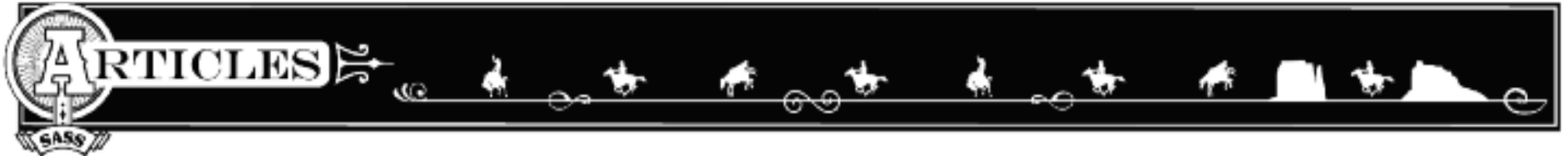
Jubei with King Babu's Winchester.

tainly no samurai. Plain and simple, he is a killer. A killer unforgiven. There is no redemption. There is no returning home. The Japanese Nō Theater has a traditional character called the *shite* who will appear in the narrative first as a human and then as a ghost. In this, Jubei begins as a ghost and only briefly becomes human again before fading away. He ends the film as he began, alone in the snow. Haunted and hunted. I can't really say I think that this is a better film than the original, but I believe this transformational circle makes *Yurusarezaru Mono* a more moving and tragic film.

It is disappointing that it has not received wider distribution in the U.S. I think western film aficionados would find much to appreciate in this re-imagining of a classic. ♪

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| <p><b>The History of the Jigged Grip</b></p> <p>In the late 1870's this style was called the "twice cut" or "double cut" grip. This referred to (1) cutting the stag or ivory slab to fit the revolver and (2) cutting the "jig" pattern. It was then said to be jigged. These grips were available from Colt on special order. Hollywood made the "jigged" style grips famous as all "Cowboy Stars" used them from 1920 to 1950 in their "Grape 8" Western Movies</p>                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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### The Foundation for American Society

(Continued from page 67)

have the right to obtain a concealed handgun license in the state of Texas.

I am immensely blessed to have a family that educated me at a young age in the importance of safely using firearms. I am an active member of the National Rifle Association as well as the Texas State Rifle Association. I joined SASS in 2009 when I was only 13 and have been shooting as much as my school work would allow ever since. My family in this regard also includes my wonderful shooting family. The Single Action Shooting Society has introduced me to a world where the Golden Rule still applies, and safety is paramount. I am so proud to be a member of this wonderful organization where a family can spend quality time shooting together, as well as have fellowship with wonderful Second Amendment advocates.

The original assignment for this essay was to write about the significance of the Second Amendment in American society, but in reality The Second Amendment is responsible for everything about American society, including its existence at all. Without our ability to protect ourselves from evil forces both foreign and domestic, and our ability to deter crime by carrying and using firearms responsibly, who knows what type of country we would be living in today. It sure wouldn't be the America we know and love. I cannot imagine a life without my firearms. Their safe use has brought immense joy to my life and I hope to help educate as many people as I can about their proper use and the "Cowboy Way."

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# COMIC BOOK CORNER



## BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

During the late 1940s and the 1950s the popularity of Western adventure fiction extended to all forms of entertainment, including, predictably, comic books. Virtually every comic book publisher (and there were a lot of them) introduced at least one Western title sometime during that decade, and Lev Gleason Publishing, better known for its graphically violent crime titles, was no exception.

In June of 1948, Gleason launched *Desperado*, a Western-themed crime comic, as a companion to its contemporary crime titles, *Crime Does Not Pay* and *Crime and Punishment*. *Desperado* ran for eight issues, featuring typically violent (for Gleason) crime

stories set in the Old West. The third issue contained a story with more than 20 murders. But then, Gleason somehow got the word that readers were interested in more traditional, hero-based westerns and with the ninth issue, *Desperado* was relaunched as *Black Diamond Western*. Of all Western heroes, The Lone Ranger was and is one of the most popular and well-known, so The Black Diamond, after whom the comic is named, was designed to mimic the mysterious masked cowboy.

Presented in this issue is the first part of The Black Diamond's origin story. The second and concluding part will run next month. As always, the page images used in Comic Book Corner are courtesy of the website, <http://comicbookplus.com>. Their free site features more than 28,000 public domain comic books of all genres, not just Westerns. 🐾



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CHIEF, THE IRON HORSE  
INVADES THE HUNTING  
GROUND OF YOUR ANCESTORS.  
BRINGING MORE AND MORE  
SETTLERS TO KILL YOUR  
GAME AND STEAL YOUR  
LAND! YOU MUST  
ACT!

MY WHITE FRIEND SPEAKS  
WITH A STRAIGHT TONGUE!  
MY PEOPLE WILL NOT  
STARVE AND BE DRIVEN  
FROM THEIR HOMES! WE  
WILL ATTACK AND EVERY  
MAN, WOMAN AND  
CHILD MUST DIE!

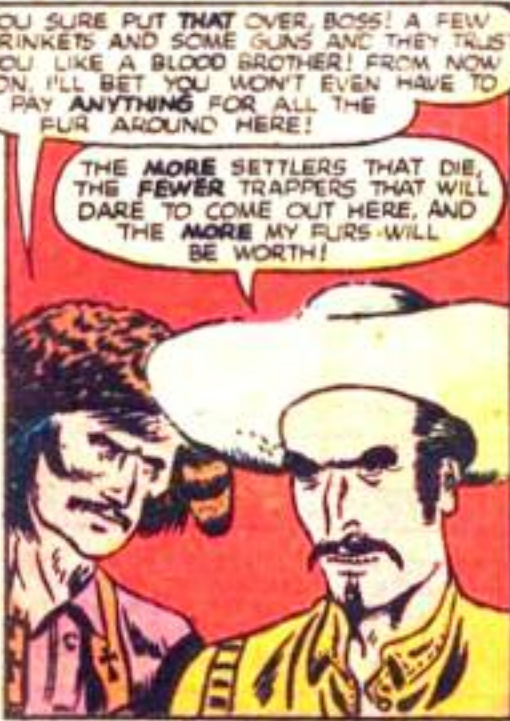
IN CONSIDERATION OF INNOCENT PEOPLE INVOLVED AND RELATIVES OF OTHERS THE NAMES OF CHARACTERS EMPLOYED IN BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN ARE FICTITIOUS. ANY SIMILARITY TO NAMES OF PEOPLE LIVING OR DEAD IS ENTIRELY COINCIDENTAL. THIS IN NO WAY AFFECTS THE ACCURACY OF THE TRUE STORIES OF THE WEST.

ILLUSTRATED BY  
*Willie and  
Overgard*

ON A WESTERN PLAIN, IN 1869 YEARS OF BACK-BREAKING EFFORT RESULTED IN THE COMPLETION OF A BAND OF STEEL, THE FIRST CROSS-COUNTRY RAILROAD! IT BROUGHT TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME THE SHIPBUILDER FROM BOSTON, THE COTTON GROWER FROM SAVANNAH, AND THE RANCHERS FROM CALIFORNIA! BUT THERE WERE SOME UNSCRUPULOUS MEN WHO DID NOT DESIRE TO SHARE THE RICHNESS OF THE WILDERNESS, AND IT IS BECAUSE OF ONE SUCH MAN THAT THIS STORY IS TOLD!

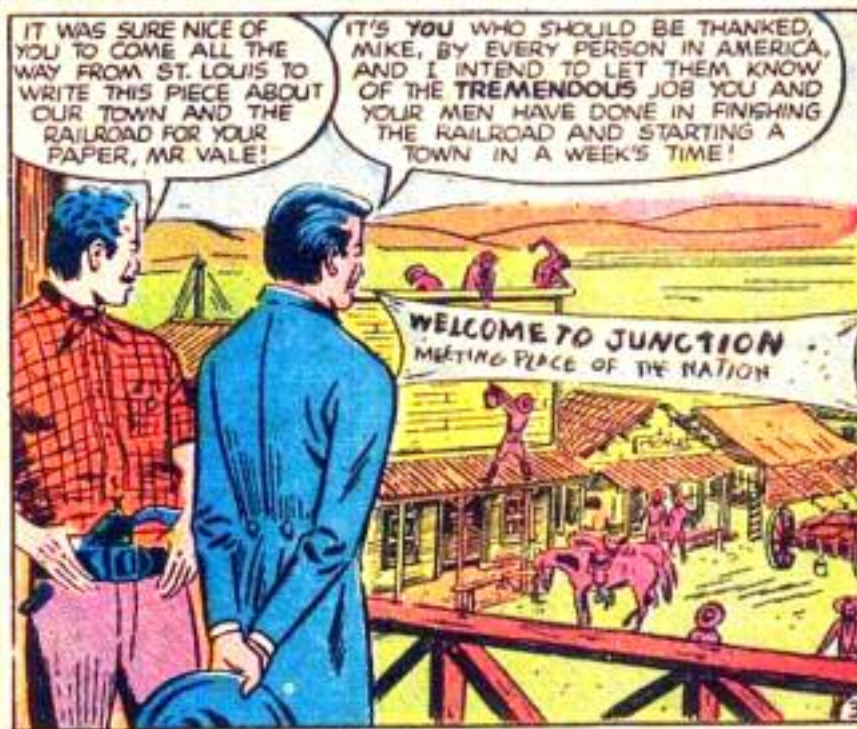


# ARTICLES





# ARTICLES





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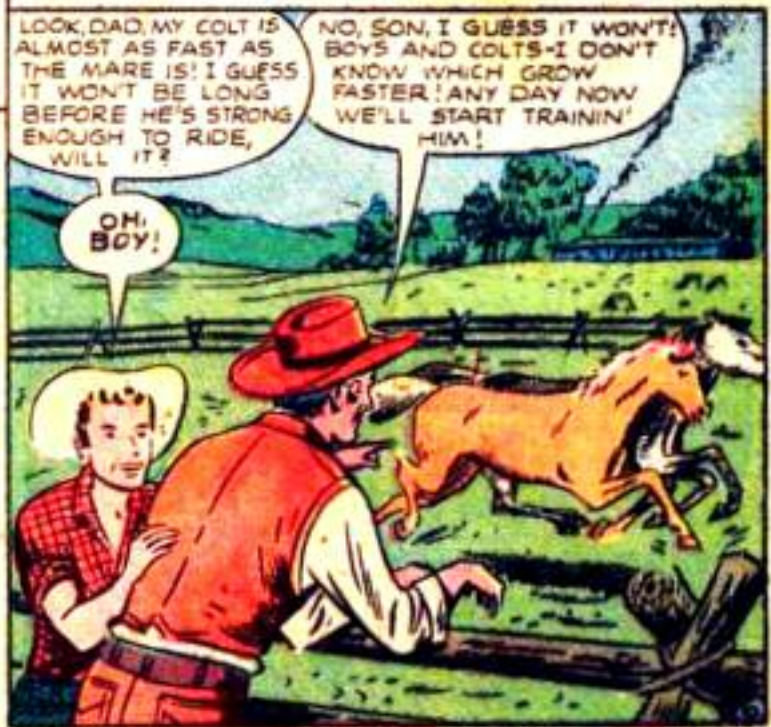




# ARTICLES



IN THE NEXT TWELVE YEARS, THE SMALL COMMUNITY OF JUNCTION GREW AND PROSPERED! A SMALL DAUGHTER, PATRICIA, WAS BORN TO THE VALES' MERCHANTS CAME, AND RANCHES GREW, AND THE MEMORY OF A DAY IN 1868 WAS ALL BUT FORGOTTEN!





# ARTICLES



THAT'S RIGHT-KEEP HIM GOING AROUND IN A CIRCLE! HE'LL GET USED TO THE ROPE THAT WAY!



GETTING THE SADDLE ON HIM WASN'T TOO HARD, DAD! DO YOU SUPPOSE HE TRUSTS ME ENOUGH TO LET ME RIDE HIM?

HE TRUSTS YOU, OR HE WOULDN'T STAND STILL, BUT HE'LL GO WILD THE FIRST TIME HE FEELS YOUR WEIGHT ON HIS BACK! HOP ON AND STAY THERE! YOU'VE GOT TO BREAK HIM IN YOURSELF!



HE FEELS YOU-HOLD TIGHT, SON!

WHOA, BOY! EASY- IT'S ME!



OWW! I'M OKAY, DAD- JUST WATCH HIM! HE ALWAYS COMES RUNNING WHEN I'M IN TROUBLE OR HURT! HE SEEMS TO SENSE IT- JUST LIKE THAT TIME THE RATTLER ALMOST GOT ME, AND HE STAMPED IT TO DEATH!



SEE, WHAT DID I TELL YOU! WHAT A HORSE! I CAN HARDLY WAIT TILL I CAN RIDE HIM TO SCHOOL!

THEN YOU'D BETTER TAKE CARE OF HIM! THAT MOUNTAIN LION WE HEAR EVERY NIGHT SEEMS TO BE GETTING CLOSER! MAKE SURE HE STAYS CORRALLED!

SUPPER, DAD, BOB - SOUP'S ON!



GEE, PATRICIA! WON'T MOM BE SURPRISED WHEN I BRING BACK THAT MOUNTAIN LION'S HIDE? I CAN GIVE IT TO HER FOR HER BIRTHDAY!

YES, SHE'S ALWAYS WANTED A LION SKIN FOR A RUG IN HER ROOM! CAN I COME ALONG, BOB?



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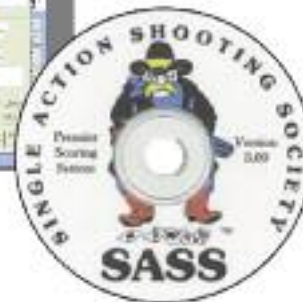


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 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
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 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Buckle Information:**

SASS Sanctioned Match: \_\_\_\_\_  
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 World Championship  Territorial Shoot Out  State Shoot Out  
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 Shooting Category: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Finish: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Proof of Placement: \_\_\_\_\_  
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# NEW SASS® MEMBERS

## FROM EACH STATE AND COUNTRY

### September 1 – October 31, 2014

#### MEMBERS BY STATE

**SASS # ALIAS**

#### AK

101,351.....Kid Seventy

#### AL

101,357.....River Hill Rustler  
101,456.....Iron Fists  
101,457.....Twinkle Toes

#### AR

101,437.....Blackhorn

#### AZ

101,242.....Ol' Brandin Iron  
101,243.....101243  
101,284.....Reverend Ledslinga  
101,290.....Dakota Slav  
101,294.....Shooter Valentine  
101,350.....Innocent Until Proven  
101,383.....Marshal Don Schroth  
101,402.....Arizona Sandie  
101,410.....Harley Reigns  
101,458.....Tecumseh Prescott  
101,473.....Smiling Diamond

#### CA

101,207.....Lil' Ferret  
101,220.....Dr. Rio McCoy  
101,223.....Sriracha Kid 'The'  
101,231.....Donny Gringo  
101,232.....Gentleman Joe Doud  
101,237.....CA Lead Express  
101,238.....Spinning Spur  
101,239.....Coal Burner  
101,245.....Lead Astray Sue  
101,256.....Jokers Wild  
101,271.....Cool Hand Coye  
101,272.....Mama Coye  
101,275.....Bingo Brad  
101,307.....Lakota Forty Five  
101,323.....Mesa Maverick  
101,336.....Henry Lee Blackthumb  
101,337.....Logan Ridge  
101,345.....Thumb Buster  
101,353.....bigbucksinner  
101,359.....Dusty Magee  
101,389.....Koyukuk Kid 'The'

101,392.....Shanghai Wes Faubel  
101,400.....Col. "Grey Wolf" Austin  
101,403.....101403  
101,404....."Four Aces" Bobby Ray  
101,417.....Frost Tease  
101,419.....Jersey Longshot  
101,451.....Rickey Ricochet  
101,464.....Leverin Lucy  
101,465.....Crazy Canuck  
101,471.....Jefe Catastrofe  
101,472.....Fearless Delia  
101,477.....101477

#### CO

101,298.....Brutal Brett  
101,304.....Elijah Pruitt  
101,320.....Semi Colon  
101,475.....Pinewood Rose

#### CT

101,217.....Michael "Red Beard" Kelley  
101,268.....Jack Reid  
101,322.....Billy Left Eye  
101,375.....Marshal J. B. Hume

#### FL

101,229.....Tony Two Guns  
101,267.....Odessa Kid  
101,303.....Furnace "The"  
101,305.....Osco  
101,310.....Tin Star John  
101,311.....Black Eyed Susie  
101,367.....Shanghai Deadeye "The"  
101,382.....Red Bear Haraldsson  
101,395.....Bears Watching  
101,447.....Jeniece  
101,454.....Captain "Gabriel"

#### GA

101,398.....Echeconnee Drifter  
101,411.....Hound "The"  
101,446.....Tontette  
101,459.....Lucky Lacey

#### IA

101,226.....Norwalk Shorty

#### IL

101,241.....Lil O'Lady  
101,316.....Pia Belladonna  
101,327.....Candy Johnson  
101,328.....Slim Bohannon  
101,329.....Mike McGunn

101,361.....Sidekick Nick  
101,362.....Michigan Dick  
101,363.....Chip Dodger

#### IN

101,265.....Copperhead McCoy  
101,266.....Curly Q McCoy  
101,406.....Blazin Pastor  
101,444.....Wondering Wade  
101,445.....Hot Lead Tex

#### KS

101,222.....Capitan Loco  
101,254.....Momo  
101,282.....Cooncan  
101,283.....Bertie Winchester  
101,295.....Salty O'Day  
101,296.....Shenandoah Belle  
101,297.....Pepper Tate  
101,342.....Parson Remington  
101,344.....Paulo Pistolero  
101,365.....Hiredhand  
101,463.....Ike N. Shootem

#### KY

101,205.....Tennessee Toothless  
101,206.....Dutchman Kid  
101,209.....Sweet Ole Bob  
101,356.....Man In Black "The"

#### LA

101,259.....Bandanna Bob

#### MA

101,244.....Wildcat White  
101,385.....Pawtector  
101,386.....Oath Keeper  
101,414.....EVELED

#### MD

101,215.....Babycakes  
101,373.....Sure Shot Suzie

#### MI

101,219.....Stiff-Hat Bailey  
101,248.....Yellow Dog  
101,381.....Dutch VanSickle

#### MN

101,376.....Bullet Betty  
101,439.....Lawrenzoe Bob  
101,462.....Greyfox Jay  
101,474.....Ponygirl



**MO**

101,221.....Newton County Lawman  
 101,227.....Sixgun Bob  
 101,246.....K.C. Creek Elliott  
 101,339.....Billy Broncstomper  
 101,340.....Belle Vaquera  
 101,358.....Hay-Doc  
 101,380.....Durnit Dan

**MS**

101,387.....Lee Christmas  
 101,394.....BlueSmoke Shooter  
 101,408.....C.J. McAlester  
 101,466.....Jus Lookin

**MT**

101,470.....Sweetgrass Preacher

**NC**

101,210.....Moonshine Dawg  
 101,354.....Bonnie P. Shooter  
 101,374.....Burke T. Gunner  
 101,378.....Moonshine Mae  
 101,434.....EL Guerrero  
 101,452.....Boom-Boom McGoon  
 101,476.....Skinny Pete McGoon

**ND**

101,251.....DL Hell  
 101,263.....Slick Dakota Kid

**NH**

101,285.....Davey Jones

**NJ**

101,253.....KC-Walker  
 101,397.....William Boyd Cassidy  
 101,424.....101424  
 101,435.....Jersey Blue

**NM**

101,234.....Whitewolf Rider  
 101,292.....Draco  
 101,412.....Fester N Karkass  
 101,413.....Zadock McDuffy

**NV**

101,421.....Georgia Blue  
 101,432.....Ronnie James

**NY**

101,213.....Ironfeather  
 101,300.....GunSlinger Ken  
 101,317.....Tillerman  
 101,349.....Upstate Ranger  
 101,370.....Cow Poke Irons  
 101,393.....Poncho Lasagna  
 101,409.....Lily Rose  
 101,449.....Dewey Ricochet

**OH**

101,211.....Paladin Jeffrey Newsome  
 101,225.....Honey Bunny  
 101,230.....101230  
 101,338.....Buckshot Charlie Bill  
 101,416.....Marshal Loco Derringer  
 101,423.....Custis Longhorn  
 101,426.....Cacti Jo  
 101,440.....Dakota DCFifty

**OK**

101,281.....Karns Spur Dan  
 101,441.....Cross-Eyed Okie  
 101,448.....Stank Eye Sue

**OR**

101,233.....Dog Man Ketchum  
 101,334.....Willie Evershoot  
 101,379.....Elkhorn Bart  
 101,427.....Tall Tale Harry  
 101,428.....Miss Madie May

**PA**

101,235.....Dirt Water Dawg  
 101,286.....Silverado Paul  
 101,314.....Dane Bauer  
 101,391.....Texas Shamrock  
 101,429.....Lee Ridgeway  
 101,430.....Killer Rabbit  
 101,455.....Bankroll

**SC**

101,291.....Texas Law Dawg  
 101,302.....Kid McClintock  
 101,319.....Wrangler Jane  
 101,364.....Cereal Killer  
 101,371.....Rowdy

**TN**

101,240.....Johnny B. Nashville  
 101,249.....Doc "Lightning" McCoy  
 101,257.....TripperDog  
 101,264.....Old Rusty  
 101,293.....Twilight Kid "The"  
 101,306.....Muletown Gunsmith  
 101,321.....Johnny Harlan  
 101,388.....Mudbug  
 101,418.....Tiny Winrow

**TX**

101,216.....Major USMC 'The'  
 101,255.....Jingles McBottoms  
 101,273.....Chip Kicker  
 101,274.....William Winans  
 101,288.....Hillbilly Hick  
 101,313.....Leadslinger Chan  
 101,330.....101330  
 101,335.....Texan (The)  
 101,341.....El Fuego Baca  
 101,366.....Trader Dan  
 101,368.....Tanker Ray  
 101,369.....Lefty Gin Lizzy  
 101,420.....Bull Dunham  
 101,422.....Lost Pines  
 101,433.....Capt. Abinah Wood  
 101,460.....O E Deadly Daniel  
 101,467.....Smoke Jensen  
 101,468.....Gypsy Diamond  
 101,469.....Kidd James

**UT**

101,343.....Outlaw Welsh  
 101,399.....Missy Oakley

**VA**

101,308.....Sonora Kid  
 101,333.....Maddog Charlie  
 101,346.....Clovis Cowboy  
 101,407.....Colonel John Marshall  
 101,461.....Lazlo Scarr

**WA**

101,218.....Rusty Two Pony  
 101,315.....Wrongo Starr  
 101,331.....James Masterson  
 101,396.....Flatlander Steve  
 101,405.....Maggie B. Accurate  
 101,415.....Big City  
 101,431.....Honore' Cuss

**WI**

101,270.....Corporal Bob Bull  
 101,442....."Angel Eyes" Sentenza

**WV**

101,212.....Sliphammer-K  
 101,228.....Dead Horse Ed

**WY**

101,289.....Platinum  
 101,450.....Whiskey Dan

## MEMBERS BY COUNTRY

**SASS # ALIAS****AB**

101,390.....Diamond Black

**BC**

101,224.....Tex Critter  
 101,287.....Dad Gummit  
 101,312.....Nightshift Cowboy  
 101,332.....Wild "T" Buff Hunter  
 101,372.....Broad Side

**MB**

101,301.....Cody Teachem

**NC**

101,260.....Tombstone Neldrum

**NSW**

101,247.....Paul Maverick

**ON**

101,377.....Sarge with no Name  
 101,436.....Will E. Pikawagan  
 101,478.....Pefferlaw Pete

**QC**

101,384.....Lucky Peter

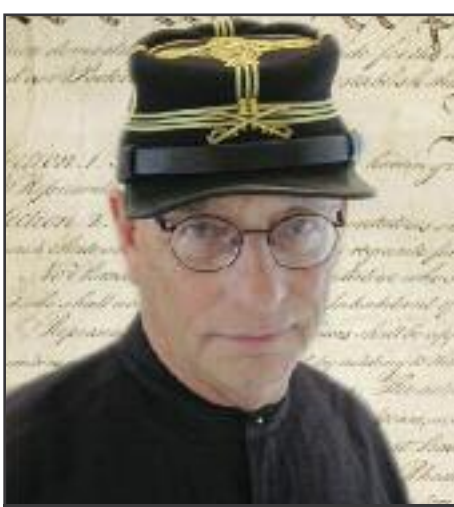
**QLD**

101,318.....Whiskey Rae Gesler  
 101,401.....Painted Wolf  
 101,443.....William Bat Masterson

**VIC**

101,208.....Moondyne Joe





Colonel Dan,  
SASS Life/Regulator #24025

# What The Courts Said

By Colonel Dan, SASS Life/Regulator #24025

Last month we looked at the Founders' intent underlying the Second Amendment. I think it's fair to say their obvious purpose was to ensure that an individual's right to keep and bear arms was never threatened or infringed by any government action.

So what have the courts said over the years about such a "radical concept"? Many times we're told by anti-gun elements that the courts have maintained no individual right to keep and bear arms exists and we pro-gun advocates are just too stupid to understand the intricacies of constitutional law.

Have the courts universally denounced the individual's right to keep and bear arms over the past 200 years and are you really too stupid to read and understand what the Constitution plainly says? To believe any of that anti-gun bilge, you'd have to be terminally stupid.

This month, let's read a few examples of what several courts across the country and across history had to say in the years after the Constitution was adopted. As you did last month, please judge for yourself and draw your own conclusions.

**1803:** George Tucker, Judge of the Virginia Supreme Court and U.S. District Court of Virginia in *I Blackstone COMMENTARIES*, Sir George Tucker Ed., pg. 300 (App.)

"The right of self-defense is the first law of nature; in most governments it has been the study of rulers to confine this right within the narrowest possible limits...and [when] the right of the people to keep and bear arms is, under any color or pretext whatsoever, prohibited, liberty, if not already annihilated, is on the brink of destruction."

**1822:** *Bliss vs. Commonwealth*, 12 Ky. (2 Litt.) 90, at 92, and 93, 13 Am. Dec. 251

"For, in principle, there is no difference between a law prohibiting the wearing of concealed arms, and a law forbidding the wearing such as are exposed; and if the former be unconstitutional, the latter must be so likewise. But it should not be forgotten, that it is not only a part of the right that is secured by the constitution; it is the right entire and complete, as it existed at the adoption of the constitution; and if any portion of that right be impaired, immaterial how

small the part may be, and immaterial the order of time at which it be done, it is equally forbidden by the constitution."

**1846:** *Nunn vs. State*, 1 Ga. (1 Kel.) 243, at 251

"The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. The right of the whole people, old and young, men, women and boys, and not militia only, to keep and bear arms of every description, and not such merely as are used by the militia, shall not be infringed, curtailed, or broken in upon, in the smallest degree; and all this for the important end to be attained: the rearing up and qualifying a well-regulated militia, so vitally necessary to the security of a free State. Our opinion is that any law, State or Federal, is repugnant to the Constitution, and void, which contravenes this right."

**1859:** *Cockrum vs. State*, 24 Tex. 394, at 401-402

"The right of a citizen to bear arms, in lawful defense of himself or the State, is absolute. He does not derive it from the State government. It is one of the 'high powers' delegated directly to the citizen, and 'is excepted out of the general powers of government.' A law cannot be passed to infringe upon or impair it, because it is above the law, and independent of the lawmaking power."

**1871:** *Andres vs. State*, 50 Tenn. (3 Heisk) 165, 178

"...[T]he right to keep arms necessarily involves the right to purchase them, to keep them in a state of efficiency for use, and to purchase and provide ammunition suitable for such arms, and to keep them in repair.

"The rifle of all descriptions, the shot gun, the musket and repeater are such arms; and that under the Constitution the right to keep and bear arms cannot be infringed or forbidden by the legislature." [ANDREWS VS. STATE; 50 TENN. 165, 179, 8 AM. REP. 8, 14 (TENNESSEE SUPREME COURT).]

**1876:** The Supreme Court, in *U.S. vs. Cruikshank* (92 U.S. 542)

Recognized that the right to arms preexisted the Constitution. The Court stated that the right to arms "is not a

*(Continued on next page)*





## What The Courts Said

*(Continued from previous page)*

right granted by the Constitution. Neither is it in any manner dependent upon that instrument for its existence.”

**1878:** *Wilson vs. State*, 33 Ark. 557, at 560, 34 Am. Rep. 52, at 54

“To prohibit a citizen from wearing or carrying a war arm...is an unwarranted restriction upon the constitutional right to keep and bear arms. If cowardly and dishonorable men sometimes shoot unarmed men with army pistols or guns, the evil must be prevented by the penitentiary and gallows, and not by a general deprivation of constitutional privilege.”

**1921:** *State vs. Kerner*, 181 N.C. 574, 107 S.E. 222, at 224

“The maintenance of the right to bear arms is a most essential one to every free people and should not be whittled down by technical constructions.”

**1922:** *People vs. Zerillo*, 219 Mich. 635, 189 N.W. 927, at 928

“The provision in the Constitution granting the right to all persons to bear arms is a limitation upon the power of the Legislature to enact any law to the contrary. The exercise of a right guaranteed by the Constitution cannot be made subject to the will of the sheriff.”

**2000:** Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. Let’s fast-forward to the Clinton years of judicial activism and see how an attempt was made to unscrupulously bastardize this long venerated unalienable right by a dangerously anti-gun, anti-constitution administration in *U.S. vs. Emerson*.

Early accounts from those who attended the week’s oral arguments on *U.S. vs. Emerson* (see FAX Alert Vol. 7, No. 23) revealed, with no uncertainty, how the Clinton-Gore Administration truly viewed our Right to Keep and Bear Arms. The attorney representing the government, William Mateja, said that the Second Amendment offers law-abiding U.S. citizens no protections against the government prohibiting them from owning any firearm. Judge William Garwood, one of three judges on the panel that heard arguments, had the following exchange with Mateja:

Judge Garwood: “You are saying that the Second

Amendment is consistent with a position that you can take guns away from the public? You can restrict ownership of rifles, pistols and shotguns from all people? Is that the position of the United States?”

Meteja (attorney for the government): “Yes.”

Garwood: “Is it the position of the United States that persons who are not in the National Guard are afforded no protections under the Second Amendment?”

Meteja: “Exactly.”

Fortunately, the court rejected the Clinton-Gore argument—for now.

**2008:** *District of Columbia vs. Heller*; 07-290: (Scalia)

“The Second Amendment protects an individual right to possess a firearm unconnected with service in a militia, and to use that arm for traditionally lawful purposes, such as self-defense within the home. Pp. 2–53.(a) The Amendment’s prefatory clause announces a purpose, but does not limit or expand the scope of the second part, the operative clause.”

Undoubtedly some think that the Second Amendment is outmoded in a society where our standing army is the pride of our Nation, where well-trained police forces provide personal security, and where gun violence is a serious problem. That is perhaps debatable, but what is not debatable is that it is not the role of this Court to pronounce the Second Amendment extinct.

It’s frightening how tenuous is the jewel of liberty and how easily it can be incrementally eroded if left unguarded by the people and totally entrusted to the Machiavellian machinations of insidious politicians.

James Madison had it pegged, “*I believe there are more instances of the abridgement of the freedoms of the people by gradual and silent encroachments of those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations.*”

It’s my uncompromising conviction that unless the people jealously guard our jewel at every turn and strongly reject *any* attempt to incrementally infringe on our freedom, we will eventually and unwittingly lose it—piece by little piece. Once it’s gone however, it’s gone for generations—generations that won’t even know what they’ve lost.

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

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