

The Monthly Journal of the Single Action Shooting Society®

Vol. 27 No. 10

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October 2014

BOOMTOWNS!

❧ Winter Range 2014 ❧

SASS National Championship Of Cowboy Action Shooting

By Larsen E. Pettifogger, SASS #32933 Life/Regulator
Photos by Deadeye Al, SASS #26454, Larsen E. Pettifogger, Quigley Photography

Phoenix, Arizona. Boomtowns were an almost exclusively American feature in the later half of the Nineteenth Century. In Europe and most other places around the globe, the crown and noblemen owned all the land and most people simply worked the land in return for a share of the crops. Immigrants from around the world flocked to America in search of something not found in their home countries – tens of millions of acres of public domain lands. If you worked the land, you could own it! Farming could bring basic sustenance, but few would get rich working the land, and, much of that land in the west was arid and not suitable. But there was another more powerful force drawing people to the West, and one that could turn a poor man into a rich one overnight: *mining!* Prospectors could roam the West looking for valuable minerals. Just like staking out a parcel of land for farming, it could lead to ownership. If a prospector found a mineral deposit capable of producing ore in paying quantities he could file a claim and own it.

The hallmark of the boomtown was that it was short lived. Once the mines played out, the town died. In 1877 Ed Shieffelin left the safety of an army post and set off to the



Great stage!

southern Arizona desert in search of his fortune. People told him “the only rock you will find out there is your own tombstone.” He found silver in 1877, and in March 1879 the town of Tombstone was founded. By 1881, the year of the gunfight at the OK Corral, it was a major city with Chinese, French, Italian, Mexican and other restaurants, the-

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Correction - OOPS!

We mixed up captions on two photos within the Oregon State Championship Article in the September issue. The caption for Blackhorse, SASS #6825, whose photo appears on page 14 was placed under the photo of Huckleberry Hickock, SASS #88886, on page 16 and vice-versa. Our apologies to the shooters and for any confusion we may have caused.

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Tex and Cat
prepare to take
a dip in the pool
at the
2013 Victorian
Dance Cruise.

Enjoy more
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in
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tribute to
Cat Ballou,
in this issue.



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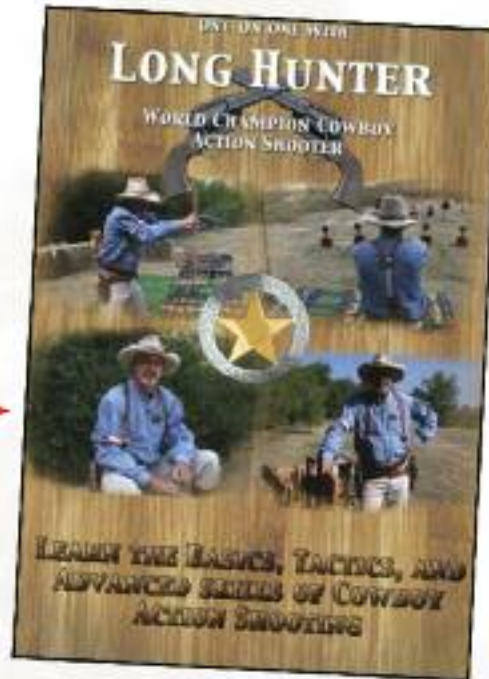
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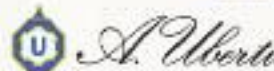
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The Cowboy Chronicle

The Changes are Here

By Skinny

The dust has about settled; Tex and Cat are easing into their well-deserved retirement, and The Cowboy Chronicle is in the process of undergoing some significant changes, not the least of which is the changeover to all-digital format. I know from speaking with many of you that not everyone is entirely pleased with this, but trust me, it is necessary to ensure the future well being of SASS, and I feel you will all come to appreciate the benefits of digital publishing as it becomes more familiar to you.

You may ask, "What are some of these benefits?" Well, one of *my* favorites is the ability we now have to embed videos into each edition. So now a club can take moving

images of certain stages and include those in a club report. Or advertisers may include a video of interest in their layouts. Also of note is our new capability to allow you to click on a section in the Table of Contents and go directly to that location, so there's no need to go through the issue page by page. In the same way, we can also include hyperlinks to other websites, including club websites, so if you'd like readers to be able to see complete scores and standings for a match, you need include only your web address.

For those who wish to keep an archived copy of each issue of The Cowboy Chronicle on their computer or tablet,

(Continued on next page)

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The Cowboy Chronicle • The Changes are Here

(Continued from previous page)

we will continue to update our archives with PDF versions of back issues. Starting with this issue, the archived editions will lag behind our digital releases by one month or so, however. So this issue will be available in archives next month, November's issue will be available in December, and so on. Please note, the archived PDFs will not include many of the features from the digital editions, such as video imbeds, so your best reading experience will still be with the live digital edition.

Aside from our format change, you'll note some changes in content as well. Even though Cat has retired, she promises to continue to contribute articles on costuming as the mood strikes her, and there are a number of other talented ladies (and men) waiting in the wings, who will be presenting material relevant to costuming and to other aspects of Cowboy Action Shooting™ as they relate to lady shooters, so a section for such material will remain. Since Cat personally will no longer publish a monthly column, it seemed inappropriate to continue to refer to it "Cat's Corner," so with this issue, that section has been renamed "Costuming Corner." But given the proposed wider scope of the column, "Costuming Corner" may be too narrow a descriptive, so I would be pleased to hear from our readership with ideas for other names.

A new feature, which began last issue, is "Comic Book Corner." As your new editor, I come from a 30-year background in the comic book industry, and as such I thought it would be fun to republish scanned pages from old Western-themed comic books that are now in the public domain. I think they're really fun to read and I hope everyone enjoys them as much as I do. Last issue we presented them as four pages of comic book to a single page of *The Cowboy Chronicle*. It seemed like a good idea, but a few people have commented they are hard to read that small, and I agree. This issue we're experimenting with presenting them one page at a time. Hopefully, everyone will have a more pleasant experience with them now.

And that's about all you're going to get out of me for this initial editorial—just a "glad to be on board" piece. As for the future, well, I really never know what I'm going to write about until I start writing, but it's my hope to make each editorial an enjoyable read. Thanks to all of you for loyally following Tex and Cat in *The Cowboy Chronicle* over the past decades, and thanks to everyone for the support you've already shown me through your emails. I hope to live up to your expectations and I hope to hold the reins for the next few decades. 🤠

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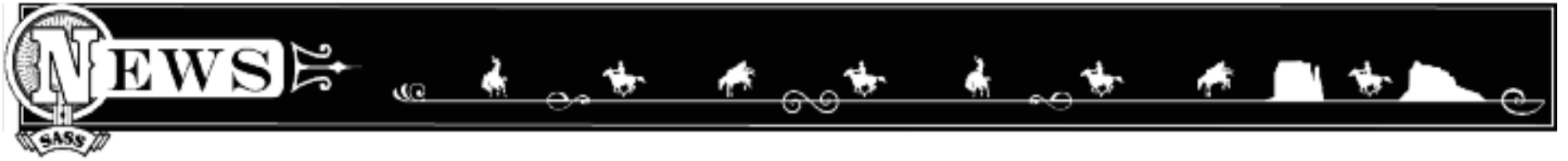
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The SASS Pennsylvania State Championship **IS BACK!**

What does a posse do when their state is left without a championship? In the case of El Posse Grande, they “cowboy up” and ride again.

El Posse Grande had hosted the SASS Pennsylvania State Championship for 10 years. During the ninth year, they announced that number 10 would be their last. With so much advance notice, everyone thought surely another club would step forward to host the match, however, that was not to be. Although several clubs gave it serious thought, nothing materialized. As a result, there was no state match in 2014.

A small group of El Posse Grande cowboys and cowgirls got together and gave things a real hard look. They went to the North Mountain Sportsman’s Association, the main club, to gain support. They talked to some of the key people that had worked on the match in the past. Some folks assumed their old positions some did not. Some that worked in much smaller roles in the past have now stepped forward to take on larger roles. All told, there’s a whole bunch of experience working on this match.

Preliminary plans are in place. The date has been set for May 22-24, 2015. Lost Rider, SASS #50731, is the match director. The match theme will be “My Heroes Have Always Been Cowboys.” We have selected 10 true American heroes and will highlight one on each of the ten stages of the match. The side matches will feature the popular arcade games, long range and other speed events. Pennsylvania’s own state champion, Jersey-

town Kid, SASS #88434, will be putting together a shooting clinic. Proceeds will benefit the SASS Scholarship Fund.

Many more details need to be hammered out in the coming weeks. We are also working on developing a program to improve vendor success and reward shooters for supporting the vendors. (Vendors are just as important as shooters for our events.) There has been much talk about hosting a Saturday banquet that would rival a Dooley Gang party! Yeehaw! Our newer committee members are eager to jump in and get to work by offering up their ideas and backing up returning committee workers. Their enthusiasm has sparked new enthusiasm in veteran committee workers.

There have always been offers from shooters in other parts of the state, and out of state as well, to lend a hand when needed. If you are one of those and want to help, get in touch with us. Tell us just how you or your club might want to be of assistance. You know the adage—“Many hands make light work.” Let’s work together to make this a true State Match.

If you want to learn more or get in touch with someone on the committee, there are a few ways you can do so. We have a Facebook page – El Posse Grande. Ask to join the group. We have new website too. You can now visit us at www.elpossegrande.com. Watch for more details to appear on the SASS wire, our site or on Facebook. We will be posting updates all along.

Come spend Memorial Day weekend in Pennsylvania’s endless mountains and pay tribute with us to some true heroes. 🤠

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The Right to Keep and Bear Arms

The discussion about the mentally ill and their right to bear arms is extremely difficult to manage. Even doctors have trouble assessing the capabilities of their patients. The ACLU has fought successfully to not include listing mental illness as a qualification to purchase a firearm.

Also our military warriors who come home suffering with PTSD of various degrees are affected. The case of Chris Kyle and his friend taking a fellow warrior out to help him get through tough times and having him shoot them both is troubling.

I really enjoy your articles and refer to them regularly with friends and not so friendly. Some of the founding father quotes are difficult to find. It would help if references were identified to refer to when quoting to non-believers.

Will Call, SASS #22027
Gardnerville, NV

Will, Thank you for the kind words regarding my column. I very much appreciate you taking the time to express your thoughts and I'm honored that you share my musings with others.

As for the Founder's quotes, I think you'll enjoy my article in this edition. It is completely dedicated to what our Founders said about Americans' right to keep and bear arms.

Soldier on...

Colonel Dan 🐎

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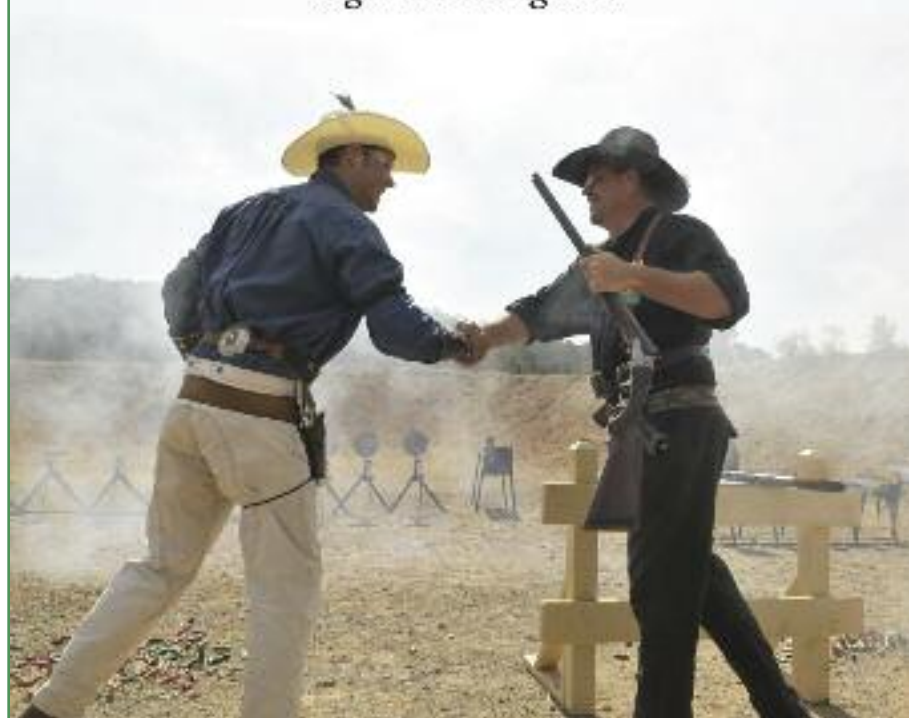


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We would like to thank you for being such a dedicated member of SASS and helping this organization grow.



BOOMTOWNS! • WINTER RANGE 2014

(Continued from page 1)

atres, a bowling alley, a roller-skating rink, an ice cream parlor, an icehouse, a school and the most important feature of a boomtown – dozens of saloons and brothels. An underground aquifer was struck and by 1886 the mines were permanently flooded and the glory days of Tombstone were over. The west became dotted with ghost towns and the ruins of played out mining camps. This is the story of one of them: “Boomtown Winter Range.”

GOLD! The very mention of a strike can start a rush. So it was in the Arizona Territory in February of this year. In a vacant field west of Carefree, a lonely prospector saw the

glint of gold. Within hours he had staked his claim and begun work. It was the morning of Wednesday, February 19. Word spread like wildfire and within hours the area was filled with people. The Arizona Company of Territorial Roughriders was brought in to maintain order and supervise the rapidly growing new town site. At first it was the miners and their sluice boxes and ore cars. Next a detachment of cavalry set up camp and began construction of a fort to protect the townsfolk. Makeshift buildings of wood with canvas sides and roofs went up and began selling supplies

(Continued on next page)

The Town



The railroad reaches Boomtown Winter Range.



The law arrives in town.



The general store.



There'll be services this Sunday.



The permanent fort.



The brand new Grand Palace Hotel.



The barbershop, telegraph office and assay office.



The town's largest saloon.



The local Indian tribe has settled in for the winter.

BOOMTOWNS! • Winter Range 2014

(Continued from previous page)

needed for the mines and the rapidly expanding town. Soon the erection of permanent buildings began. A livery, a Grand Hotel, a Saloon, a General Store and all those things necessary to house, feed, supply and entertain the ever growing population of the new town. The railroad sent out an exploratory team and soon a new terminus was built.

The influx of cowboys, miners, soldiers and sutlers soon overwhelmed the ability to construct new buildings and a tent city went up on the edge of town. The work continued at a furious pace until just **FOUR** days later what had been a vacant field was turned into a full-fledged town and opened to the world at noon on Sunday, February 23. People hoping to strike gold, silver, or bronze flocked in from around the world. Men and their ladies in their finest clothes, cowboys, schoolmarms, bar tenders and saloon girls, and ladies of the night soon filled the streets. In order to maintain order and provide entertainment the Arizona Company of Territorial Rough Riders started organizing people into posses and then began having shooting competitions. At night there were fashion shows and contests to see who had the most fancy duds. And of course, there was gambling of various sorts.

The shooting contests proved the most popular and went on non-stop for six days. There were contests for all manner of



firearms from Sharps rifles, shot at long range, to the gambler's favorites, the pocket pistol and derringer, shot across a card table. After what the Rough Riders called side matches and warm-ups, the main event began on Thursday, February 27. Over 750 shooters lined up to see who could be the fastest gun in the west (or what some people called "categories"). The shooting went on for three days and finally on the evening of Saturday, March 1, as the smoke settled and the sun set, it was over. At its height on Saturday, Boomtown Winter Range had over 8,000 residents. But that was about to change. On Sunday morning, March 2, the sixteen fastest ladies and the sixteen fastest men met for a final showdown. Before the assembled multitude, the shooting commenced. When it was over the last woman standing was Sass Kicker, SASS #91899 and the last man standing was Santa Fe River Stan, SASS #36999. After the last shot was fired everyone retired to the main tent and awards were passed out to the winners of the "categories." Bronze statues with gold and silver buckles went to the first place winners. Smaller statues and bronze buckles went to those who placed second through fifth and everyone that placed in the top ten got a bronze buckle. The top guns for the entire Cowboy Action Shooting™ event were Cobra Cat, SASS #19275, and SASS Kicker.

Then something amazing happened. The gold, silver, and bronze had played out and the town was doomed. Within minutes after the last bronze was handed out, the Rough Riders,

(Continued on page 12)



BOOMTOWNS! • WINTER RANGE 2014

(Continued from page 11)

Rangers and volunteers changed into their work clothes and began dismantling the town. By five o'clock on Monday, March 2, there was nothing left but an empty field. Boomtown Winter Range was over. Or was it?

Historians have looked back at the history of Boomtown Winter Range and discovered the erection and taking down of the town was not mere happenstance. It

was, in fact, a carefully planned and executed event. It seems there are about twenty Rough Riders that plan and work on Winter Range year round. There are around thirty-five Rangers that sign on for a two-week tour of duty to help with construction and running the match. And there are more than 100 shooters that volunteer to help man the side matches on Wednes-

(Continued on next page)



*Winner of "Best Dressed Sutlers,"
Buckaroo Bobbins.*

The Sutlers



*Pietta donated six revolvers for a
special young guns only drawing.
The happy winners.*



*Red Hawk Trading Co.,
winner of "Best Sutler Encampment."*



*Winner of "Best Sutler Presentation,"
Coon Creek.*



If you needed a club, they were available.



*Sturm, Ruger & Co.,
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Plenty of clothes for the ladies.



*Pietta was there as the Cowboy Action
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*Lunchtime is always crowded
in the food court.*



And plenty of clothes for the gents.

BOOMTOWNS! • Winter Range 2014

(Continued from previous page)

day. Each year the Rough Riders do their best to create a new shooting environment and to build at least two or three entirely new stages. Everything is done with the idea, "what can we do to make the shooters

have more fun?" The planning, stage design and building goes on off-site all year round. Then a color-coded construction manual is created showing every prop and

(Continued on page 14)



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BOOMTOWNS! • WINTER RANGE 2014

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target that will go on each stage. The Ben Avery Shooting Facility is a public range so Winter Range has to reserve the various bays needed for the event a year in advance. Trailers are loaded with the props and targets designated for each stage and once the bays are clear of other shooters, the construction of Winter Range begins. Separate work crews, under the supervi-

sion of a Ranger Captain, are responsible for specific stages and tasks. Once construction starts on the Wednesday before the match, it is non-stop work for four days. Meals are served on-site to the volunteers. Once the match is over, everything comes down as methodically as it went up and is stored in an area off-site.

(Continued on next page)



The overall match winners, Sass Kicker and Cobra Cat.

The Shooters



Ladies shooting school instructors.



Before each wave on opening day there was a memorial overflight for all our pards that have passed in the last year.



U. S. Grant, SASS #2, with a gun to be given to the shooter whose overall rank was the same as the General's age.



First stage jitters - Hmm, is that one shot on target . . .



YeeHaa, a clean stage!!!



Derringer side match.



The livery.



The fort.



The trestle stage.

BOOMTOWNS! • Winter Range 2014

(Continued from previous page)

The theme for 2015 is “Cowboys – Life in the Old West.” Planning began the day after Boomtown Winter Range ended. There were over 800 registrations this year. After subtracting no-shows, 761 Cowboy Action Shooting™ advocates participated. The Wild Bunch™ and Mounted events were also the largest of their kind held anywhere in the world. Winter Range 2015 will take place from February 23rd through March 1st, 2015. See you there! 🤠



A B-25 with escorts made several overflights.

SIDE MATCH WINNERS

Derringer

Man Desperado Dale
SASS #25754 FL
Lady Shamrock Sadie
SASS #78511 SC

Long Range

Buckey O'Neill
Military Bolt H. F. McCawley
SASS #92869 AZ

Buckey O'Neill
Military S.S. Pigpen
SASS #1339 AZ

Pistol Shotgun Boogie
SASS #67870
Germany

Rifle– Buffalo
Shoot Nathan Curtis Boone
SASS #99195 AZ

Rifle– S.S.
Buffalo River City Reb
SASS #56308 AZ

Rifle– Optical
Tumbleweed Ed
SASS #65484 NV

Rifle– Pistol
Caliber Doc Nelson
SASS #19958 UT

Rifle– Quigley
Jus D
SASS #67861 AZ

Rifle– Rifle
Caliber Muleskinner Pat
SASS #1997 CA

Rifle– Single Shot
Cowtown Scout
SASS #53540 TX

Plainsman Lefty Eastman
SASS #20645 CA

Pocket Pistol

Man Territorial Ryder
SASS #31939 OR
Lady Dixie Bell
SASS #5366 UT

Shotgun

Clays– Black
Powder Ol #4
SASS #41004 OR

Clays– Smokeless
Czexican Dave
SASS #90515 TX

Skeet– Black
Powder Territorial Ryder
Skeet– Smokeless
Goatneck Clem
SASS #16787 TX

Trap– Black
Powder Tame Bill
SASS #30699 KS

Speed Pistol

Man Deuce Stevens
SASS #55996 MI
Lady Sass Kicker
SASS #91899 AZ

Speed Rifle

Man Deuce Stevens
Lady Sass Kicker

Speed Shotgun – Double

Man Deuce Stevens
Lady Dang It's Darlin
SASS #17502 FL

Speed Shotgun – 87

Lassiter
SASS #2080 OH

Speed Shotgun – 97

Man Hells Comin
SASS #56436 AZ
Lady Sass Kicker

WINNERS

49'er Blackjack
Zak
SASS #26828 AZ

B-Western Slick McClade
SASS #69490 LA

Buckaroo Cody James
SASS #90540 AZ

Buckarette Bonnie MacFarlane
SASS #92385 CA

C. Baron Rosita Gambler
SASS #41377 CO

C. Cowboy T-Bone Dooley
SASS #36388 TX

C. Cowgirl Hot Tamale
SASS #78531 AZ

Cowboy Cobra Cat
SASS #19275 CO

Cowgirl Crazy Little Woman
SASS #82394 CA

Duelist Grazer
SASS #38845 MA

E. Statesman Evil Roy
SASS #2883 TX

F. Cartridge Kiowa Kid
SASS #69870 CO

F.C. Duelist Lefty Eastman
SASS #20645 CA

Frontiersman Kidd Thunder
SASS #25814 WA

Grande Dame Running Bare
SASS #2323 CA

Gunfighter Dang-It-Dan
SASS #13202 FL

Junior Matt Black
SASS #54580 TX

Junior Girl Sass Kicker
SASS #91899 AZ

Lady 49'er Dang It's Darlin
SASS #17502 FL

Lady B-W Whirlwind Wendy
SASS #79889 CA

Lady Duelist Dixie Bell
SASS #5366 UT

Lady F. Cart. Squeaky Hare
SASS #63737 AZ

L.F.C. Duelist Painted Filly
SASS #86383 CO

L. Gunfighter Half-A-Hand Henri
SASS #9727 NM

Lady Senior Lilly Long
SASS #81344 UT

Lady S. Senior Two Sons
SASS #12636 IN

Lady Wrangler Sassy Dancer
SASS #70118 AZ

Senior Doc Noper
SASS #65017 MI

S. Duelist J. M. Brown
SASS #27309 NC

S. Gunfighter Lassiter
SASS #2080 OH

S. Senior Ol Short Tom
SASS #12635 IN

Wrangler Duke Skywalker
SASS #26871 IN

OVERALL

Man Cobra Cat
Lady Sass Kicker

TOP SIXTEEN

Man Santa Fe River Stan
SASS #36999 FL

Lady Sass Kicker



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Texas Flower, SASS # 43753



LIFE AFTER Cat's The Cowboy Chronicle Retirement?

By Texas Flower, SASS Life #43753
Photos by Texas Flower



– 2006 Shootout at Mule Camp –
My first picture with Cat and Tex; I was asleep!



– 2008 Comin' At Cha –
Mardi Gras Theme.



2008 SASS Convention

OMG, Cat's retiring from The Cowboy Chronicle!
I cannot believe that! LOL!

RETIREMENT... Wait, I think she *means* it!

Now that the reality has struck me, I am fondly remembering many wonderful memories of our "one and only" First Lady of Costuming, Cat Ballou. What a gracious, talented, and lovely LADY! (FYI, she is also a very good shooter, with lots of "clean" matches!)

Her devotion to The Cowboy Chronicle and promoting costuming through "Cat's Corner" has truly been a testament to her dedication to make SASS what it has become today. I heard her say on many occasions, "I need to get the next Chronicle finished before I leave for the

match." I saw her many times between shooting flights working diligently at her computer. She has given so many countless hours to The Cowboy Chronicle and "Cat's Corner" for SASS members to enjoy.

When I joined SASS in 2002, I joined because I was attracted to the "cool" costumes that I saw SASS members wearing in pictures. (I had to learn to shoot the guns so I could dress up!) As The Cowboy Chronicle hit my mailbox every month, I went straight to Cat's Corner to learn what I could about costuming. I was never disappointed reading her corner, and I continued learning

(Continued on next page)



Life After Cat's Corner and The Cowboy Chronicle – Retirement?

(Continued from previous page)



2009 SASS Convention
Banquet Ball.



– 2010 Bordertown –
Trying to figure out
how to shoot the stage.



– 2012 Bordertown –
Shooting with Tex, Jr.



– 2012 Bordertown –
Fun at the dance.

through the articles that appeared each month.

I first met Cat Ballou at the 2006 Shootout at Mule Camp, and I was star struck! I entered my very first costume contest there, and she was one of the judges. I was very nervous. There was “THE” Cat Ballou right in front of me! She was so gracious and tried to make all the contestants feel comfortable. After the banquet, I took my very first picture with her for my scrap-

book. Little did I know at that time the Lady I looked up to for costuming would become a dear SASS friend.

As Texas Mac, SASS Life #43494, and I attended matches, the SASS Conventions, and Victorian Dance Cruises, we became friends with Cat and Tex. We shared lots of fun times and lots of laughs with them. For those of you who know them, you know there is



– 2013 Victorian Dance Cruise –
With Texas Mac.



2011 Victorian Dance Cruise.

never a dull moment!

Oh BTW, Tex is also retiring from The Cowboy Chronicle. I want to say a big “Thank You” to him, “Mr. Cat Ballou,” for everything he has done to promote costuming in our wonderful sport and the time he dedicated to the Chronicle!

Yes, things are changing. That’s life, but the rest of us will do our best to continue the legacy that Cat and Tex started. We wish them the very best retirement. May they continue in good health and enjoy many good years ahead. We look forward to seeing them at SASS events, and maybe they will have more time to play without worrying about getting the next Chronicle finished!

Thank you both for all the years, 27 of them, devoted to The Cowboy Chronicle each and every month!

HAPPY TRAILS, MY FRIENDS! 🐾





*Larsen E. Pettifogger,
SASS Life #32933*

Winter Range 2014

SASS National Championship Of Cowboy Action Shooting™

❧ COSTUME CONTEST ❧

By Larsen E. Pettifogger, SASS #32933 Life/Regulator

BOOMTOWNS!!! They sprang up suddenly and people from all walks of life quickly filled the streets; miners, cowboys, soldiers, railway workers, saloon girls, ladies of the night, gentlemen, and gentle ladies in their finest attire. Boomtowns had them all and pretty much all at the same time! Walking down the streets and alleys of Boomtown Winter Range evidences the thing that sets Cowboy Action Shooting™ apart from all other shooting sports—the costumes! Not only

do we shoot firearms from the Old West, everyone dresses Old West as well. The costuming helps create the aura of living in that time period and adds a flare to Cowboy Action Shooting™ found in no other shooting venue. For many people attending SASS matches, the costuming is as important as the shooting, especially at a major match with a costume contest. In fact, many people, when asked about their costumes will say, “what

(Continued on page 23)



*Best Dressed Gentleman –
By Doggie,
SASS #7533 – NM*



*Best Dressed Working Lady –
Queen of Bling,
SASS #94718 – CA*



*Best Dressed Cowboy –
Mad Dog McCoy,
SASS #17292 – CA*



*Best Dressed Junior Girl
and Best Dressed
Working Junior Girl –
Fast Draw Fawn,
SASS #94157 – UT*

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– Best Dressed Couple –
*Legendary Lawman,
 SASS #73160,
 and Serenity,
 SASS #64982 – ON*



Best Dressed Junior Boy –
*Nick Nitro, SASS #94156
 – UT*



– Best Dressed Military –
*Bat Masterson,
 SASS #2919 – CO*



Best Dressed Silver
 Screen Man –
*Augustus Goodnight,
 SASS #99514 – AZ*



Best Dressed Saloon Girl –
*Lady Joy, SASS #90932 –
 AZ*



Best Dressed Cowgirl –
*Riverboat Annie, SASS
 #60914 – CO*



Best Dressed
 Silver Screen Lady –
*Dr. T Medicine Woman,
 SASS #80719 – NM*



Best Dressed Working Man
 – *Marshal W Hill,
 SASS #88223 – AZ*



– Best Dressed Lady –
*Dixie Bell, SASS #5366
 – UT*



Winter Range 2014 (SASS National Championship of Cowboy Action Shooting™)

(Continued from previous page)

costume, these are the clothes I wear every day.”

The time and effort many people put into their costuming is astonishing. The gowns of the ladies and suits of the men along with the period correct accouterments make it feel like you are at a social gathering in Nineteenth Century America. The grit and grime of the working cowboys makes it seem like they have just stepped into the saloon from a months-long cattle drive. Judging these costumes is difficult, since they are all fantastic. To help out with this year's costume contest, Winter

Range was fortunate to have representatives from The Barrington House Educational Center as judges. (www.bartoscollection.com/thebarringtonhouse.html.) The Barrington House is located in historic Prescott, Arizona, and houses a huge collection of western clothing and artifacts used in the daily lives of people from Nineteenth Century America.

After visiting the firing line to see people in their working costumes and inviting those with their evening finery in off the streets to show off their costumes, the selections were made, as can be seen in the accompanying photos.

(Continued on page 24)



– Best Gun Cart –
By Doggie




The Winter Range Costume Contest Judges

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Costuming For The Twelfth Annual SASS Convention

By Cat Ballou, SASS #55



*Justice Lily Kate
and
Judge Roy Bean
at the 2014
SASS Convention.*

*Photo by
Major Photography.*

Howdy y'all. The twelfth annual SASS Convention in San Antonio, Texas is just a few short months away, so it's time to put on your thinkin' caps about what you will wear for the Best Dressed Costume Contest to be held at the historic Menger Hotel on Saturday evening.

Awards will be given from first to third place in the following categories: Ladies, Gentlemen, Couples, and Military, as well as a special themed category, Lone Star Cowboy and Lone Star Cowgirl. Here's a chance to celebrate the history of the great state of Texas and dress as your favorite Texan, or just create a fantasy Texas costume.

Our fabulous judges, Aspen Filly, Nellie Blue, Shotgun, Sqwaity Bawdy, Velvet Glove, and Aspen Wrangler will be faced with the difficult task of determining the winners from all your fantastic costumes.

Thanks in advance to our sponsor, Wild West Mercantile of Mesa, Arizona, C. S. Fly and Claudia Feather, proprietors, for your many years of supporting costume contests throughout SASS.

Hope to see y'all in January in San Antone. Yee Haw! 🤠

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The Stampede at South River

GEORGIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

and the All Around Cowboy Challenge

By Fast Eddie, SASS #76308

Conyers, GA. The Stampede at South River was sponsored by Jimmy Spurs, SASS #65014, of "Cowboy Gun Works" and held at the South River Gun Club, by the South River Shootists, which is about 45 minutes east of Atlanta. South River has a cowboy town, 25 action shooting bays, trap and skeet fields, bullseye, and rifle ranges. There are 54 camping spaces with 110v/25a/50a service and water hookups.

Thursday, side match day, started off with a "Women's Only" shooting clinic, sponsored by the Doily Gang, hosted by World Champions, Shamrock Sadie, SASS #78551, and Slick's Sharp Shooter, SASS #77967. The Georgia State Black Powder Championship was followed by the Speed Side Match events, along with a Wild Bunch™ Match and a Three-Stage Warn Up Match.

Friday's clear skies welcomed two flights starting an hour apart, shooting three stages and breaking for lunch,



to take advantage of its 3200-square-foot ultra-modern clubhouse. The clubhouse seats more than 80 people, with a full kitchen facility and a Pro Shop. After the last two stages of the day, the Couples and Team Side Match events were held.

Friday night's "Dinner at the Range" included a full Barbeque Dinner prepared on site, along with presentations of the State Black Powder Championship and Side Match awards

Saturday had a threat of rain, and the decision was made to shoot straight through and miss the possibility of afternoon thunderstorms. With the rain avoided, the last five stages went off without a hitch. With the shooting done for the day, it was time to put up the shootin' irons, get some lunch, roam the vendor area, and compare notes on how we shot.

The Saturday Night Banquet was at Cameron Hall, a short drive from the host hotel. The evening started with drinks and more stories of our shooting exploits. The din-

(Continued on next page)

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THE STAMPEDE AT SOUTH RIVER • (Georgia State Championship and the All Around Cowboy Challenge)

(Continued from previous page)

ner consisted of rib eye steak with bourbon steak sauce, grilled chicken breast, garlic mashed potatoes, sautéed green beans, garden salad, and rolls, with desert of cheese cake, peach cobbler and lemon pound cake.

The awards were started, with the giving away of the door prizes donated by our match sponsors, Cowboy Gun Works, Big Gun Armory II, Page Knives, Purdy Gear, Slick's Magic Guns, and Gift Certificates from SASS Mercantile. With the clean shooters acknowledged, belt buckles given to State Champions and Category Winners, and the Top 20 pins awarded. Then the All Around Cowboys all gathered to take a shot of some fine Bulleit Bourbon,



two stages would be something new... "Freestyle."

Freestyle is a whole new twist. A Freestyle stage allows the shooter to stoke his shotgun with up to four rounds and stage it. In addition, the shooter may run the stage as they see fit without regard to the actual written scenario as long as they don't end with the rifle... AND, the sequences are "total round count." For example, if the stage called for the shooter to shoot the stage right to left and engage the targets in a 2-1-2 sweep twice, the Freestyle shooter could run it left to right and shoot the targets in a 4-2-4 sweep only once. This gave the shooter the maximum flexibility to showcase their speed and skill. The contestants were really excited to shoot those stages and they couldn't wait to pick up that '97 and whale away.

Since the Freestyle stages were not run in the same way

(Continued on page 28)



donated to the winner, by Bill Bonney, SASS #68967.

The "Shoot within the Shoot" was an "All Around Cowboy" Challenge. Well, as it sometimes happens, the light-hearted insults, slung back and forth between rival shooters can produce unintended results. Such was the case in the creation of the All Around Cowboy and Cowgirl (AAC) category, run for the

first time anywhere, at the Georgia State Championship. Santa Fe River Stan, SASS #36999, and Dang-It-Dan, SASS #13202, got into one of their verbal contests on The Wire and Dan challenged Stan to a "real" shooting match using a variety of SASS shooting styles and equipment. The idea was to find out who was really the best "all around" shooter, not just in one category. The rules were such:

All contestants had to adhere to the dress requirements of Classic Cowboy. Contestants had to use a double barrel shotgun on at least four stages and a 97 or 87 on at least four stages. The main match would consist of shooting two stages "Traditional" style, two Gunfighter, two Duelist, and two using Black Powder propellant. The remaining

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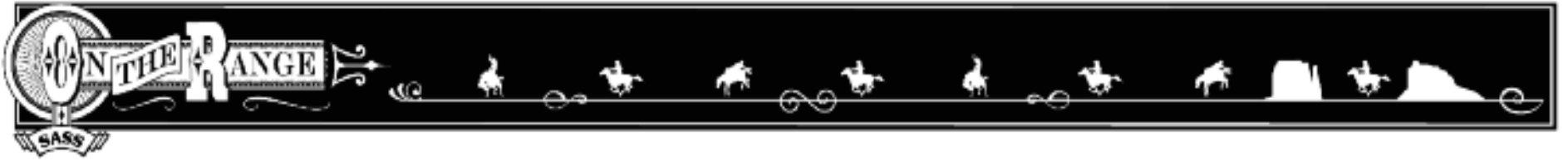
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THE STAMPEDE AT SOUTH RIVER • (Georgia State Championship and the All Around Cowboy Challenge)

(Continued from page 27)

everyone else was required to shoot them, The ACC removed themselves from the overall placement in the main match. As such, AAC contestants were competing in their own match, the winners of which would receive a custom made belt buckle.

When the AAC category was first discussed and approved, it was announced it on The Wire. We were expecting maybe four or five shooters. What we got was a big surprise — 13 Cowboys and three Cowgirls all signed up in AAC. It was a real treat to watch them all shoot in the var-

ious styles and to try to master some of the techniques that we take for granted (Dang-It-Dan commented, “Duelist was way harder than Gunfighter”). The real shocker was that some of the best shooters in the Southeast signed up in AAC. Red River Ray, SASS #33254, was asked why he shot AAC and he responded that it was a way to break up the routine and made him really think about the different techniques and the strategy of which shotgun to use on which stage.

Dang-It-Dan said it best: “Clearly the AAC category of-

fered a chance to ‘scratch an itch,’ to a select group of hardcore cowboys and cowgirls. I was very appreciative to the Match Directors and officials that allowed us to step out of our usual categories and challenge ourselves like this. Congratulations are due to my buds, Santa Fe River Stan and Shamrock Sadie for winning All Around Cowboy and Cowgirl. It was a blast!”

Sunday morning brought Cowboy Church, followed by the Man on Man Shoot Off. True to a long standing Georgia tradition, the shoot off is open to all shooters. After that, individual man on man challenges were made, and the fun continued.

As usual the Shooters have the final word:

Bulls Head Bill, SASS #33692 – “The 2014 Georgia State Championship at South River Gun Club was Terrific!”

Arcadia Outlaw, SASS #71385 – “First off I’m glad there is a match at this awe-

(Continued on next page)

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THE STAMPEDE AT SOUTH RIVER •

(Georgia State Championship and the All Around Cowboy Challenge)

(Continued from previous page)



some Facility, probably one of the finest in the Southeast. The match was a good one for sure!"

Marauder, SASS #13056 – "It was a really fun match with great friends and competitors!"

Colonel Dan, SASS #24025 – "We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and the hospitality could not have been better."

Sue Render, SASS #87925 – "Thank you to the Georgia crew who worked hard to put on a fun match!"

(Continued on page 30)

Side Match Winners

Buckaroo and Buckerette

Georgia's Phantom Rider
and Lil' Bit E. Miss

Couples Side Match

Presitdigitator and
Slick's Sharp Shooter

Speed Pistol

Buckaroo	Kellraiser	
	SASS #98703	TN
Duelist	Dutch Coroner	
Gunfighter	Dang-It-Dan	
(tie)	and Koda Joe	
	SASS #89807	GA
Traditional	Prestidigitator	
	SASS #52251	TN
L Duelist	Shamrock Sadie	
L Gunfighter	Shamrock Sadie	
L Traditional	Shamrock Sadie	

Speed Rifle

Man	Santa Fe River	
	Stan	FL

Speed Rifle

Lady	Shamrock Sadie
------	----------------

Speed Shotgun

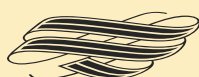
SxS	Blackhawk Henry	
	SASS #98144	GA
Hammered		
SXS	Dutch Coroner	
L SxS	Shamrock Sadie	
1897	Two Gun Tuco	
L 1897	Dang It's Darlin	
	SASS #17502	FL

Team Side Match

Blackhawk Henry, Prestidigitator,
Slick's Sharp Shooter

Top Gun Shoot Off

Buckaroo	Georgia's
	Phantom Rider
Lady	Slick's Sharp Shooter
Man	Cowboy Junky
	SASS #30851
	SC



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(Continued from page 29)

Santa Fe River Stan – “A big Thank You to all involved for giving up your time and expending all the effort that you did, so my family and friends could come together and make memories that we will keep with us forever.”

I would like to thank everyone that took time to participate in the Georgia State Championship. See ya down the trail, and hopefully at the "Stampede at South River" 2015 Georgia State Championship, May 14-17. 🐾

L Modern	Sassy Teton Lady	
	SASS #47525	FL
L Traditional	Foxy Filly	GA
Modern	Navajo Kid	
	SASS #5656	FL
Traditional	Cardboard Cowboy	
	SASS #74358	GA



WINNERS			Duelist	Risin' Outlaw	L 49'er	Maggie Darlin'	S Senior	Pecos Pete
49'er	Delta Glen			SASS #64767 SC		SASS #18724 GA		SASS #16437 NC
	SASS #39197 FL			Pale Ale Rider	L BW	Sass E. Miss		Purly
Fast Eddie	GA			SASS #92804 GA		SASS #78893 GA		SASS #57438 GA
Buckaroo	Georgia's Phantom		E Statesman	Trail Bandit	L Duelist	Mae Berry	SS Duelist	Amaduelist
	Rider			SASS #52426 SC		SASS #90835 TN		SASS #28092 FL
	SASS #98146 GA			McKenzie River	L FC	Bronco Lady		D.Q. Jones
Buckarette	Lil' Bit E. Miss			Drifter		SASS #85765 FL		SASS #37116 GA
	SASS #96759 GA			SASS #74138 GA	L Senior	Savannah Belle	Wrangler	Arcadia Outlaw FL
B Western	Blackhawk Henry		Frontiersman	Amarillo Rattler		SASS #31452 FL		Wabash Valley Slim
	SASS #98144 GA			SASS #68423 FL	L Wrangler	Sue Render		SASS #71092 GA
Cattle Baron	Ruff Edge			Georgia Slick		Foxy Filly	Young Gun	Rayson Kane
	SASS #20553 GA			SASS #20382 GA		SASS #74357 GA		SASS #58238 GA
Classic C	Dutch Coroner		FC		Pioneer	Latonka	Y Gun Girl	Kalamity Kae
	SASS #82128 VA		Gunfighter	Fire N. Ballback		SASS #67424 FL		SASS #79716 FL
	SASS #73085 GA			SASS #60185 KY		Loose Trigger		
	SASS #73085 GA		Grande			SASS #35970 GA	All Around	
Cowboy	Two Gun Tuco		Dame	Toots	Senior	Ozark Azz	Cowboy	Santa Fe River
	SASS #78297 MD			SASS #78164 GA		SASS #18273 GA		Stan FL
Hurricane Charlie			Gunfighter	J.B. Sledge	S Duelist	No Limit	All Around	
	SASS #90225 GA			SASS #82229 PA		SASS #58857 GA	Cowgirl	Shamrock Sadie SC
Cowgirl	Slick's Sharp			Bluff	S Gunfighter	Cassalong Hopidy		
	Shooter GA			SASS #28259 GA		SASS #39703 GA		

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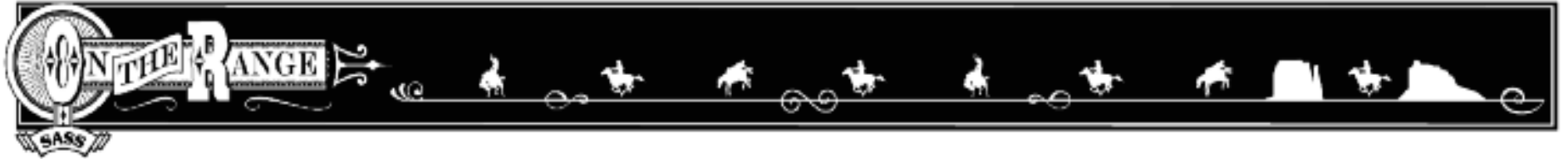
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EAS'DERN SHORE **ROUND-UP**

By Gray Warhorse, SASS #82658

MAY 2 – 4, 2014



The Roundup Committee:

Teton Tracy, Cactus Whiskey, SASS #75905, South Paw Sadie, Delaware Coop, Hazel Pepper, SASS #49662, Deacon Will, SASS #24170, Wyoming Schoolmarm, SASS #32070, Bonnie B Good, and Jingles Jerr, SASS #5463. (Vaquero Dan, SASS #31330, not pictured.)

Sudlersville, MD. The Eas'dern Shore Round-Up was held on the first weekend of May 2014, at the Delmarva Sportsman Association located in Maryland and was actually the SASS Delaware State Championship Match. (Now, if you can get your head around the Delaware State Match being held in Maryland, let's go on.)

As the start of the match was approaching, the weather

was a bit less than desirable thanks to the heavy "moisture" falling from the sky. For a while, the match committee was considering the possible need to build rafts for the shooting positions and obtain canoes for target resetting. One wag was heard to say he saw a large number of different species of animals lining up two-by-two near his waterfront! Fortunately, the deluge stopped by mid-week and the range had a chance to dry out, although there were still some soggy places that hampered setup a bit. As it turned out, the weather was quite lovely for both setup and the rest of the match. All breathed a collective sigh of relief, especially our match director, Teton Tracy, SASS #40592.

There is an enormous amount of time and effort that goes into preparing for a major match. I

(Continued on next page)



South Paw Sadie got "blindsided" with the Too Dang Frank Award. She believed Bonnie B Good, SASS #27711, was receiving it. How they kept that wonderful surprise from Sadie and Teton Tracy is beyond us.

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Eas'dern Shore Round-Up . . .

(Continued from previous page)



Sherlock Doc, SASS #97868 shoots the first stage of his first match through the gate of Fort Kilby as his "advisors" stand by.



Cool Hand Lee spotting hits on the long-range rifle side match. In the background, Marshlan, SASS #22743, is giving instructions on the long-range pistol match.

to be readily moveable. Not only did they have to be set up on the day before the start of the match, but also several had to be changed between the first and second day of the main match. If you haven't been directly involved in something like this, it is harder than it sounds.

The day of the side matches arrived with gorgeous sunshine and pleasant temperatures. Registration and the RO Course started at 0900. The side matches kicked off at

1200 and ran until 1600 (4 p.m. to you civilians). The remaining vendors also rolled in during that time until we had the full contingent. It soon became clear that there was more shooting off the mouth going on than there was shooting hardware. Well, yeah! Isn't that one of the big reasons we all come to these matches? As some of the campers arrived and set up, they soon became the focal point of many shoot-off-the-mouth contests with many stories told, most not verifiable.

The first main match day arrived with a repeat of the gorgeous weather and the hordes started to pour in. Our volunteer waddies directed traffic. Soon there was a wide

(Continued on page 34)



*Gray Warhorse, SASS #82658
Gunpowder John, SASS #78053
and Hopalong Jim, SASS
#71835, seem very intent on
something but with these pard-
ners, you can never be too sure!*





Eas'dern Shore Round-Up . . .

(Continued from page 33)

assortment of nefarious-looking characters milling around, visiting vendors, or just waiting for the “starting gun” to sound off. Aside from the usual suspects from Maryland and Delaware, we had competitors troop in from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, New York, Connecticut and even one lone straggler from far away Massachusetts.



Saturday, this prop was a hospital. On Sunday, it became a church, one of Delaware Coop's masterpieces.

Then, at 0930, match director, Teton Tracy, sauntered into the clearing and sounded assembly. After the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a blessing by Corkscrew Tom, SASS #68972, Teton read the match rules, introduced the leaders of the four posses, and we were off!

The main theme of the match was “Cowboys and



Big Whiskey, Posse Leader for posse one, gave all the posse members yellow armbands to wear. All weekend you could hear the chants of “posse one rules!” (You can also see the hospital that became the church on Sunday in the background.)

Angels,” with what I consider to be a couple of sub-themes. The sub-theme of the first five stages was “Famous Women of the West” and that of the last five was “Famous Men of the West.” Each stage had a scenario and starting phrase to go with that theme. It wasn't clear whether it was the men or women who got the bigger kick out of the concepts but all enjoyed them.

We had barely started shooting when a camera crew from WBOC Outdoors, Delmarva, showed up to film the event. Apparently they were quite interested and we just

(Continued on next page)



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Eas'dern Shore Round-Up . . .

(Continued from previous page)



*Luck of the Draw Winners –
(L-R)
Big Whiskey [shotgun],
Kuz [rifle],
Teton Tracy [pistol].*



*Cool Hand Lee, Top Delaware
Man and DE 49'r Champ;
Southpaw Sadie, Top Delaware
Lady & DE Lady Senior champ;
Wild Bill Diamond,
Overall Match Winner.*

might have a convert or two to Cowboy Action Shooting™ from that crew. Here's the link for WBOC and the short video they made from the match:

<http://www.wbo.com/category/257471/outdoorsdelmarva>

Select Episode 183. Enjoy!

As the day wore on and the time for the BBQ approached, one of our waddies made a startling discovery the hard way. While setting up chairs under the tent where the BBQ was to be held, he sat down in one of the chairs whose legs promptly sank more than six inches into the soggy turf.



*Marshlan times
Corkscrew Tom
as he makes clouds.
The rest of the posse was
hoping for a good breeze.*

(Remember the deluge noted from earlier in the week?) A quick testing of several more areas under the tent revealed the same problem. Yikes! What do we do now coach?

There was no place where the tent could be moved but, fortunately, the Pistol Range had a long covered area that provided a shaded place to which we could move the tables and chairs. Several "volunteers" were shanghaied to move tables and chairs and soon we were back in business, just in time for the caterer to set up before the hungry

horde arrived. Somehow it all worked out without a visible hitch, as did the presentation of all 14 awards for the side matches to the top Lady, Man and Buckaroo in each divi-



*It's always fun to see old friends and make new ones.
Pictured are Jesse's Sister, SASS #82105, Sidesaddle Sue,
SASS #73023, Shoulda Married Money, SASS #67920,
Shop Along Sassy, SASS #67795, Black Hills Barb, SASS #34171,
and Happy Valley Harlot, SASS #84435.*

sion. (See <http://www.dsarange.com/Roundup.htm> for Side Match and Main Match awards.)

The weather on Sunday was a repeat of the glorious day on Saturday. Cowboy Church was held at 0800 and the survivors then trooped off to begin shooting the remaining stages, starting at 0900. The range soon resounded to a rapid series of bangs and clangs with only a small number of stealth bullets fired.

Upon conclusion of the last match stage, something new was added, a "Luck of the Draw Team Shoot." Those shooters wanting to participate put their nametags into a hat to be drawn out for team selection and the teams were selected in sequence. First name drawn for each team was

(Continued on page 36)





Eas'dern Shore Round-Up . . .

(Continued from page 35)



Teton Tracy, Match Director, reads the match rules and introduces posse leaders before the start of the main match.

the pistol shooter. Second name was the rifle shooter. Third name got to display proficiency with a shotgun of the shooter's choice. Soon all the teams were established and the rules were announced. All team members had to stand behind a line. At the buzzer, the pistol shooter stepped over the line to the firing position and sent 10 rounds down-range with the proverbial. When finished, the pistol shooter holstered stepping back over the line. Then the rifle shooter sauntered to the firing position and emptied his rifle, returning back over the line before the shotgun shooter was released to step up to the firing line. As soon

as the shotgunner downed all targets or ran out of ammo, the team time was recorded and the next team stepped up to the line.

With the final round fired, it didn't take long to determine that the team composed of Teton Tracy (pistol), Kuz, SASS #84149 (rifle), and Big Whiskey, SASS #73829 (shotgun), was the clear winner and all were solemnly awarded bragging rights. (What? You thought they would get trophies just for having fun? Actually, each of them did receive a nice award plaque. Congratulations!)

With a flurry of activity, volunteers began the breakdown and removal of the sets, props and targets while others started to gather at the array of chairs and tables set under the Pistol Range shelter to



Corkscrew Tom and Gen. Lew Wallace, SASS #51250 model their sartorial splendor prior to the start of the main match.



Looks like Sundown Charlie, SASS #61859 got a little early start on the day. The bottle is nearly empty now! Marshlan looks on with trepidation!

prepare for the awards ceremony. Soon the match scorekeepers had completed the tabulations and were ready for the presentations. The cleanup crew was called in (temporarily) and the honors commenced.

The overall match winner was Wild Bill Diamond, SASS #19375; the Men's Delaware State Champion was

(Continued on next page)

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Eas'dern Shore Round-Up . . .

(Continued from previous page)

Cool Hand Lee, SASS #81764; and the Ladies' Delaware State Champion was South Paw Sadie, SASS #49471. There were only four Clean Match awards. They went to Hand Cannon, SASS #60485; Pecos Pav, SASS #36327; Sunshine Seniorita, SASS #93698; and Wild Wiz, SASS #75043. The Spirit of the Game Award deservedly went to Delaware Coop. Then there was a surprise award. Although not directly associated with the Round-Up, the Too Dang Frank Award was presented. This award was established to pay tribute to Too Dang Frank, SASS #31985, co-founder of the Eas'dern Shore Renegades, who crossed the rainbow bridge March 24, 2008. This year it went to our own Southpaw Sadie for outstanding efforts and contributions to both the club and support of the assorted matches. Both she and husband, Teton Tracy, were caught totally by surprise, as they had no hint that it was coming.

Everyone had a good time and there were quite a few

(Continued on page 38)



Slash Eight, SASS #51146, co-founder of the Eas'dern Shore Renegades, and his wife, Betty, strike a pose in front of some of the "scenery." Although not shooting these days, he is very supportive of the Club.

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Eas'dern Shore Round-Up . . .

(Continued from page 37)

favorable comments on the stages and supporting props throughout the match. Kudos to the Match Committee and the wide range of volunteers, without whom an event like



Corkscrew Tom asks the blessing before the start of the main match.



Although the deluge stopped a day ago, setup of the props is still a bit on the soggy side as the range is still draining.

this, simply could not take place. Oh, yeah. We did have a set of buzzards surveying the scene from the barricade between the Rifle and Pistol Ranges but all they got to do was observe. There were no casualties other than to assorted hot dogs, hamburgers and other fare provided by our food vendor, the Vietnam Veterans, Kent Co., Delaware, Chapter 850.

Please mark your calendars for May 1-3, 2015, for the next Delaware State Championship Match of Cowboy Action Shooting at the Eas'dern Shore Round-Up. 🐾

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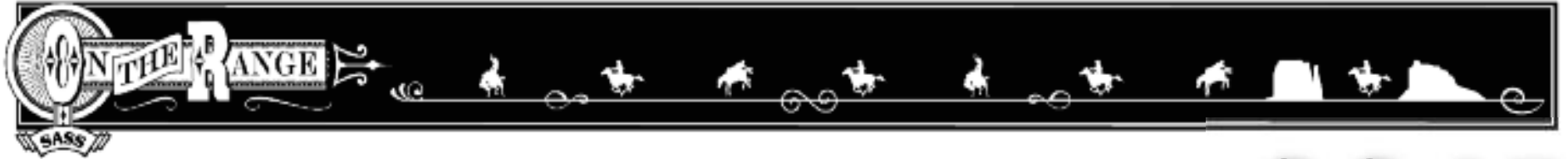
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HELL ON THE BORDER 2014

By Back Forty, SASS #23910

Photos by Back Forty

Fort Smith, AR. The year was 1875. Judge Isaac Parker had just appointed Bass Reeves to the position of Deputy Marshal of Indian Territory. Reeves would be one of the first African-Americans to gain this status.

A while later, Reeves placed an order with a hardware store out of St. Louis for a new Colt Single Action .45 revolver. When it arrived, he now carried a brace of Colt Single Actions, worn butt forward, a Winchester rifle and a sawed off double barrel shotgun carried in a saddle scabbard. Over the years, he would lead a posse of several men that would capture notorious outlaws who eventually would meet their maker at the hands of Judge Parker.

Wait – does this sound familiar? Fast-forward 139 years – two revolvers, a rifle and a shotgun, on a posse, just across the river from Fort Smith, Arkansas. Well, it could only be the Hell on the Border shootout at the Old Fort Gun Club. The shoot was hosted by the Judge Parker's Marshals and was



held Saturday, March 14, 2014.

Co-match-directors Naildriver, SASS #59139, and Just Charlie, SASS #5153, picked a perfect weather day as more than 115 shooters came out for the second annual shoot on the banks of the Arkansas River. The single day match consisted of seven fast and furious stages of quick thinking, maximum rounds and fancy

(Continued on next page)

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Hell on the Border 2014 . . .

(Continued from previous page)



footwork. However, overall match winner CS Brady, SASS #63699, was up to the task by shooting a clean match and edging out second place winner Creek County Kid, SASS #89945, by just over two seconds.

Stage 1, the Church, consisted of four revolver targets engaged at least twice, knockdown and steel plate rifle targets and four knockdown shotgun targets. Holy Smoke Harmon, SASS #84590, won the stage with a 21.23-second time.

Stage 2, the Corral, really made you get up and move with two identical revolver and rifle sweeps, and six shotgun targets engaged from three different locations. Creek County Kid blistered the stage in 20.16 seconds.

Stage 3, the Gallows, is an exact copy of the one used by Judge Parker. The combination revolver/rifle targets consisted of seven hanging targets in three rows: top row of three targets, one target in the second row, positioned in the middle and a bottom row of three targets. The stage called for single tapping the odd number targets and double tapping the even number targets, and finishing with four knockdowns. No time to stop and think, just let 'er rip, which is exactly what CS Brady did, blazing through the stage in 17.00 seconds flat.

(Continued on page 42)

Winners			Gunfighter	Stumpman	
49'er	Dusty Darryl			SASS #89993	AR
	SASS #91958	IL	L 49'er	Kiamichi Queen	OK
B-Western	Holy Smoke		L Duelist	Dusty Dee	
	Harmon	AR		SASS #86597	AR
C Cowboy	Iron Bear		L Gunfighter	Catoosa Red	
	SASS #7010	OK		SASS #57246	OK
C Cowgirl	Neeter Bear		L Senior	Alice K. Grierson	
	SASS #73777	OK		SASS #76680	MO
Cowboy	Creek County		L S Senior	Ozark Annie	
	Kid	OK		SASS #87094	MO
Cowgirl	Little Nocona		L Wrangler	Cheeka Bow Wow	
	One Shot			SASS #88699	AR
	SASS #77433	AR	Range Boss	Mud Puppy	
Duelist	Cowhand			SASS #68525	AR
	SASS #63559	TX	Senior	Back Forty	
E Statesman	Ozark Outlaw		S Duelist	The Brisco Kid	
	SASS #19847	AR		SASS #26032	OK
F Cartridge	Ain't Dunit	AR	S Gunfighter	Gunny Buckshot	
FC Duelist	Bulldog McGraw			SASS #69512	OK
	SASS #57384	AR	Silver Senior	Ambler	
Frontiersman	Rowdy Bob			SASS #80374	AR
	SASS #68731	AR	Wrangler	C.S. Brady	AR
Grand Dame	Copper Rose				
	SASS #53321	AR			



Hell on the Border 2014 . . .

(Continued from page 41)

Stage 4, the Wagon was “run and gun” at its finest, with three different shooting positions. Three revolver targets and three rifle targets called for the shooter to engage the center target with a double tap and then sweep left to right twice, and finish up with four shotgun knockdowns. CS Brady took top honors again with an 18.18 time.

Stage 5, Ms. Laura’s, is a replica of the original Ms. Laura’s sporting house located in Ft. Smith. On this stage, a miss was a good thing. How, you ask? A large round steel target with a cutout of the state of Arkansas had the shooters shooting through the cutout area. Coupled with six plus shotgun, it was a real “take your breath away” stage. Again, CS Brady placed first by ripping through the stage in 19.33 seconds.

Stage 6, the Jail, provided the shooter with a six-target plate rack for two revolvers, with a dump target for remaining rounds. Shooters finished up with a Ne-



vada sweep on four rifle targets and four shotgun knockdowns. CS Brady made it four in a row with a time of 18.67.

Stage 7, the final stage, at the Bar, really made you bear down by having to engage a rifle target with a revolver. Ain’t Dunit, SASS #71048, had it figured out and blazed through the stage with a 17.96-second winning time.

After the match, the shooters gathered under a big tent to enjoy an excellent meal, topped off with a Dutch oven cobbler made by the local Boy Scout troop. Scores were tallied and top honors went to CS Brady, men’s overall winner, and Kiamichi Queen, SASS #26033, ladies’ overall winner.

Cowboy Action Shooting™ is just one of the shooting

(Continued on next page)

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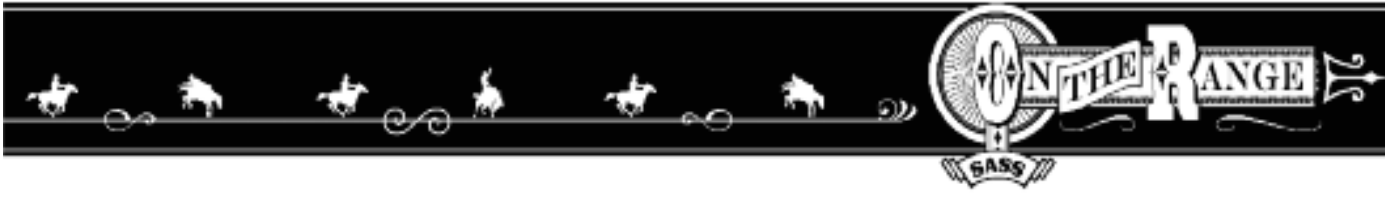
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Hell on the Border 2014 . . .

(Continued from previous page)

competitions offered by the Old Fort Gun Club, as IDPA and USPSA are also shot on the site. The Judge Parker's Marshals are well represented on the board of directors by Long White Dog, SASS #57057, who has been a member of the club for more than 30 years. The facility is a great place to shoot, and the Judge Parker's Marshals are to be commended for a great match. Wouldn't it have been great to have Bass Reeves and his posse show up to shoot with us? 🤠



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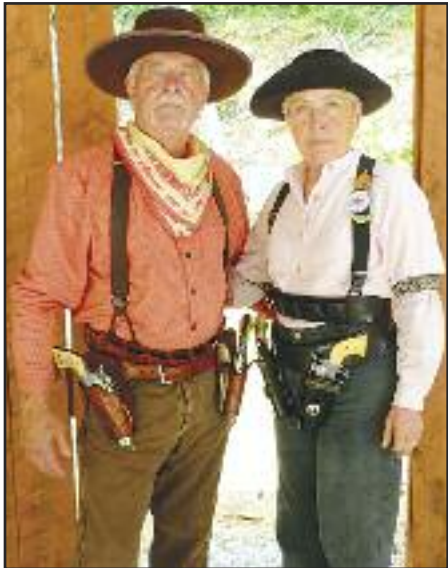
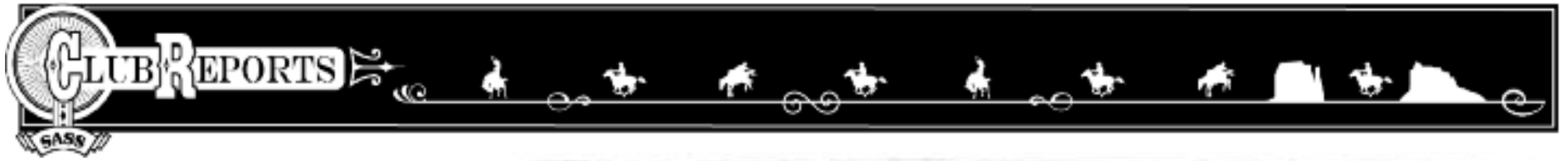
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Rio Drifter, SASS #49244 and Tennessee Tall, SASS #49245

SHOOTIN' OUR WAY ACROSS AMERICA West Virginia

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

We drove through the winding mountains of West Virginia to shoot with the Kanawha (Can-a-waa) Valley Regulators. In Eleanor the Putnam County Gun Club has many shooting disciplines and fully embraces Cowboy Action Shooting™. The Putnam County Park boasts a swimming pool, numerous ball fields, fairgrounds, rifle ranges, pistol ranges, the cowboy ranges and long-range field. Deer, raccoons, birds and squirrels shared the quiet range where we camped.

We found an impressive gun range on an excep-



tionally well-built cowboy town where we met Mullinville Man, SASS #92669, painting targets for the match. Eddie Rebel, SASS #52259, was quick to tell us that his wife, Pie, SASS #75817, was responsible for the construction of most of the buildings and artwork on site. Work was started in 2003 on Buffalo Flats cowboy town and continues today. You will find a depot, a saloon, a corral,

(Continued on next page)



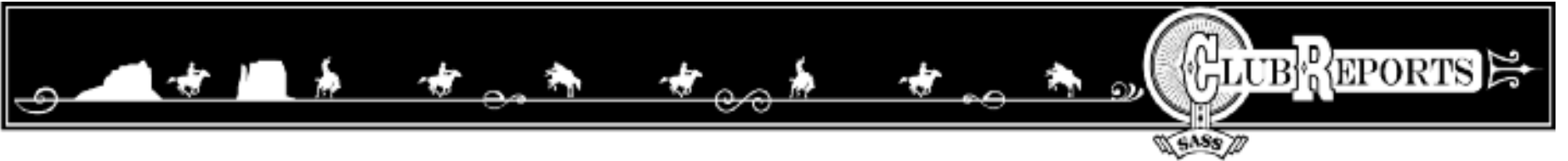


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Sam/AD



Shootin' Our Way Across America (West Virginia)

(Continued from previous page)



a fort, mercantile, a bank, a covered pavilion to seat 50 to 100 cowboys, and numerous out buildings.

The Kanawha Valley Regulators welcomed us, and Captain Hook, SASS #5485, acted as our posse leader, allowing us to add West Virginia to our list as state number 38 shot. An average of 168 club members shoot on the banks of the Kanawah River.

Eleanor, West Virginia is a beautiful small town taking its name from Eleanor Roosevelt. As one of the cowboys told us: "It was one of her attempts at Socialism." The following is an excerpt from the history of the town: "In 1934, during perhaps the most desperate time in American history, the town of Eleanor (initially called Red House Farms), became one of three Subsistence Homesteads built in West Virginia under the Roosevelt Administration. A total of 150 families selected for the Town of Eleanor were offered a challenge and a chance for new life.

"The tract of land for the community comprises 2,200 acres [and cost] approximately \$29 an acre. The site of the dwellings and the farmland, comprising about 800 acres, lies in a half-moon shaped valley. It is a setting of natural beauty. The straight edge lies along the banks of the Kanawha River and to the north the semi-circle is marked by sharp-sloped wooded hills. The roughly semicircle valley is from a quarter to three quarters of a mile wide and about a mile and a half long.

"Each house is on a plot of from three-quarters of an acre to an acre. The plot also provides for a barn, a chicken pen, a garden and a lawn with shrubbery. The houses are built chiefly of cinder blocks. Wood is used in the interior, but little on the exterior. The dwellings range from three to five rooms and are designed in several different basic styles. Their appearance is sturdy, comfortable, serviceable, economical, neat and architecturally well designed."

Eleanor today is well-maintained, noted as "One of the Cleanest Towns in America." A summer day there is typical of small town USA, lawn mowers humming, flowers hang-



ing on the porch, swimming, ball games and picnics, a Norman Rockwell town to be proud of. Throw in Buffalo Flats cowboy town and shooting, what more could you want?

After our shoot we wandered over to the Gerald R. Freeman US Army Corps of Engineers Campground on Sutton Lake off I-79 Exit 67, well worth the 20-minute drive on Highway 15. A campground with a laundry, playground, drinking water, biking, basketball, dump, dumpsters, and electric sites on the lake for \$10 per night using our Golden Age Passport. Fishing is the name of the game here with walleye, large and small mouth bass, catfish, brim and trout on the menu. We camped within six feet of the water, in a tree-shaded site where we watched the birds and the fish/fishermen to our heart's content. One of our neighbors told us of fishing on the lake, watching a black bear climbing the bank behind him. We found West Virginia to be diverse, friendly and beautiful. 🐾

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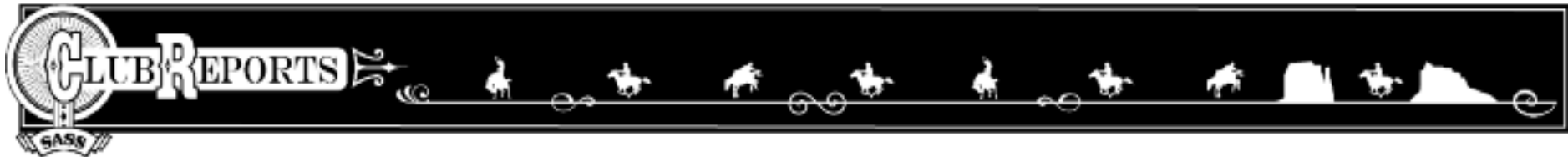


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A QUARTER CENTURY CELEBRATION

CODY WYOMING, JUNE 2014

By Grey Fox, SASS#223, Life, Regulator, Hall of Fame Inductee
and Miss Mary Spencer, SASS #55147 Life, Regulator
Photos by Lucky Bill, SASS #765 and Grey Fox

The Regional and State Championships for Wyoming are now held in Cheyenne rather than Cody. However, the enthusiasm for Cowboy Action Shooting™ has not diminished. On June 7, 2014, an intimate group of shootists convened in Cody to commemorate 25 years of Cowboy Action Shooting™. The event was reminiscent of days gone by. Rather than heavy duty intense competition the participants were having fun, although



Some of the shootists during opening ceremonies.



Yakima Red being awarded the “Lucky Bill, you can’t miss with a shotgun award.”



Some cowboys & cowgirls at the Irma Hotel.

Winners		
Cowboy	Donk	
	SASS #89818	MT
Duelist	Noah Regrets	WY
E Statesman	Hole Puncher	
	SASS #50614	WY
F Cartridge	Phlegmboy Kid	
	SASS #42413	MT
FC Duelist	Yakima Red	WY
Gunfighter	Paradise Valley Kid	
	SASS #13402	WY
Junior	Li'l Miss Dewdrop	
	SASS #100729	MT
L FC	Lilly Blossom	
	SASS #26517	MT
L Senior	Angel	
	SASS #19622	MT
L S Senior	Six Gun Annie	
	SASS #24322	WY
L Wrangler	Buckskin Lily	WY
Senior	Homestake	
	SASS #96289	MT
S Duelist	H. Muggins Taylor	
	SASS #19621	MT
Silver		
Senior	Joe Cross	
	SASS #13848	WY



Yakima Red & Lilly Blossom doing a terpsichorean turn while Top Gun Buckskin Lily and runner up Noah Regrets look on.

winning was still an objective.

The match was a co-production of Colter’s Hell Justice Committee and High Lonesome Drifters, organized by Yakima Red, SASS #13539, Joe Cross, SASS #13848, and Kerri Lynn, SASS #13849. The event was billed as “Skin that Smoke Wagon.”

Yakima Red and Joe Cross inaugurated the festivities by receiving a SASS Flag from Grey Fox to mark the occasion. The shootists were off and running with enthusiasm and

good humor even though vying for Top Gun. There was a stage where a blank pistol and some cards were to be utilized but the pistol did not work! So, the shootists in good humor picked up the blank gun and said “Bang.” No one was annoyed or dismayed. The

(Continued on next page)

A Quarter Century Celebration . . .

(Continued from previous page)



*Grey Fox presenting
SASS flag to
Joe Cross
& Yakima Red.*

event unfolded in a leisurely fashion.

After the last shot was fired the merry little band of cowboys and cowgirls adjourned to the Irma Hotel to dine in Old West style, thrilling the tourists with their frontier finery.

Top Gun for the event was Buckskin Lily, SASS #51707.

Runner up was her spouse, Noah Regrets, SASS #51706. 🐾

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WINTER RANGE 2014

SASS National Championship of Wild Bunch™ Action Shooting

By Larsen E. Pettifogger, SASS #32933 Life/Regulator

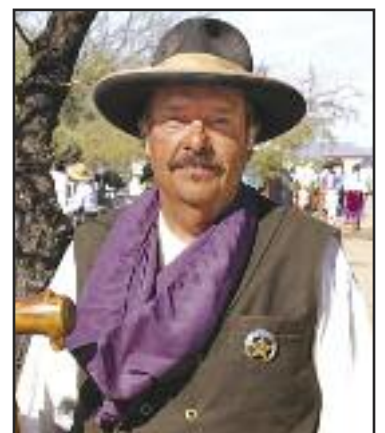
Photos by Deadeye Al, SASS #26454, Larsen E. Pettifogger, Quigley Photography



"Is that my age or my time?"



Attack Pancho Villa on this?



*Larsen E. Pettifogger,
SASS Life #32933*



*There's no rule that says you
have to wear shoes.*

There are two major shooting sports under the SASS umbrella. The first is what comes to mind when many people think about the "Single Action Shooting Society." These are the Cowboy Action Shooters™, shooting single action revolvers and emulating the American West of the latter half of the Nineteenth Century. Think Dodge City, Wyatt Earp, and the James Gang. But, there are "single actions" other than revolvers, such as the Colt Model 1911. Those who enjoy the second shooting sport under the SASS umbrella are the Wild Bunch™ Shooters. They try to emulate the early (pre-World War I) years of the Twentieth Century. Think, the Mexican Border Wars (the most famous skirmish being in Columbus, New

Mexico in 1916), Blackjack Pershing, Poncho Villa, and George Patton in a 1915 Dodge automobile leading the first mechanized attack in United States history.

The early years of the Twentieth Century were an

(Continued on next page)



Winter Range 2014 • SASS National Championship of Wild Bunch™ Action Shooting

(Continued from previous page)



amazing period in American History. The old west was still a vivid first hand experience for many people. Yet, it was a period of unprecedented technological development. In the span of just a decade, people moved from horses to automobiles, from dreams of flight to operational



airplanes, from black powder mechanically operated revolvers and rifles to smokeless powder, machine guns, and semi-automatic pistols. Clothing also varied from “cowboy” to “modern” attire. At any large gathering you would see it all; the remnants of the cowboy era with people still shooting black powder rifles, shotguns, and revolvers, alongside people shooting 1911 pistols and Krag and Springfield rifles. This is the era of the Wild Bunch™ shooter.

In the past, many articles about Wild Bunch™ have frequently mentioned that it is the newest SASS

sport. Wild Bunch™ has been around long enough that it is time to quit referring to it as new and to start focusing on what it has matured into. This maturity was on display at Winter Range 2014. First, let's go through some general principles of Wild Bunch™ shooting. Wild Bunch™ is intended to be a MAJOR caliber match, meaning not only

(Continued on page 50)

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Winter Range 2014 • SASS National Championship of Wild Bunch™ Action Shooting

(Continued from page 49)

are the guns supposed to be big bores, but the ammunition to be shot is also at a much higher power factor than cowboy ammunition. This means the only handgun allowed in Wild Bunch is the .45 Colt 1911 or clones (no 9mm, .38 Super, etc.) and rifles must be at least .40 caliber. Wild Bunch™ ammunition must be a minimum of 150 power factor vs. 60 power factor for cowboy ammunition.

Next, the courses of fire are intended to test both speed and accuracy. Targets are frequently smaller and set at greater distances than the targets at a typical cowboy match. Since the ammunition is more powerful, Wild Bunch™ matches tend to use a larger number of reactive targets than seen at a cowboy match. Wild Bunch™ stages also typically require the firing of many more rounds of ammunition than cowboy stages. Finally, only pump action shotguns may be used in Wild Bunch™, i.e., Winchester Model 12s, 97s, and the 93/97, and they are staged with the magazines fully loaded. So, how did it all come together at Winter Range 2014?

There were no DQ’s given for underpowered ammunition. At the first Winter Range Wild Bunch™ National Championship many shooters forgot that the 150 power factor applies to their pistol AND rifle ammunition. Many were using their standard cowboy rifle ammunition and failed the chronograph test. This year the minimum power factor recorded was 163 and the maximum 210. Wild Bunch™ shotguns are staged with the magazine loaded but with the hammer down on an empty chamber. This was easy to see with outside hammer shotguns. However, when the Model 12 was approved for Wild Bunch™ use, the only way to determine if the hammer was down was for the timer operator to watch as the shooter pulled the trigger on the firing line. If it clicked the shooter got a



stage DQ. This year for the first time, no one got a SDQ for staging a cocked Model 12.

The match itself consisted of ten challenging stages with on-third of the targets set close, one-third set at medium distances, and



one-third using small and/or more distant targets. And, what is some of the advice from the shooters and match director to new Winter Range Wild Bunch™ shooters?



Make sure your ammunition meets power factor. Make sure your equipment, magazines and ammo WORK before getting to Winter Range. Practice on smaller targets. To do well at a large Wild Bunch™ match, a shooter should be able to consistently hit a four-inch round plate at seven to nine yards. And, remember to aim! Wild Bunch™ matches are not bulls-eye matches; however, they are also not cowboy matches where the targets are often close enough that point shooting is sufficient to hit the targets.

(Continued on next page)

WINNERS		
L Modern	Half-A-Hand Henri	
	SASS #9727	NM
L Traditional	Texas Tiger	
	SASS #74829	NM
Modern	Boggus Deal	
	SASS #64218	NM
Traditional	Samuel B. Carpenter	
	SASS #34043	Norway
Overall		
Lady	Half-A-Hand-Henri	
Man	Boggus Deal	



Winter Range 2014 • SASS National Championship of Wild Bunch™ Action Shooting

(Continued from previous page)

This year overall scores continued to improve. However, there were no clean matches!

So, what does the future hold for Wild Bunch™ shoot-

ing? It continues to evolve and grow. For example, in future matches TOs and spotters will be watching more closely to make sure shooters are not moving with their finger in the trigger guard. People at smaller ranges who like shooting three-gun matches with traditional black guns but are limited because they don't have a 200- or 300-yard range will start looking at Wild Bunch™. Three guns can be shot, but a 50-yard bay is plenty deep enough. Wild Bunch™ will also appeal to those three-gun shooters who don't like shooting prone or ducking under barricades.

The awards given out at Winter Range are designed to fit the Wild Bunch™ motif with the major awards shaped like a .45 and newly designed bronze belt buckles for 2014. Sturm, Ruger & Co. is the Winter Range Event Sponsor and Wild West Mercantile is the Wild Bunch™ match sponsor. The Winter Range SASS National Championship of Wild Bunch™ Action shooting for 2015 will take place on February 23 and 24. See you there!!! 🤠



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



DISPATCHES FROM CAMP BAYLOR

Loading .38-55 on a Dillon XL650

By Captain George Baylor, SASS Life/Regulator #24287

SASS shooters use .38-55 Winchester for three matches, Plainsman, Rifle Caliber Lever Action Rifle Long Range, and Black Powder Single Shot Long Range. It is an obsolete cartridge. It was the black powder daddy of the .30-30 Winchester. The base is essentially the same, but it is straight wall rather than bottleneck.

Most people load it in single-stage presses. However, I'm spoiled. I've been reloading for more than 30 years and never owned a single stage press. I shoot a lot, so I try to use efficient machines. I loaded .38-55 in an RCBS Turret Press, but every time I used the press the primer feed mechanism broke. RCBS always sent me the needed parts, and I got better with it. This only meant it broke in different places. And, compared to my other machines, the Dillon XL650 and SL900, it was slow.

Plainsman Matches

Plainsman uses single-shot rifles, percussion pistols, and double or '87 shotguns for shooting stages much like main match stages. It is shot in posses. Usually rifle targets are farther away than what is fashionable in main matches. I have been to matches with 200-yard buffalo-sized targets or 100-yard clays on stands,



*Dillon XL650 set up for
.38-55 Winchester.*

but this is not the intent of Plainsman. Most contestants use rifles with sights like main match rifles. It is not a long-range match. It is an action match. Like the shotgun, the rifle starts empty and finishes empty. So loading and ejecting rounds quickly is key to doing well. That means practicing... a lot.

There's just one problem. Dillon doesn't make a caliber conversion kit for it. CAUTIONARY NOTE: That statement and common sense indicate this is not a project for beginning reloaders, or, probably, reloaders new to the Dillon XL650.

They do make a .30-30 conversion kit (Part #21112), so the bottom end is covered.

We'll get to the top in a minute. Dillon does not make dies for it.

RCBS Cowboy Dies

RCBS makes excellent dies in their Cowboy series. They're not just case hardened dies. Their dimensions vary from their normal .38-55 dies. They are designed for lead bullets. Other manufacturers make dies designed for jacketed bullets. Additionally, one of the most popular Plainsman rifles, the H & R Buffalo Classic, has a bigger bore. Buffalo Classic chambers are very tight, and Johnny Meadows used a chamber

(Continued on next page)



The rounds are very tall and skinny. Here, the round at station 1 has not lined up.



RCBS Cowboy Dies.



Dispatches From Camp Baylor • Loading .38-55 on a Dillon XL650

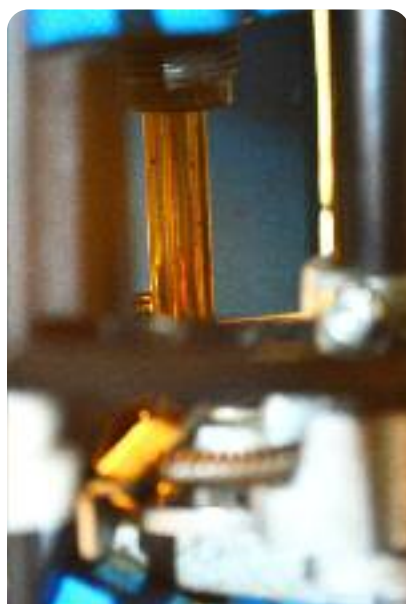
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reamer on mine enough to accept bullets big enough for the bore. My rifles need .380 diameter, not .376. (Your mileage may vary.)

Station 1

This is a tall, thin case. The RCBS dies are not designed for progressive machines, so there is no gentle shoulder at the mouth of the de-capping/sizing die to help guide the round into the die. This means that “finessing” the case into the die is necessary on almost every case—unless you want crushed cases.

But the full-length re-sizing die does an excellent job of re-sizing, making the brass



After finessing, the round at station 1 is entering the die.

Dillon does not make a .38-55 powder funnel. A .38/.357 powder funnel was used, requiring that the powder die be raised considerably to work properly.



easy to eject after firing.

Case Lubrication

These are steel dies. Cases MUST be lubed—and thoroughly so—before loading. I use Hornady One-

(Continued on page 54)

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Dispatches From Camp Baylor • Loading .38-55 on a Dillon XL650

(Continued from page 53)

Shot Case lube because it's a dry lube. If you have trouble with the round squeaking and sticking in stage one, you didn't use enough lube.

Station 2

Station 2 is where the primer is inserted and then powder. This is where someone asks, "What is your



Station 2 is adjusted so that the case mouths are slightly belled. Station 4 is the case expander. For .380 diameter Bullets, use the biggest one in the RCBS Cowboy Dies kit. With the slight belling the bullet (at station 5) will sit inside the belling and will not crush the case when inserted.



Inserting the bullet at station 5.

load?" The stock answer in all black powder cartridges is to adjust the powder to the height so that the bullet compresses it slightly. With substitutes, you can use the stock Dillon Powder Measure. With wholly black you need a black powder measure, such

as the Lyman, or dippers. Using a funnel and Lee Dippers is doable in station 2 if you remove the die.

The black powder substitutes are less dense than wholly black. Whereas 100 grains VOLUME of Goex 3F weighs 101.4 grains, American Pioneer Powder 3F weighs just 78.4 grains. For .38-55 cases, start with 40 grains volume and adjust until the powder is slightly compressed by the bullets.

Improvise, adapt, and overcome

If I had a machine shop I could shorten a .38 Special funnel to work with the tall cases. Instead, I used a .38 Special funnel (Part #13599) but raised the die until the case would operate the powder bar completely when the platform reached the top of its travel without over-belling the case.

.380 Diameter 260-Grain Desperado Cowboy Bullets

I use these bullets because they are soft lead, flat based, and have a lube compatible with black powder or substitutes. To use the big .380 diameter flat-based bullets I adjusted the travel to ever so slightly bell the case mouth. Then the bullet would sit on the case inside of the belling. Failure to do this was not pretty. Crushed cases resulted.

Station 3

Station 3 is the powder check system if the charge is slightly compressed by the bullet. If you want to load lighter charges, then replace the powder check system with a Lee Pro Auto Disk powder measure to drop filler. (See April 2012 *Cowboy Chronicle*, Page 24, "Dis-

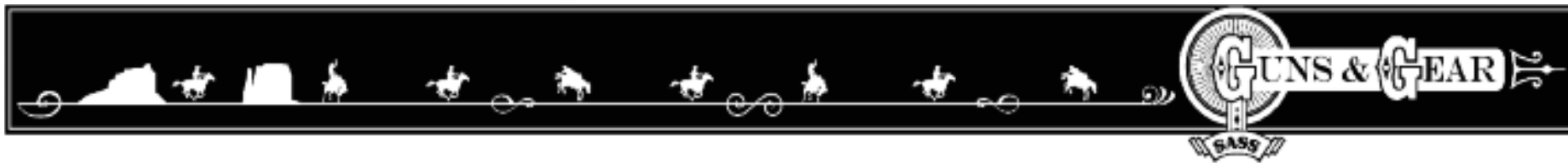
(Continued on next page)



Guiding the bullet into the seating/crimping die.



At this point you can let go of the bullet.



Dispatches From Camp Baylor • Loading .38-55 on a Dillon XL650

(Continued from previous page)

patches From Camp Baylor”) Then as little as 20 grains volume WITH FILLER ON TOP is a reasonable (low recoil) load that still exceeds the smoke standard. I’ve found that polishing media, either corncob or walnut



Now finesse the case into the de-capping/full length resizing die at Station 1.

hulls works very well with the Lee Auto Disk. Filler should go to about 1/8" below the mouth of the case. If filler “migrates” because you didn’t put in enough, the result can be a squib. It should be compressed.

Station 4

Station 4 is the expander die. The RCBS Cowboy dies come with 2 inserts for the expander die. Use the big one. Even the big one is a little tight for the .380 bullets.

Station 5

Station 5 is the RCBS Cowboy seater/crimper die. Once adjusted for your bullet, lock the ring in place. This, of course, goes for all three RCBS dies. This die will eventually clog up with bullet lube, so clean it before every loading session. The tall, skinny bullet will fall out of the case occasionally unless you hold it in place until the nose is in the die. So you’re “finessing” station 1 and station 5. You can load faster than a single stage or turret press, but not as fast as you load, say, .38 Special.



Crushed round, the result of not belling the case sufficiently.



Since this is a rifle round, the case insert slide must be in the rifle position.

Feeding Cases

If you use the electric case feeder, you need the Large Rifle Case feed disk (Part #21075). Otherwise you can load 10 at a time in the case feeder tube.

Eliminating Frequent Adjustments

Normally, because of the expense and difficulty of

(Continued on page 56)

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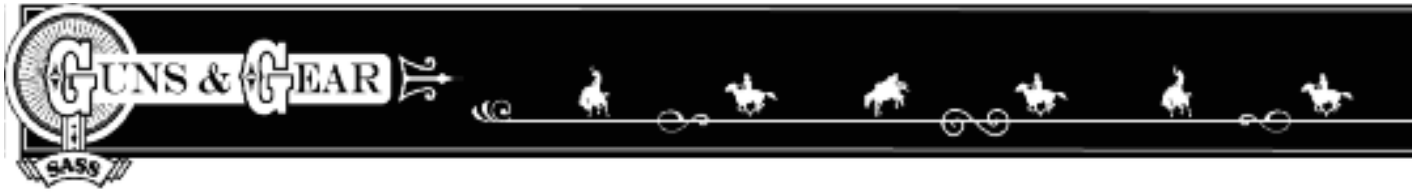
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Dispatches From Camp Baylor • Loading .38-55 on a Dillon XL650

(Continued from page 55)



A box of match-grade rounds didn't take very long once everything was adjusted.

getting a lot of .38-55 brass during the shortage, you'll probably be making 200 to 300-round batches a few times a year, so every time you use it, you will have switched from some other caliber and back to it after

you finish. Switching from one caliber to another is a pain. This is where a lot of time is wasted. This can be minimized with a tool head for each caliber with the dies pre-mounted and adjusted. Ideally you want a powder measure for each caliber. If you load different loads/powders in one caliber, say heathen smokeless and American Pioneer Powder in .38 Special, then a different powder measure for each is really good. Mark every powder measure for the powder for which it's adjusted.

If you're using the powder check system, having a powder check system for each tool head is ideal, but you'll find that you can use one powder check system and multiple powder check rods for calibers .41 and below. You need a powder check rod (Part #21373, with check rod sleeve Part #12685 and 10-24 jam nut Part #13898) pre-adjusted for each caliber. Each tool head needs a Powder Die (Part #13990) on station 3, pre-adjusted. Powder Check rods for .44-.45 Calibers have to be removed from the check rod sleeve to remove them from the die collar (Part #10552). So you'll need one powder check system for EACH .44 or .45 cartridge you load.

Checking Match Ammunition

If you're using an H & R rifle, remove the barrel and drop rounds into it. If they go in all the way and fall out when the barrel is turned upside down, they're

(Continued on next page)

Round with Federal Large Pistol Primer. Note the primer is slightly inset. I used them because I didn't want any rifle primers getting into pistol rounds by mistake. They would be high primers. These primers worked fine in my black powder and American Pioneer Powder rounds.



To eliminate having to make adjustments every time I change calibers, I have tool heads set up for each, and each has its own Powder Measure.

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Dispatches From Camp Baylor • Loading .38-55 on a Dillon XL650

(Continued from previous page)




All of the little pieces of the caliber conversion kits are kept in a bin box, labeled for each caliber.z

good for a match. Do not try to chamber check with the barrel on the gun. Since the ejector is sticking out when the rifle is open, to check for fit you'll have to close the chamber—with the hammer back, a disaster waiting to happen.

Dillon 550

If you have a Dillon 550, you'll be able to use most of this article. It doesn't have a powder check die, but if you're loading full charges, you can see the powder. You'll have to add filler with a squeeze bottle if you're making reduced charge loads.

If you've been loading .38-55 on a single stage or turret press, and you're familiar with your Dillon XL650, you'll be able to get everything adjusted and into production in an afternoon. Then making 300 .38-55 rounds slowly and carefully will only take an hour or so. Load all of the cases you have and get on Star-line's notification list so you can get more when they're available. You'll want more. 

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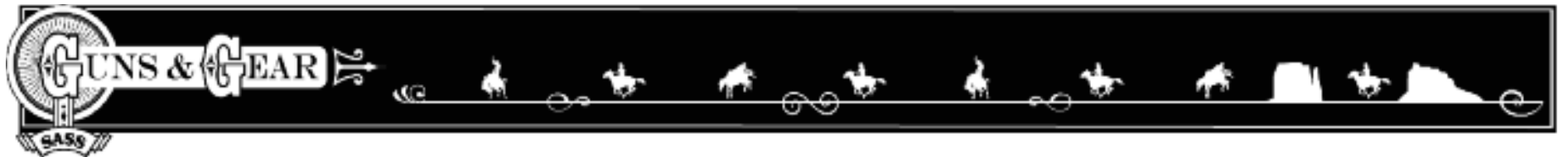
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Things About Cowboy Hats You Likely Didn't Know

Part One

Quality

By RThomas Double O. Seven, SASS #100947

One of the most often-quoted sayings in Texas is, "where did you get that hat?" The second most quoted saying is, "Don't touch my hat!" Justin Moore, who just won country entertainer of the year, wrote a whole song about that. You don't mess with a person's cowboy hat without permission, as it's a highly prized and personal thing. The third saying you hear a lot around the West is, "that's the ugliest hat I have ever seen!" The reason for this often quoted saying is there are now thousands of different types, shapes and

styles of cowboy hats and some will like some shapes but others will hate the same ones. Besides the thousands of different types of cowboy hats, there are also tens of thousands of different hatbands to put on them. It's a highly individualized and personal thing.

Parts Of A Cowboy Hat

Cowboy or Western hats, as you know them, are often defined by specifications of their parts. The parts of a cowboy hat are the crown, the brim, the hatband, the sweatband, and the inside lining. The inside sweatband/liner is sewn onto the crown. This leaves exposed stitching on the outside of the hat where the brim and the

crown meet. The hatband covers up the stitching. Over the years, the cowboy hat has developed into a Western fashion statement with an infinite variety of crown shapes, brim sharps and hat band styles. Today, you have a huge amount of choices when it comes to hat style, hat type, and hat material.

What Do The X's Mean?

If you have not noticed, there is a wide variety of pricing when it comes to cowboy hats. They can range in price from under \$20.00 for a cheap imported straw hat to several thousand dollars for a fine fur hat. In Texas, most cowboy hat wearers can spot what they call a cheap "fake" Western hat a block away and those hat wearers wouldn't be caught dead in one. The quality of the hat body used to make a hat is the main factor that determines the X's. In felt, it is determined by the percentage of furs used in making the hat body. Hats can be made with beaver, mink, chinchilla, buffalo, and other animal fur to make bodies. The mixture of the furs that are used with felt determines the X's. Various mixtures of animal fur and felt create the material that is used to make felt fur hats. In general, the greater the amount of animal fur mixed with the felt, the higher the X rating. The body of the hat is used to determine the X rating in straw, also. The tighter the weave and narrower the straw reed used to make the

(Continued on next page)



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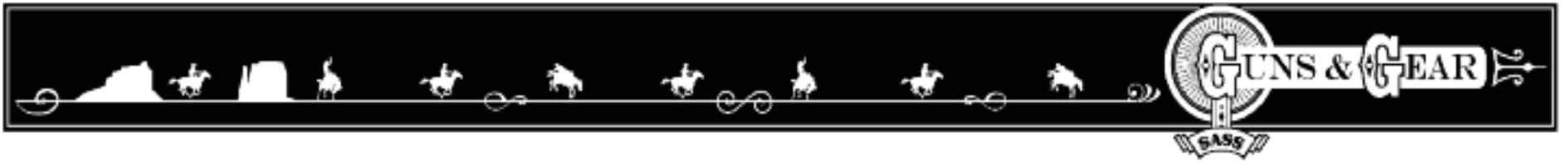
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Things About Cowboy Hats You Likely Didn't Know • Part One Quality

(Continued from previous page)



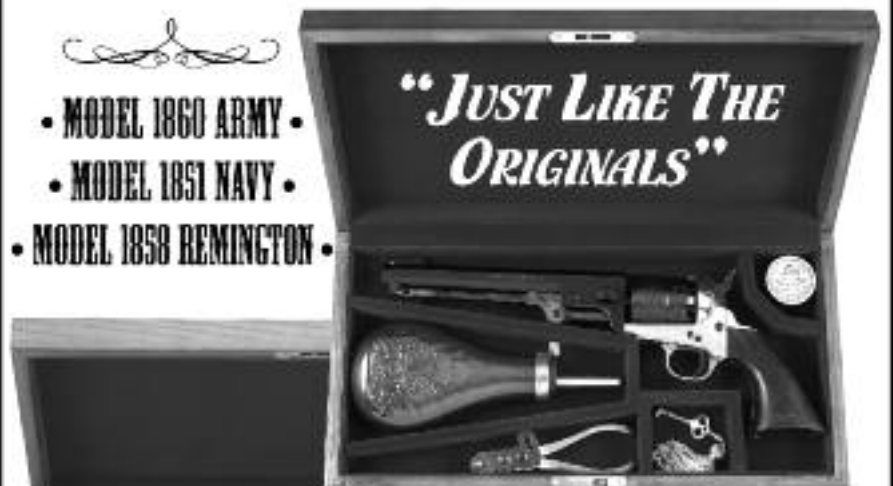
hat, the better the X. Stetson, the first cowboy hat company, was the first to use the X rating system. Over the years, there have been other hat companies that have copied the original concept of Stetson hats and (you guessed it) they sometimes use different standards in rating. It's therefore important to buy a reputable brand name hat from a reputable hat retailer because of this. While most people who know cowboy hats can certainly tell the difference, you want to make sure that the X's you pay for are the X's you get! Stetson, Resistol, Charlie 1 Horse, Bullhide, and Twister Hats all mark their products with official X ratings that are reliable. Other hat companies have been known to mark what I would consider a 6X hat as a 20X hat and so on. The Internet is riddled with fly-by-night operations that import cheap cowboy hats from China and then try to pawn those cheap hats off as rather expensive cowboy hats. If it was me, I'd stay away from the "Internet only" hat sellers who do not have a real brick and mortar store because of this. Quality cowboy hat making is one of the last vestiges of Made In America products and quality Stetson, Resistol and Charlie 1 Horse hats are all made in the good old USA. Bullhide hats are made in South America. Texans are very picky and tend to only want a cowboy hat that's not only

made in the USA but made in Texas. Both Resistol and Stetson hats are made in the Lone Star State. There are also some smaller hat companies that make very, very fine cowboy hats, which are very good hats you'd be proud to wear.

In our next installment, we'll cover types of creases, crowns, and brims. 🤠

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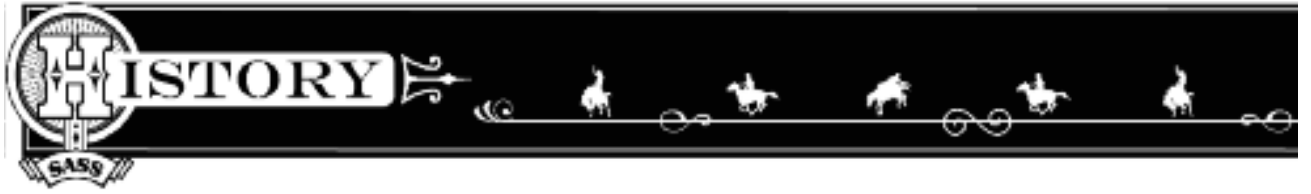
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Big Dave, SASS #55632



Hungry for Gold:

The Tasteless Tale of ALFERD PACKER

By Big Dave, SASS #55632

In the winter of 1873-74, Alferd Packer became hungry, but gold wasn't on the menu any more. He and five fellow prospectors had become snowbound above the present site of Lake City, Colorado and were starving. In the end, he ate his comrades. The incident sparked a controversy that lingers until the present. While we know Packer resorted to cannibalism, questions remain as to whether he murdered all five of the others first, was an accomplice to murder, or if he only killed one of them in self defense and ate the others out of desperation.

Packer gave different accounts of the incident in his subsequent confessions. Since he wasn't the most truthful person in the world and was in a heap of trouble, it's hard to know which account, if any, is true. Forensic evidence suggests Packer's last confession could be the most accurate;



Prison portrait of a clean-cut Packer.

that he shot and killed only Wilson Bell, who had attacked him after murdering the others. In that case, Packer was no murderer. However, the story could have easily been something else that Alferd Packer had "cooked up."

Whatever really happened, the incident touched off a media feeding frenzy during Packer's trial in the 1880s. He later became a famous (or infamous) figure in Colorado history. The student grill at the University of Colorado's Boulder campus is named in his honor.

A couple of films and even a musical have been inspired by his exploits. At certain times of the year, there are chili cook-offs and barbecues in various Colorado locations with Alferd Packer themes. The author of this article devised and was even permitted to use an "Alferd Packer: To Tell the Truth" game when he was a junior high history teacher. All of this, needless to say, is in questionable taste.



This studio portrait is the most famous image of Alferd Packer.

In early December, 1873, Packer left Provo, Utah with 20 men who wanted to go to Colorado Territory to mine for gold. The others hired Packer as their guide because Packer claimed to know the area well. Later events would prove that he didn't know the area very well at all. Packer wasn't above stretching the truth a bit if he felt the situation called for it.

By January of 1874, the party reached Chief Ouray's camp near what is now Delta, Colorado. Ouray, who was friendly towards whites, suggested sensibly that they spend the winter at his camp instead of heading up into the mountains. About a month later, Packer and five others became sick of waiting and left anyway. Sure enough, they quickly got lost and became stuck in a blizzard somewhere close to present-day Lake City, Colorado. They were stranded, out of food and hungry. Although the party tried to track down game, it was scarce and the conditions were too harsh to journey far from camp.

On April 16, 1874 Alferd Packer wandered into the Los Pinos Indian Agency alone. There were some folks who claimed to have spotted him earlier in the nearby town of Saguache. At any rate, he seemed remarkably well fed for a person who had spent two months in the Colorado mountains in the dead of winter. When asked about the other

(Continued on next page)

Hungry for Gold: The Tasteless Tale of Alferd Packer

(Continued from previous page)

miners, Packer claimed he had been separated from them and feigned surprise that he'd managed to reach civilization before they did.

People around the area started to become suspicious because Packer seemed to have a lot of money with him, which he spent freely in the local saloon. An Indian guide later found strips of dried meat in the area near the Los Pinos Indian Agency. The strips turned out to be made

New York Artist John A. Randolph Sketched Unexpected -- and Horrific -- Sights in 1874

Earliest Representations of Silver Thread scenery were rendered 127 years ago by travelling artist

New York artist John A. Randolph, who traveled the West in 1874, sketched the earliest representations of Silver Thread scenery. The sketches, which were rendered 127 years ago by the travelling artist, show the horrific sights of the Silver Thread region. The sketches were rendered in 1874, and are the earliest representations of the Silver Thread region. The sketches were rendered in 1874, and are the earliest representations of the Silver Thread region.



John Randolph's sketch.

from something other than game or, for that matter, any of the other local critters. Alferd Packer then had some serious explaining to do.

After some further dissembling, Packer admitted that he'd been forced to subsist on human flesh. His first story was that the oldest member of the party, Israel Swan, died and the survivors, who were starving, ate his remains. Less than a week later, another member of the party died and became provisions for the rest. Later, a third member perished in an "accident" and the three survivors helped themselves to his remains. Finally, Wilson Bell killed George Noon, the only person left other than Packer while Packer himself was out hunting. Packer claimed he returned to camp and a crazed Bell attacked him with a hatchet. Packer then shot Bell in self-defense and lived off Bell and what was left of the others until he was able to reach civilization.

Not only was this story repugnant; it was hard to swallow. Packer soon found himself in jail in Saguache awaiting trial. Nobody had found the bodies yet and Packer led search parties to the wrong places, claiming that he couldn't remember where the incident had occurred.

While Packer was still in jail, John Randolph, an artist from *Harper's Weekly Magazine*, found five different sets of decaying human remains near Slumgullion Pass. One

(Continued on page 62)



LITTLE KNOWN FAMOUS PEOPLE

Way Out West -

By Joe Fasthorse, SASS #48769

"Happy Jack"



Joe Fasthorse, SASS #48769

JOHN "HAPPY JACK" MORCO was a dangerous pistol man and a corrupt lawman. Morco was born in New York and went west in 1866. He traveled first to California and it is said he killed as many as twelve men in gunfights during the next four years. In 1870, he moved on to Ellsworth, Kansas when the frontier cattle town was the West's wildest. Town Constable Will Semans had been killed the year before, leaving only

Deputy County Sheriff

Chauncey Whitney to keep peace in the entire county. The town was in

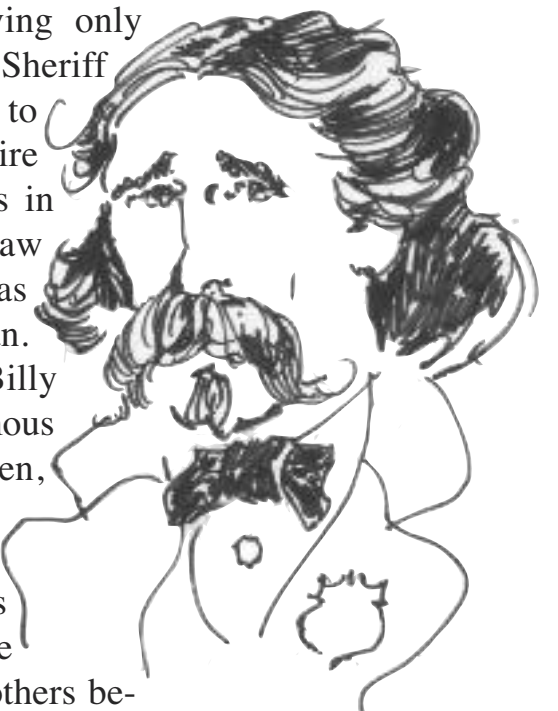
desperate need for law and order. Morco was hired as town Policeman.

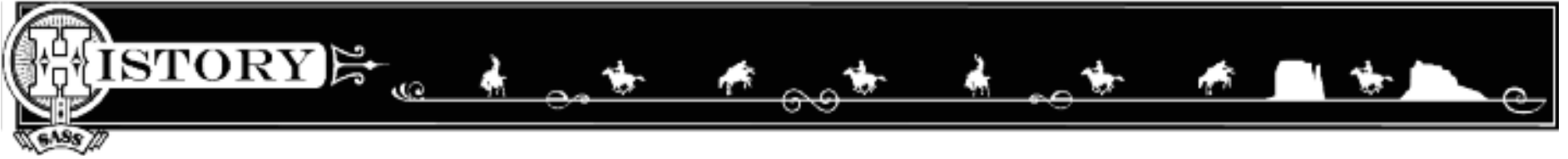
In 1873, gambler Billy Thompson and his famous gunfighter brother, Ben, arrived in Ellsworth.

By this time Whitney had taken over as County Sheriff and he

and the Thompson brothers became fast friends. One day Ben Thompson tried to collect a debt from John Sterling and John Morco. Knowing Ben was unarmed, Sterling slapped him and Morco pulled a pistol.

Thompson got a gun, was joined by Billy, and went to meet Morco and Sterling. Sheriff Whitney interceded, and the three confronted Morco and Sterling. Suddenly Billy's shotgun discharged, shooting Sheriff Whitney. Before Whitney died next day he testified that the shooting was an accident. Billy was tried and acquitted. But due to his inappropriate involvement in the whole affair, the Town Council fired Morco and appointed J.C. "Charlie" Brown to take his place. A few months later, Morco started a quarrel with a Texas cowboy in front of Lizzie Palmer's Dancehall. When Brown intervened, Morco and Brown both reached for their guns. "Charlie" Brown was faster and shot 'Happy Jack' twice, in the head and in the heart, killing him instantly. 🐾





Hungry for Gold: The Tasteless Tale of Alferd Packer

(Continued from page 61)

had died in what looked like a fight; the others had apparently been killed in their sleep. Pieces of the bodies had been cut away. Randolph made a sketch and hurried to Saguache.

Randolph led a search party back to the site. The others agreed with Randolph; one had died in a fight and the others had been murdered. They must have all been in pretty foul moods by the time they got back to Saguache. Obviously, Packer had lied again.

Meanwhile, Alferd Packer had managed to escape from the Saguache jail. According to some accounts, he was practically allowed to because the town didn't want the publicity of the upcoming cannibalism trial. Whatever actually happened, Packer remained missing for nine years. Randolph's remarkably gruesome sketch was published in *Harper's Weekly* along with an account. The Packer affair became well known.

In March 1883, one of the original members of the mining party which left from Utah happened to be in a saloon

near Cheyenne, Wyoming. He recognized Packer, identified him to the authorities, and Packer was arrested. Apparently he had been living under the alias, "John Schwartze." Packer was sent back to Colorado, which was now a state, to stand trial in the town of Lake City.

At the trial, Packer's story changed again. This time he claimed That Wilson Bell had killed the others while he'd been scouting for a way out of the snowbound camp. Packer returned to the camp only to discover Bell eating one of the dead miners. Bell attacked Packer with the hatchet he'd used on the others, but Packer shot him first. Since Packer still couldn't make it out of the camp, he lived off pieces of the others until the snow melted enough for him to get out of the mountains.

Unfortunately for Packer, the wounds on Israel Swan's body indicated he'd died during a struggle, and that contradicted Packer's latest story. Since Packer had already been caught in several other lies before and during the trial, he was strongly suspected of having murdered Swan himself. The trial ended with Packer's conviction for the premeditated murder of Israel Swan. He was sentenced to death.

(Continued on next page)

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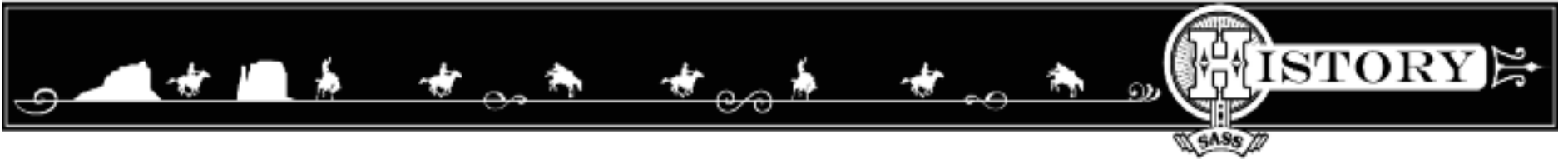
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Hungry for Gold: The Tasteless Tale of Alferd Packer

(Continued from previous page)

*The University
of Colorado's
famous grill.*



Legend has it that Judge Gerry, who had presided over the trial was particularly outraged that Alferd Packer had eaten five of the seven Democrats living in Hinsdale county. (Well, that's one way to alter a district's voting patterns!) However, the story is literally too good to be true. What actually happened was that Judge Gerry had merely handed out the sentence he felt was deserved.

As it turned out, Packer avoided the noose and won the right to a new trial. This time the Colorado Supreme Court overturned the murder conviction based on a technicality that arose from the fact that the crime had been committed while Colorado was still a territory. Packer was still in serious trouble; he was convicted on five counts of voluntary manslaughter and received a forty-year prison sentence.

Transferred to Canon City, Colorado, Packer served seventeen years of his sentence before he was paroled in 1901. A number of reporters for the *Rocky Mountain News* and *Denver Post* had lobbied for his release. As it turned out, their interest in Packer may not have been entirely altruistic. According to one source, the reporters and some news executives had hoped he would be hired as a sideshow freak at the Sells-Floto Circus and they would get a cut of the profits.

Alferd was spared the indignity of biting the heads off chickens, or whatever it was the circus had in store for him. In ill health, he worked first as a guard for the *Denver Post*. Later he moved to Jefferson County and became a manager for a number of mining companies. He didn't have long to live.

Packer died in 1907 from what appears to have been a stroke. Since he had been a Union soldier during the Civil

War, he was buried at government expense. People who knew him later in his life remembered him as a kindly old man who enjoyed telling stories to children. There were no reports of any of the local kids disappearing, at any rate. Some sources claim he had become a vegetarian.

Packer's tombstone was inscribed, "Alfred Packer Co F 16 US Inf." Finally someone got the spelling of his name correctly. There's a story behind that as well; apparently he had gotten a tattoo that was misspelled. Everybody called him "Alferd," anyway. Like so many other things about the man, it's hard to separate the meat from the gristle.

* * * * *

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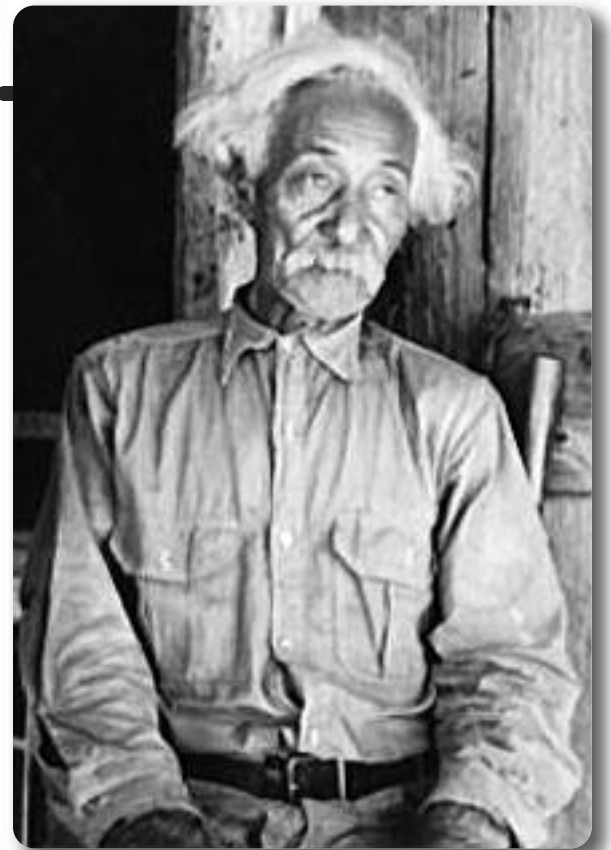
Col. Richard Dodge,
SASS #1750



Black Cowboys of the Old West

ROBERT LEMMONS: Horse Whisperer

By Col. Richard Dodge, SASS 1750 Life



We've all heard – and dismissed – the interesting statistic that a third of the cowboys of the Old West were black, mostly freed slaves moving into a new life away from the hated plantations. A “third” is more than a statistic; these were individual men and many were expert cowboys and valued employees, respected by employers and fellow cowboys alike – and dismissed from history. Many did not make their reputations as Bill Pickett did by becoming expert rodeo cowboys; they displayed management skills far beyond that of the average waddie, often denied advancement solely on the basis of their “old black face,” in the words of Jim Perry of Texas’ famed XIT ranch. And so, we begin a series of these forgotten men who played a significant role in the great story of the Old West.

Robert Lemmons is acknowledged as the greatest mustanger of them all. Born in 1848 as a slave to one John English and taken to Carrizo Springs in southwest Texas, Lemmons drifted on after being freed. As luck would have it, he wound up in Dimmit County, a land sparsely populated with people and heavily populated with wild mustangs. He found employment with a rancher named Duncan Lammons and set out on a cowboy career that was to bring him fame and modest fortune.

Being a good judge of character, Lammons took to the young man, barely 20 years old. He saw something in the former slave and taught him everything he could about horses and training. A friendship developed between them and Robert adopted his employer's family

name as his own.

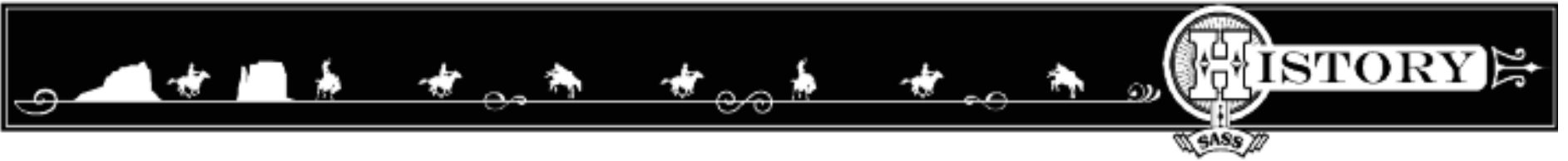
Lammons' intuition was spot on. Robert quickly displayed an uncanny ability to literally “become a horse.” He could read their minds, anticipate their actions and gain their trust. It turned out that those thousands of mustangs were in demand as cow ponies as the cattle business began to grow throughout Texas and Lammons was quickly in the mustang business. Robert was his key to success.

Most mustangers of the day relied on large numbers of cowboys running a mustang herd to exhaustion, shooting the lead stallion, and driving the herd into a trap where they were broken to saddle through the expediency of riding them to exhaustion. Many are the stories of cowboys having to “take the buck” out of a horse every time it was saddled, something that wasted valuable time and threatened the safety of horse and rider alike.

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Lemmons (the name had been subtly changed) despised the usual macho contest between horse and rider. He was one of the rare trainers of the time who did not view training as a matter of defeating and dominating the horse, but of gaining its trust and developing a partnership. And he wanted nothing to do with the drives to exhaust the mustangs into submission.

(Continued on next page)



Black Cowboys of the Old West

(Continued from previous page)

With his horse, Warrior, Lemmons would quietly approach a herd and gradually become literally a part of the landscape. Moving with the herd and never appearing unless mounted, he was eventually able to actually insert himself into the herd, gaining the trust of even the lead stallion – or driving it away.

Lemmons must have been pretty rank, as he took every effort to remove any human scent from himself, never changing clothes during the two or three weeks it took him to work his magic. He made his camp away from the herd so his campfire would not alert them. Cowboys from the ranch would leave food for him hanging in a designated tree. He transferred the food from their container to his to keep their scent off him.

It was only a matter of time until the herd, even the lead stallion, accepted him as a member, and then as a leader they would follow. With leadership established, Lemmons would quietly lead the herd to the home ranch and right into the corral, barely raising dust on the way in. On more than one occasion, he actually led the herd riding the lead stallion.

Lemmons' fame spread far and wide; he was in high demand and was paid handsomely for his services. The mustangs he delivered were undamaged and uninjured, calm and malleable, as beautiful as they had been in the wild, opposed to the lame, exhausted and malnourished ones gathered by the usual roughshod methods. Many a cowboy loved to brag about actually seeing Lemmons ride in at the head of a herd of wild mustangs.

By the age of 33, Lemmons had accumulated a modest fortune and purchased land for his own spread near Carizo Springs. In 1881, he married Barbarita Rosales and over the years sired eight children, only three of whom survived to adulthood. He gradually increased his land holdings to over 1,200 acres and ran a fair-sized herd, along with sheep and goats. He registered his 4R+ brand and became a gentleman rancher. The mustanging business declined rapidly with the fencing of the open range and the famed mustanger's eyesight had begun to fail.

Racial discrimination dogged the Lemmons family for years. Their interracial marriage was illegal under Texas law and attempts were made to imprison him. Bar-

barita even had to claim African heritage in order to void the charge of interracial marriage and the impending prison term. Their children were denied access to public schools. Banned from attending church by some parishioners, he was pointedly invited back by the pastor and given a chair in a place of honor. He remained a devout member of the church for many years and became well respected for his generosity to his neighbors and friends – a cowboy to the end.

When Barbarita died, Lemmons' health was failing and he was cared for by the family of Erskine Rhodes, close friend and neighboring rancher. To the end, he expressed his love for the wild mustang and his readiness to ride amongst them again. He divided his considerable estate between Rhodes and his surviving son when he died in 1947 at the age of 99.

Others have tried to duplicate his magical feat of taking control of a herd of mustangs, but the skill remains his alone. There are other "horse whisperers" and their skills with horses are near unbelievable, but there will never be another Robert Lemmons.

Fenley, Florence; "Turns Mustang to Catch Mustangs"; *The Cattleman*, 1936

Hardaway, Roger: "African American Cowboys on the Western Frontier"; *Negro History Bulletin*, January – December, 2001

Wagner, Tricia M.: *Black Cowboys of the Old West: Twodot*; Helena, MT; 2011

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Scholarship Recipient

Faster Than Lightning, SASS #82246

aka Luke Tunnell

Edited & Adapted by Justice Lily Kate, SASS #1000



Foristell, MO. Faster Than Lightning (or F.T. Lightning), SASS #82246, belongs to Dad, One Eyed Pete, aka Ken Tunnell, SASS #50481, and Mom, Wendy, along with three brothers Studley Doright, SASS #50482, Fast As Lightning, SASS #72786, and Jonas Ender, SASS #78214. Their home club is the Arnold Rifle and Pistol Club and their group is the Gateway Shootist Society, or G.A.S.S.

F.T. has chosen to attend Missouri State University in Springfield and plans to major in computer science with a minor in criminal justice. His hope is to work in computer services for a Federal institute such as the FBI or CIA.

His brothers played a huge roll in influencing him as he grew

up. They were the protective brothers that would let you fail if it taught a valuable lesson. Obviously, “my parents played the major part of raising me, letting me make decisions on my own.”

Luke’s time in SASS has not only honed his ability to fire weapons accurately and increase his overall reaction time and speed, it also gave him confidence that he uses in many other hobbies and sports. “I am most proud of how everyone in my club works together to organize events effectively and how everyone looks out for each other, whether it be on the range or at home.”

Good luck to Luke as he pursues his degree in Computer Science and Criminal Justice at Missouri State University. 🐾

Why the Founding Fathers Included the Second Amendment in the Bill of Rights

By Faster Than Lightning, SASS # 82246

AKA Luke Tunnel

Edited & Adapted by Justice Lily Kate, SASS #1000



The founding fathers had to use a huge amount of thought and consideration when planning an amendment to add to the Bill of Rights. Their proposed amendment had to be general enough to adapt with a changing culture, yet specific enough to not be trampled or misunderstood by the American people. The founding fathers certainly added the Second Amendment to the Bill of Rights for a reason, and to this day it holds its validity in our culture.

When they decided to add the Second Amendment to the Bill of Rights, the founding fathers were allowing the people to do more than protect themselves against wild animals or thieves. Rather, they were helping to protect the people from their own government, should it grow corrupt. One of the first steps of any government that has grown corrupt and wishes to control its people, beyond what is right and moral, is to take away their freedoms. With the

Second Amendment, citizens were able to protect themselves from unnecessary seizures of property or freedoms. The founding fathers knew that people who had no means to protect themselves could lose their freedoms very easily and destroy everything for which our great nation stands. They also may have included it because of what the British did in Lexington, when they tried to seize arms from the populace. They also may have believed that an armed populace that was well regulated could make for a great militia when needed. This was especially important then, as there was no large professional American army. All in all, the Second Amendment is a final check to the government; this is to keep proponents of tyrannical ideals from taking over the American people and taking away their freedoms.

Thomas Jefferson said, “What country can preserve its

(Continued on next page)



Regulator Baker, SASS #84495

January 17, 1949 - February 3, 2014

My cousin Tom Baker (Regulator Baker) passed away after major surgery at the University Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska. He was a life-long firearms enthusiast and became a SASS member a few years ago. Health issues plagued much of his adult life until major surgery was needed this past February. A resident of Hastings, Nebraska he was a member of the New York Congregational Church.



Even though Tom was family, we were more like friends. See 'ya someday on the other side pard. 🤞

Marshall Starr
SASS #13283

Morgan James, SASS #81270

June 14, 1953 – October 21, 2013

Morgan James was taken from us suddenly on October 21, 2013, leaving a big hollow in our hearts as well as Cowboy Action Shooting™.

Morgan James hailed from Pennsylvania, where he was active in several Cowboy Action Shooting™ clubs including the Jefferson Outlaws, Blue Mountain Rangers, the Perry County Regulators, the Westshore Posse, El Posse Grande and others.

Morgan had a lifelong love of history. Prior to Cowboy Action Shooting™ Morgan had been a guide at Gettysburg National Military Park and was a Civil War re-enactor. He ventured into his hobbies whole-heartedly, with a scale model of the Gettysburg battlefield as well as a host of historical collectibles in his home.

Bringing fresh ideas and having a gift for making folks laugh, he eagerly volunteered to direct the side matches at the Pennsylvania State Championship. The Morgan James games of skill and chance will be a staple at future matches, as a tribute to him and his devotion to the game—all will certainly miss him.



After his passing, and through tears, Morgan's fellow cowboys and cowgirls agreed to proceed with his regulator nomination for 2014. The Single Action Shooting Society also agreed that a man so deserving would be announced at END of TRAIL 2014.

Morgan left behind his beloved wife, Copper Starr, SASS #81888, who made the journey to New Mexico this year and shot END of TRAIL in memory of her husband, along with several of their friends from Pennsylvania. 🤞

Why the Founding Fathers Included Second Amendment ... (Continued from previous page)

liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms." When a country becomes tyrannical it becomes up to the people or other nations to take arms against that government and rebel. This is the only way in most cases of true tyranny. With this in mind, as stated earlier, tyrannical Governments will try to disarm their people. George Mason, author of the Virginia Bill of Rights said, "To disarm the people – that was the best and most effectual way to enslave them."

In conclusion, the Second Amendment has shaped our country in the past, as it will in the future. It serves the people as a safety net against crimes against their freedoms by a corrupt government that could take shape at any point in the future. Without this one right, we could lose all our rights, which is a tyrannical way to govern any group of people. If the day comes when the American people are told to give up their arms, either by an invading country or the American government itself, I personally highly doubt they could successfully take away our guns. Any government that wants to take away your guns will soon have them pointed directly at you. It is, after all, human nature to gain as much power as possible. 🤞



Chilkoot, SASS #58803

I sat on my porch; chair tipped back, boots hooked by spurs over the top rail. I was near blinded by the last rays of the day slipping behind the peaks of the Kiamichi Range. I was lost in my reverie of times long gone, never to return. I felt a warm cup placed in my hand and a whiff of bourbon. “You mind my company?” she asked, as she sat on the step. “No, ‘course not... I was just watchin’ the sunset, wonderin’ how many more I’ve got comin’.” I sipped the coffee. Bourbon is *soooo* good in hot Arbuckle’s! In the valley, a locomotive for the Kiamichi Rail Road signaled “stop” with three blasts of the horn. It would

ARTICLES

KIAMICHI Sunset

By Chilkoot SASS #58803

interchange a few log buggies and a 40' boxcar of general merchandise with the Burlington. I closed my eyes and listened to the night song of the mountains. The loco gave two bleeps and revved up, dropping the four carloads on the interchange track for the BNSF. Thrumming and clanking, it labored out of the valley and only a faint odor of diesel and a plume of black smoke marked its passage from my sight and hearing.

Honeysuckle fragrance and the chirping of crickets and katydids filled the warm breezy evening air. Two doe mulies appeared out of the trees and stood several feet away looking in my direction, not sure if I was a threat. One doe stamped her hoof twice and watched me. The deer moved off unhurriedly, secure that I wasn’t a danger. My wife stirred and rose from her seat, “I’m going in. Don’t stay out too long, old man, we need our rest.” “I’ll be along. Thanks for the coffee, Honey.” The singing of rubber tires on concrete down on the four-lane was muted by other night sounds. Way down the valley came the sound of the KRR loco blowing for the river bridge. The sound of Dottie West and David Frizzell—“You’re the Reason God Made Oklahoma”—playing over KOKI, Oklahoma City, softly was heard from our open kitchen window. All seemed right in my world. Our horses in the corral were picking at each other over some trivial point that horses find to tussle about. Coyotes were howling at the full moon’s rise, and a whippoorwill sang its song. Mama striped skunk with two kits ambled past where the deer had stood minutes ago. Her scent caused my nose to wrinkle, but she and her young’uns soon went on their way, spreading their heady scent as they waddled along, looking for bugs. I stood and stretched, put on my battered Stetson, grabbed my rifle, and slapped my leg for Rosie to follow. I sauntered toward the corral to check on our horses. Okay to say “*buenos noches*” to them. Silly I know, but the words, “just an animal,” always sort of rankled me! Hell, my missus and me always sort of ranked our dogs one level below our kids. I count myself damn lucky, as most of us are, to live in such an obliging country, and it’s beautiful to boot! But there is an insidious thing called “apathy” that could take it all away! Stepping inside, I listened to her soft breathing, pulled off my boots and got in bed. *A.*

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CARTOON CORNER Part 2

SPACE WESTERN

Last issue, we presented the first story from the first issue of Charlton Publications' *Space Western*, from 1952. Herein is the second story from that comic book. Like the first, this adventure was written by Walter Gibson, who gained notoriety in the 1920s through the 1940s penning the pulp magazine exploits of The Shadow.

Even though reports of sightings of saucer-like objects in the sky dates back to the middle ages, the modern UFO "craze," which persists to this day, began in 1947, with the famous sighting by Kenneth Arnold. By 1952, the media was awash with fictional and non-fictional accounts of flying saucers and the comic book industry was quick to jump on the bandwagon. As Western

adventures were also popular comic book fare at the time, it must have seemed a "natural" to combine the two in one title. Unfortunately, such was not the case and *Space Western* endured for only four issues.

In the next *Cowboy Chronicle* we'll break from science fiction fantasy to present the first part of the origin story of "The Black Diamond," a Lone Ranger-like masked cowboy hero from the 1950's publisher, Lev Gleason.

All of the comic book images used for Comic Book Corner are from the website, <http://comicbookplus.com>. Their free site features more than 28,000 public domain comic books of all genres, not just Westerns.

Cartoon Corner • Part 2 (Continued on page 70)

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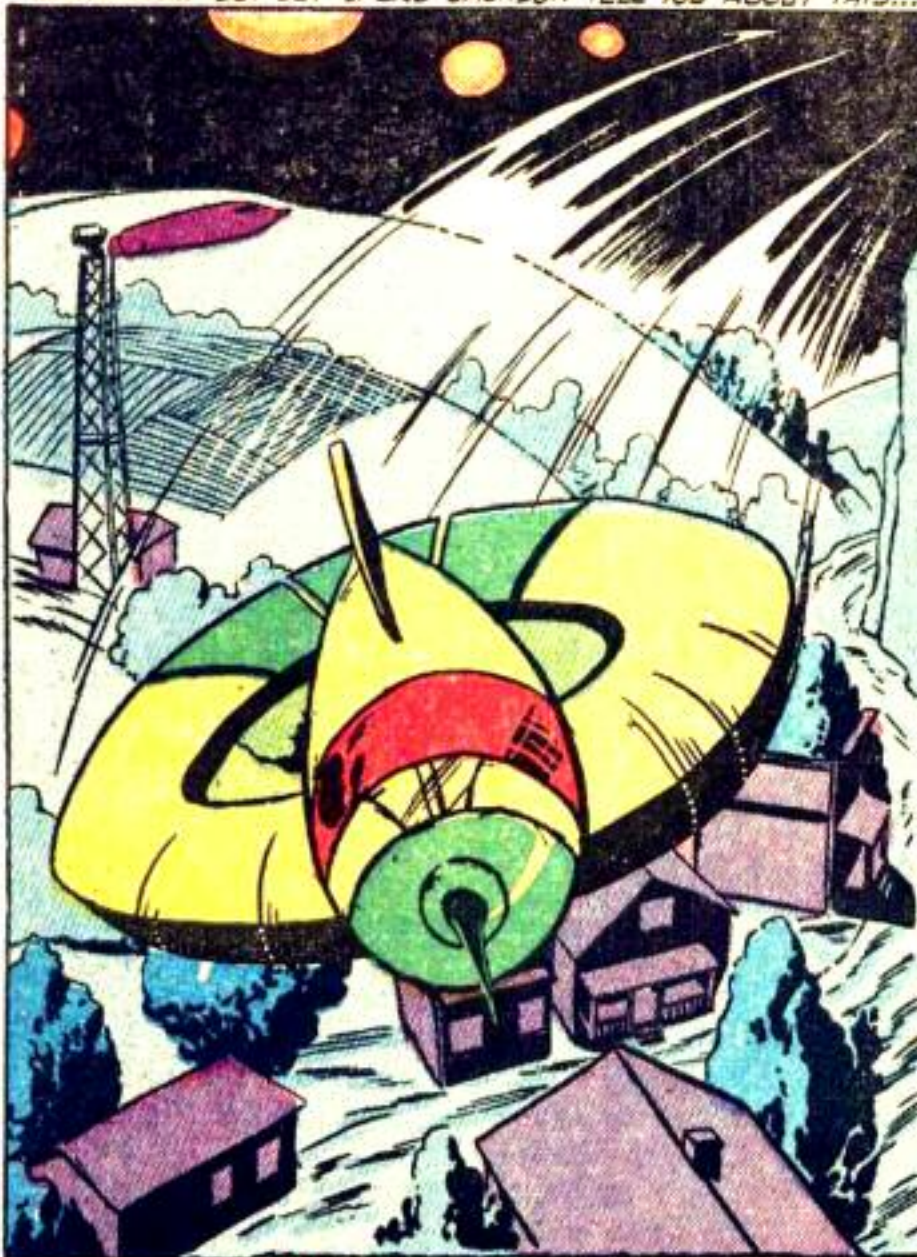
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SPACE WESTERN COMICS

SPURS JACKSON IN DEATH FROM U-235

LIFE AS PRIME MINISTER TO QUEEN THULA MIGHT HAVE BEEN IDEAL FOR SPURS JACKSON BUT HIS WORK WAS CUT OUT FOR HIM ON EARTH. QUEEN THULA WAS GRATEFUL TO SPURS FOR HELPING HER REGAIN HER THRONE AND WHILE SHE WANTED HIM TO STAY SHE KNEW HE MUST RETURN TO EARTH, AND SO SHE PROVIDED HER PERSONAL SPACE OFFICERS TO TAKE SPURS AND HANK BACK TO ABERDEEN. THERE THEY SOON BECAME INVOLVED IN ANOTHER EXCITING CHAPTER... BUT LET SPURS JACKSON TELL YOU ABOUT THIS...



WELL, SIR... IT WAS A HOT AND STICKY DAY WHEN WE ARRIVED. I HAD LEFT MY SIDE KICK, HANK ROPER ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN WHILE I ORDERED US A WEEK'S SUPPLY OF GRUB, AND I GUESS THE HEAT GOT TO BE TOO MUCH FOR ME... BECAUSE ABOUT NOON OF THAT DAY, THERE I WAS SITTING IN THE SHADE AND CAROUSING WITH THE BOYS... WHEN SUDDENLY EVERY MUSCLE IN MY BODY TENSED! WHAT I SAW LOOMING BEFORE ME WAS EIGHT FEET OF SHEER UGLINESS.. 'BIG SAM'.. THE ONE MAN IN WYMAN COUNTY I HAD SWORN TO EVEN ACCOUNTS WITH!

C'MON, YUH MIDGET - GIT TUN YORE FEET / YEW BEEN A-SHOOTIN' OFF YORE MOUTH 'BOUT WHUT YUH'D DO IFN WE WUZ TUN MEET... WULL, I HEARD 'BOUT IT AN' I'M A-FIXIN' GO TUN HADES 'FORE ANYTHIN' ELSE PASSES.

JUST LIKE YOU KILLED YOUR STEP FATHER SO'S YOU COULD CLAIM THE BAR X SPREAD, EH, BIG SAM? I'VE BEEN WAITING A LONG TIME FOR THIS SHOW DOWN!



YEW AINT BEEN A-WAITIN' NO LONGER'N ME, JACKSON / EVER SINCE YUH SHOWED YORE FACE IN THESE PARTS AN' TOOK UP THE OLD MAN'S PART, I BEEN A-ITCHIN' TUN BASH IN YORE SKULL / NOW, STAND UP!

WATCH IT, JACKSON / HE'S GOT A GUN!



SPACE WESTERN COMICS

I SEE HE HAS. I SUPPOSE YOU THINK THAT GUN OF YOURS IS GOING TO STOP ME FROM PROVING YOU KILLED YOUR STEP FATHER..... WELL, I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOUR BULLETS OR OF YOUR SIZE, SAM. AND I AM GETTING UP, SO GO AHEAD AND SHOOT /



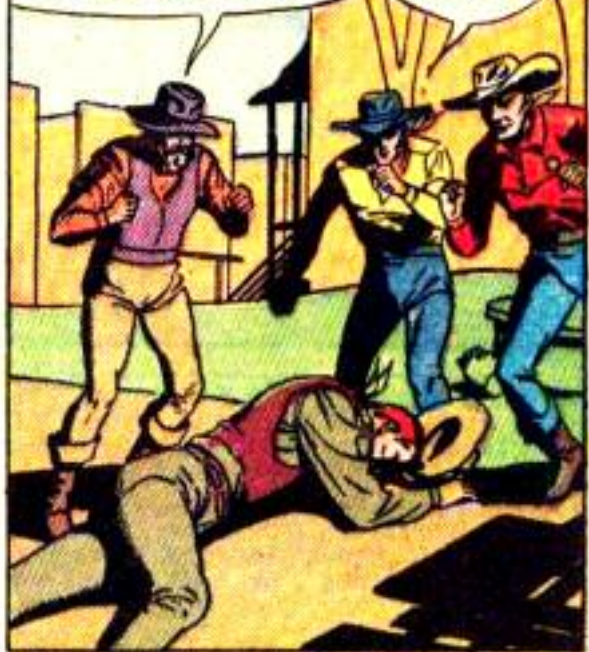
I - ER - I..... GASP... WHAT'S THE MATTER, SAM? CAN'T YOU SHOOT A MAN WHOSE LOOKING YOU STRAIGHT IN THE EYE?.... OR SHOULD I TURN MY BACK, LIKE YOUR FATHER?



WHAT I WOULD HAVE GIVEN TO BE WEARING MY OWN GUNS THAT DAY - I WAS BLUFFING BIG SAM, TRYING TO GET REAL CLOSE... WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN ALL EIGHT FEET OF HIM CRUMPLED.....

DOG MY CATS - IF N BIG SAM HAIN'T FAINTED PLUMB AWAY - AN HIM WITH THE DRAWED GUN, TOO!

SOMEBODY FETCH A BUCKET O' WATER!



WAIT A MINUTE, BOYS... BIG SAM AIN'T PASSED OUT, HES DEAD!

IF BIG SAM'S DYING CAME AS A SURPRISE TO ME, IT SURE WAS ONLY THE FIRST OF MANY SURPRISES FIRST OFF, NOBODY COULD MAKE OUT WHAT HE DIED FROM /

THERE AIN'T NO MARK 'R WOUND ON HIM NO PLACE HE JUST UP AN' DIED, SHERIFF, I SEED IT!

WULL THAR'S WAYS T' KILL A MAN WITH NO SIGNS O' VIOLENCE....



AND SECOND, THE SHERIFF FIGURED I KILLED BIG SAM.

NOW LOOKIT SON - EVERYBODY IN THESE HILLS KNOWED YOU AN' BIG SAM WAS A SPOILIN FOR A SHOWDOWN - BUT I NEVER THUNK I'D SEE THE DAY WHEN YOU'D POISON EVEN A RAT LIKE SAM /

HEY - I HAD NO CHANCE TO POISON BIG SAM / BESIDES SHERIFF, EVERYBODY KNOWS I SWORE SAM WOULD HANG FOR MURDERING OLD MAN TOMPKINS / IT SURE DON'T MAKE SENSE THAT I WOULD GO BACK ON MY SWORN OATH!





SPACE WESTERN COMICS



MEBBE SO, SPURS--AND MEBBE NOT, BIG SAM SURE WUZ A MIGHTY POWERFUL MAN, MORE'N A MATCH FER YOU. AN MEBBE YOU WUZ JUST CRAZY ENOUGH WITH HATE TO USE ANY MEANS.....

NOW, WHOA--SHERIFF, ARE YOU PLANNING ON ARRESTING ME FOR POISONING SAM?



NO, HE'S NOT-- IF YOU'RE SPURS JACKSON!

THIRD A STRANGER HAD COME TO ABERDEEN IN SEARCH OF ME, AND HEARING HOW I WAS INVOLVED IN BIG SAM'S DEATH, LOOKED THE SHERIFF UP. HE WAS PETE MARTIN OF THE TEXAS RANGERS.....

IF YOU'LL EXAMINE THE BODY OF BIG SAM SCIENTIFICALLY AS I JUST DID SHERIFF--YOU'LL FIND HE DIED OF A RADIO ACTIVITY POISONING THAT ONLY COMES FROM A DIRECT ATOMIC EXPLOSION. I SUGGEST YOU GO CHECK YOUR FACTS.



YOU SURE SHOWED UP IN THE NICK OF TIME, RANGER... THINGS WERE GETTING HOTTER THAN THE WEATHER!

JACKSON--I'VE GOT TO TALK TO YOU, THERE'S MORE HERE THAN MEETS THE EYE!



AND FOURTH, WHAT THE TEXAS RANGER HAD TO TELL ME WOULD LIFT ANY MAN'S EYEBROW

THAT'S IT IN A NUTSHELL, SPURS. WE'VE GOT TO FIND AND RESCUE THESE MISSING SCIENTISTS WHEREVER THEY'RE BEING HELD, AND WE'VE GOT TO LOCATE THE SOURCE FILE AND PROVING GROUNDS BEING USED FOR THESE ILLEGITIMATE TESTS!



I GUESS BIG SAM'S DYING PROVES THESE ILLEGAL ATOMIC TESTS ARE HAPPENING SOMEWHERE IN THESE PARTS

IT'S ONE OF MANY LEADS, SPURS... BUT TIME IS SO IMPORTANT AND THERE'S SO MUCH GROUND TO COVER AT ONCE THAT I'M ASKING YOU OFFICIALLY, SPURS, TO HELP IN THIS EMERGENCY BY BACK TRACKIN' SAM'S TRAIL YOURSELF... FOR SIGNS OF HIS BEING TIED IN WITH THESE RENEGADES.



SPACE WESTERN COMICS

NATURALLY I AGREED TO HELP THE RANGER, SO WHEN I LEFT HIM, I TOOK MY STALLION AND LIT OUT OF TOWN.

WULL BY SASSAFRAS, SPURS - I THOT YUH WUZ NEVER A-COMIN' OUTA THET TOWN AN' BACK TUH CAMP / WHUT TOOK YUH SO LONG ? HEY / WHAR Y'GOIN ?

IT'S A LONG STORY, HANK / THERE ISN'T TIME FOR PALAVERING. JUST MOUNT UP AND FOLLOW ME!



WULL, DOGGONE / YEW MEAN TUH SAY WE'RE A-LOOKIN' FER SOME MISSIN' SCIENTIST FELLERS ON THE BAR X SPREAD CAUSE BIG SAM UP AN' DIED A' POISONIN' IN TOWN ? IT DON'T MAKE MUCH SENSE T ME !



© F
COURSE MY NEXT SURPRISE CAME WHEN WE REACHED THE THE BAR X SPREAD, RANCH-HOUSE

WHOA, BOY-WHOA / SAY HANK DO YOU SEE THE SAME STRANGE SIGHT THAT I DO ?

SUFFERIN' SASSAFRAS / WHY THET THAR SPIDEE WEB'S BEEN A-GROWIN' ACROST THE FRONT DOOR FER AT LEAST A MONTH O' SUNDEES, SPURS /



RIGHT / AND LOOK HERE - DUST AND SAND AN INCH THICK ON THE WINDOWS. IT'S A CINGH I WAS WRONG WHEN I FIGURED BIG SAM KILLED HIS STEP FATHER FOR THIS PLACE. SAM AINT HARDLY BEEN HERE SINCE HE BECAME THE NEW OWNER.....

WULL WHARD HE LIVE THEN, IF NOT HERE, SPURS ? I SURE DON'T SEE NO BUNK HOUSES OR NOTHIN'!



MORE IMPORTANT THAN THAT HANK, WHY DID HE KILL OLD MAN TOMPKINS IF NOT FOR THE HOUSE AND LAND ITSELF ? WAIT A MINUTE / WHEN I WAS A BOY, OLD TOMPKINS SHOWED ME THE ONLY OTHER SPOT WHERE A MAN COULD LIVE ON THIS LAND. C'MON /

WHAR TO ?



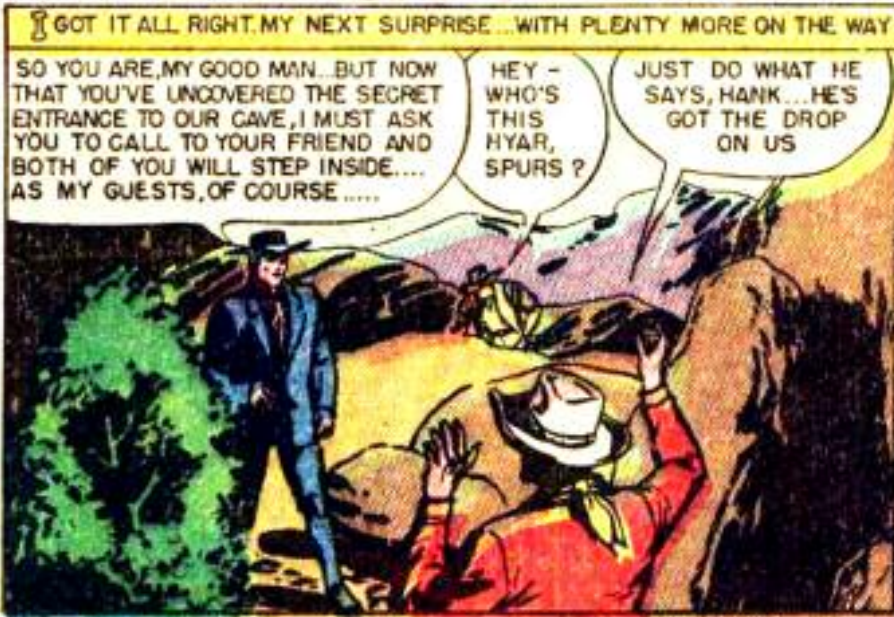
ARE YUH TETCHED, SPURS ? WHATCHA A DOIN' WAY UP THAR WITH THEM DANGED STONES ?

THERE SHOULD BE A CAVE UP HERE IF MY MEMORY SERVES ME RIGHT / LET'S SEE... ONE OF THESE BOULDERS SHOULD MOVE UGH UGH HHHH YES I'M GETTING IT NOW





SPACE WESTERN COMICS



SPACE WESTERN COMICS

WE FOUND TWO AIR HELMETS IN THE SHIP AND AFTER BOLTING THEM ABOUT OUR HEADS AND SHOULDERS WE EXPLORED THIS STRANGE, EERIE PLACE.....

SPURS - I SURE GOT A FEELIN' WE'RE GONNA SPEND THE REST OF OUR DAYS HERE. AND I DON'T LIKE IT.... IT'S SPOOKY!

I'M HOPIN THERE'S SOME KIND OF PEOPLE HERE, HANK-CAUSE WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO FLY THAT ROCKET OUTA HERE. BUT MAYBE THEY WILL- IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE TO GET BACK TO WYMAN COUNTY!



BURNIN' SASSAFRAS- SPURS- LOOK / IS THEM THAR CREATURES HOSSES I SEE? ..THEY SURE IS / HOSSES WITH WINGS THEY C'N FLY LIKE A BIRD!

GET ME A ROPE FROM THE SHIP THAT I CAN MAKE A LARIAT OF, HANK.



IT TOOK US AN HOUR OR SO TO ROPE AND TIE TWO OF THE PECULIAR WINGED HORSES HANK HAD SPOTTED....

LOOKIT, SPURS-THEY'S IRON HORSES / AND LOOKIT THEM THAR GADGETS N' LEVERS ON THEIR NECKS....

I RECKON THIS IS OUR ANSWER AS TO HOW WE'RE GONNA GET BACK HOME MAYBE WE CAN'T FLY A ROCKET- BUT WE SURE CAN RIDE A HORSE / EVEN A MECHANICAL, FLYING ONE / C'MON HANK LETS MOUNT UP....



BY DOGGIE, SPURS- C'MON HANK- HELP ME MOVE WE DID IT / AND THAT BOULDER SO'S I CAN PUT A STOP TO THIS RENEGADE ATOMIC OUTFIT WHILE YOU GO FETCH THE RANGERS IN ABERDEEN



A FEW MINUTES LATER AND I GRABBED THE GUNS OF A DUMB-FOUNDED GUARD.....

ALL RIGHT, GENTS - THROW UP YOUR HANDS!





ARTICLES

SPACE WESTERN COMICS



THERE WAS A SKIRMISH... A LITTLE SHOOTING... BUT NOTHING I COULDN'T TAKE CARE OF UNTIL HANK BROUGHT THE RANGERS.



I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DID IT, JACKSON - BUT YOU SURE CLEANED UP THIS MESS. MY MEN REPORT EVERY ONE OF THE MISSING SCIENTISTS ARE HERE

WELL I CAN'T TAKE ALL THE CREDIT - I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT MY SIDEKICK, HANK ROPER /

AWW... SHUCKS!



THERE'S ONLY ONE FLAW, SPURS - THOSE RESCUED SCIENTISTS ALL SEEM BATTY. THEY KEEP INSISTING THEY HID ALL THEIR ATOMIC SECRET PAPERS IN A ROCKET SHIP THAT WENT TO VENUS. SEE WHAT YOU CAN MAKE OF IT, SPURS. IT'S IMPORTANT THAT THE AUTHORITIES GET THOSE PAPERS.....

I'LL GET THEM FOR YOU IF IT'S IMPORTANT!



WELL, IT SURE FELT GOOD TO GIVE OUT WITH A FEW SURPRISES OF MY OWN FOR A CHANGE... A PROFESSOR VOLUNTEERED TO RIDE WITH ME, AND WE MOUNTED THE WINGED HORSES AND ZOOMED OFF. WE WERE AT THE ROCKET IN A FEW MINUTES AND RETURNED IN THAT SHIP ALMOST AS FAST



SUFFERIN' SASSAFRAS, SPURS THEY DIDN'T BELIEVE ME WHEN I TOLD 'EM YUH'D DO IT - BUT YUH DID /



ONCE THE RANGERS TOOK OVER AND EVERYTHING SEEMED UNDER CONTROL HANK AND I KINDA MOSIED OFF. IT'S A BIG WORLD, YOU KNOW AND CHOCK FULL OF ADVENTURE



YOU KNOW, HANK - BIG SAM KILLED HIS STEP FATHER SO'S HE COULD GO IN CAHOOTS WITH THEM MADMEN... AND HIS IGNORANCE OF RADIO ACTIVITY KILLED HIM... I GUESS HE GOT WHAT WAS COMING TO HIM AFTER ALL.....



WULL, THE NEXT TIME YEW SWEAR T'GIT A KILLER, SPURS - YEW BETTER THINK TWICE, I DON'T EVER WANNA GO BACK TO THAT SPOOKY PLACE AGAIN / BRRR.....!



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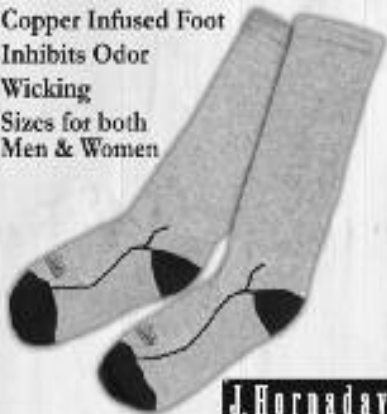
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101,182.....Colt Rogers
101,183.....Noon

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100,701.....100701
100,761.....Rebel Cash
101,068.....Alabama Dusty Rose
101,103.....Kennesaw Kitty

AR

100,707.....Cornbread Dan
101,177.....Dixie's Angel
101,184.....Slow Poke Dave

AZ

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100,708.....100708
100,720.....Tripps Tu Win
100,747.....Tornado Tucker
100,848.....Oregon Girl
100,891.....Truth Herz
100,912.....Silver Halide
100,948.....Peacemaker Mac
100,951.....Outlaw Mike
101,071.....Choshman

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100,721.....C W Snuff
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100,823.....Sicilian Slick Rick
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100,909.....Rusty Iron Sight
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101,099.....Legally Loaded
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101,172.....Estado E. Jefferson
101,185.....The Maravilla Kid
101,193.....Whistler

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100,686.....Ross Santee
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101,169.....Storm Crow

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100,993.....Deaf Pitchfork Pete
101,003.....Rangin' Ron
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101,102.....Ripplecreek Kid
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100,869	Naomi James
100,904	Jersey Termite
100,988	Philin D'Blanche
101,007	Levi Littleton
101,049	Bushwhacker Leo
101,091	101091
101,132	Coachgun
101,143	Who Knows
101,144	Reb "Belfast" McNight
101,145	Crackerjack's Kid
101,178	Ken E. Wick

WI

100,677	Shootin Bear
100,678	Dead-eye Deb
100,717	Vaquero Jack
100,740	Nileejean
100,836	C C Gunner
100,837	Gabby G
101,050	Cleghorn
101,080	Trail Boss Brett
101,180	101180

WY

100,737	Hogleg Homer
100,763	Asa Moyer
100,764	Lacey Lynn
101,129	Nick O. Demus

MEMBERS BY COUNTRY

SASS # ALIAS**AB**

100,696	Federal Pete
100,697	Jersey Girl
100,827	Light Leather
100,884	Craigs Kid
100,946	Cross Draw Kid
101,113	Hugh Djiego

ACT

101,060	Admiral
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BC

100,873	Ridge Rider
100,874	Missy Leadslinger
100,980	100980
100,981	Half Pint Sully
100,987	Merciless Moe
100,994	Chinky Jones
101,014	Shotgun Shae
101,015	Kitty Crossdraw
101,074	Doc Nowlin
101,100	Bean Pot Bart
101,125	Doc Richards
101,126	Salal Sal
101,139	Ry N. Coke
101,173	William B. Doolin

MB

100,964	Phoebe Blaze
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NC

100,768	Vicky Magginthy
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NSW

100,860	General Lord Glencoe
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ON

100,679	Cayuse King
100,687	Dusty Earl
100,741	Wheelgun Willie
100,744	Lefty Lorenzo
100,748	Shotgun Cindy
100,762	Brown Coat Malcolm
100,802	Kitty O'Hare
100,810	Chippawa Mike
100,811	Grey Owl
100,895	Duke Newcombe
100,919	Curly Sam Walker
100,975	Big Bang
101,042	Joey Slow Hands
101,043	Dalton James

QC

100,742	Spartan Tex
101,041	Django Hawk
101,107	Marshal Villain
101,108	Lady Nat

QLD

100,936	Deadwood Dante
100,940	Hum Dinger
100,974	Emmett The Innocent
101,188	Rob Roy

SA

101,035	Little Bill
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SK

100,769	Slowpoke Tucker
100,945	Last Chance Lexi
100,977	George Kelby Jr.

VIC

100,698	Trapper Macalister
100,961	Doc Crow

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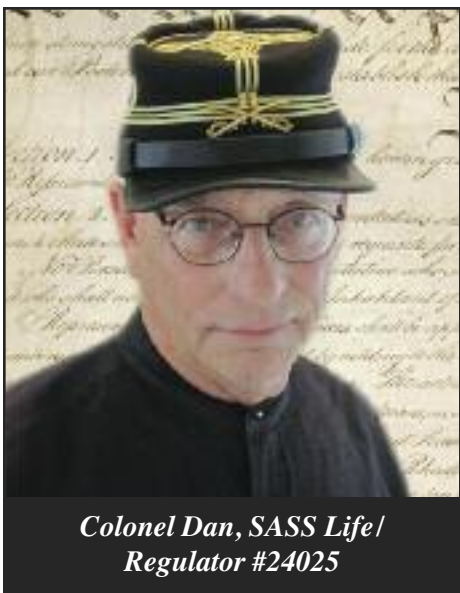
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POLITICAL



The Founders' Words Reveal Intent

By Colonel Dan, SASS Life/Regulator #24025

We all probably know the Second Amendment by heart, but do we know the underlying intent that served as a foundational basis for that Amendment?

Obviously, the basic content of our Founding Fathers' thoughts ultimately determined the final content of our Constitution. But in order to gain some insight to their fundamental thought processes, *i.e.* intent, we might want to read what they wrote on the subject external to the Bill of Rights.

In their hearts of hearts—their souls—how did they really feel about the private citizen's right to keep and bear arms—and why? This is a question the anti-gunners in our midst use and twist constantly—as in *"The Second Amendment doesn't really mean what you think it does. It means that only a well regulated militia has the right to keep and bear arms, not the people."* The militia is defined by the anti-gunners as the National Guard—in other words, a government regulated military force. Is that the view of the Founding Fathers?

To help us better understand their intentions I suggest we read the words they used when persuading others about the merits of their ideas. Therein we'll find the best available indication of actual intent behind the Amendment from those that actually wrote it.

Below are a few representative examples among many regarding our right to keep and bear arms from the Founders themselves. All quotes are unedited by me. I could not and would not presume to improve upon the inspiration of our Founding Fathers.

My only request is that you read, think, and determine for yourself what they really meant. Then after reading their own words, ask yourself if the Founders seem like advocates of "common sense gun control" or do they seem somewhat more like "Second Amendment Absolutists" to you?

Once you come to a conclusion, be an active

voice of commitment in defense of and for that conclusion—whatever it may be. Just don't be non-committal and therefore uncommitted—there's too much at stake.

"No free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms." Thomas Jefferson, Proposed Virginia Constitution (1776).

"A militia when properly formed are in fact the people themselves and include all men capable of bearing arms... To preserve liberty it is essential that the whole body of people always possess arms..." Richard Henry Lee, *Additional Letters From the Federal Farmer 53* (1788).

"I ask, sir, what is the militia? It is the whole people. To disarm the people is the best and most effectual way to enslave them." George Mason, during Virginia's Convention to Ratify the Constitution (1788).

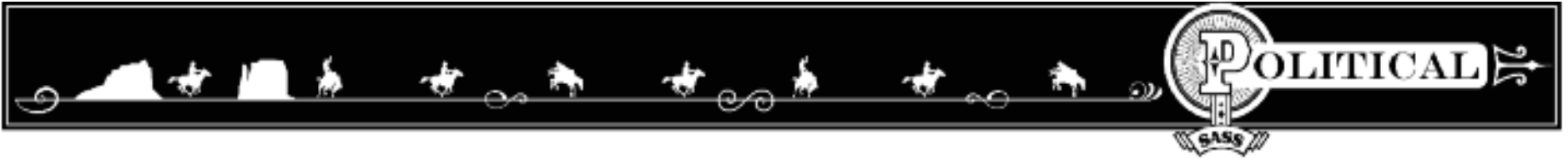
"Laws that forbid the carrying of arms...disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes. Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than to prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater...confidence than an armed man." Thomas Jefferson, quoting Cesare Beccaria in *On Crimes and Punishment* (1764).

"The supreme power in America cannot enforce unjust laws by the sword, because the whole body of the people are armed, and constitute a force superior to any band of regular troops." Noah Webster, *An Examination into the Leading Principles of the Federal Constitution Proposed BV the Late Convention* (1787).

"Americans need not fear the federal government because they enjoy the advantage of being armed, which you possess over the people of almost every other nation." James Madison.

"False is the idea of utility that sacrifices a thousand real advantages for one imaginary or tri-

(Continued on next page)



The Founders' Words Reveal Intent . . .

(Continued from previous page)

fling inconvenience; that would take fire from men because it burns, and water because one may drown in it; that has no remedy for evils except destruction. The laws that forbid the carrying of arms are laws of such a nature. They disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crime." Cesare Beccaria, quoted by Thomas Jefferson.

"The people never give up their liberties but under some delusion." Edmund Burke (1784).

"Whenever Governments mean to invade the rights and liberties of the people, they always attempt to destroy the militia, in order to raise an army upon their ruins." Rep. Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts, spoken during floor debate over the Second Amendment, *I Annals of Congress* at p. 750, August 17, 1789.

"Americans have the right and advantage of being armed—unlike the citizens of other countries whose governments are afraid to trust the people with arms." James Madison, *The Federalist Papers No. 46* at 243-244.

"Congress have no power to disarm the militia. Their swords, and every other terrible implement of the soldier, are the birthright of an American... The unlimited power of the sword is not in the hands of either the federal or state government, but, where I trust in God it will ever remain, in the hands of the people" Tench Coxe, *Pennsylvania Gazette*, Feb. 20, 1788.

"To preserve liberty, it is essential that the whole body of people always possess arms, and be taught alike especially when young, how to use them." Richard Henry Lee, 1788.

"The great object is that every man be armed [and] everyone who is able may have a gun." Patrick Henry.

"Are we at last brought to such humiliating and debasing degradation, that we cannot be trusted with arms for our defense? Where is the difference between having our arms in possession and under

our direction, and having them under the management of Congress? If our defense be the real object of having those arms, in whose hands can they be trusted with more propriety, or equal safety to us, as in our own hands?" Patrick Henry.

"The best we can hope for concerning the people at large is that they be properly armed." Alexander Hamilton, *The Federalist Papers* at 184-8.

"The supposed quietude of a good man allures the ruffian; while on the other hand, arms like laws discourage and keep the invader and the plunderer in awe, and preserve order in the world as well as property. The same balance would be preserved were all the world destitute of arms, for all would be alike; but since some will not, others dare not lay them aside... Horrid mischief would ensue were one half the world deprived of the use of them..." Thomas Paine.


"...[T]he people are confirmed by the next article in their right to keep and bear their private arms. From article in the *Philadelphia Federal Gazette*, June 18, 1789 at 2, col.2.

"What country can preserve its liberties if their rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance. Let them take arms." Thomas Jefferson to James Madison.

"The people are not to be disarmed of their weapons. They are left in full possession of them." Zachariah Johnson, *3 Elliot, Debates* at 646

"That the said Constitution shall never be construed to authorize Congress to infringe the just liberty of the press or the rights of conscience; or to prevent the people of The United States who are peaceable citizens from keeping their own arms..." Samuel Adams, during Massachusetts' Convention to Ratify the Constitution (1788).

As for the view from *my* foxhole...

"The most essential elements of preserving American liberty are God, guts and a free mind connected to a well disciplined trigger finger." Colonel Dan. 

Contact Colonel Dan: coloneldan@bellsouth.net

Colonel Dan's Blog: <http://coloneldan1776.com/>

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