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AUGUST | 2017



Cowboy CHRONICLE



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Kid Rich (SASS #92249) as a steam punk "Farmer Brown" salutes the camera at this years' Texas State Championship, COMANCHERIA DAYS.

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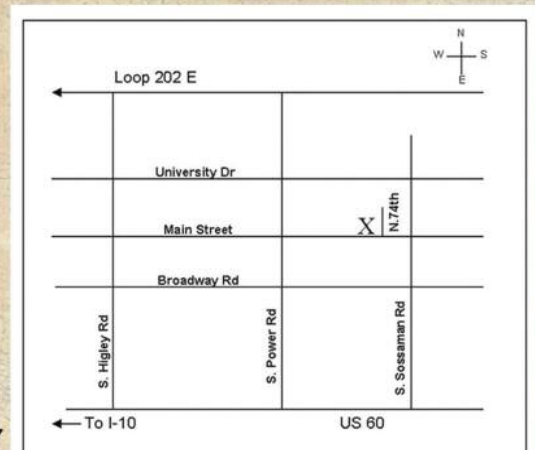


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A view of the downrange targets at Comancheria Days 2017's Bolt Action Military Side Match, as seen by Dusty Boddems (SASS #1907). BAM side events are becoming increasingly popular at clubs with long range capabilities.



Skippy, SASS #7361

From The Editor

SKINNY'S SOAPBOX

By Skinny, SASS #7361

END of TRAIL 2017

This year's World Championship of Cowboy Action Shooting™ is now part of history. Congratulations to everyone who distinguished themselves in their respective disciplines and categories, and especial congratulations to every participant and attendee for taking part in one of the most pleasant venues around.

Thunder Valley Days 2017

The Maryland State Championship was also held the same weekend as EOT. This year, I chose to attend that match instead, as it was the final Thunder Valley Days to be administered by Chuckaroo (SASS #13080). After serving as Match Director for the event for the past 18 years, in addition to putting on countless monthly matches at Damascus, Maryland and helping with and eventually overseeing Mason-Dixon Stampede, the Southeast Regional and now Eastern Divisional, Chuckaroo has finally decided to hang up his spurs for a much-deserved rest and possibly enjoy just shooting for awhile. Chuckaroo's second-in-command for many years past, Dogmeat Dad (SASS #48563), has stepped up to take the reins of all the aforementioned matches, however, and we wish him all the success Chuckaroo has enjoyed.

Bolt Action Military Matches

A number of issues ago, I mentioned the beginnings of a Cowboy Action Shooting™ and Wild Bunch long range side event that utilizes mil-spec bolt action rifles

in service with some military during WWII or before. Bolt Action Military (or BAM) side matches have since become popular at many Cowboy clubs in the Southwest that have 100-yard or greater capabilities. The one held at my local club (the Texican Rangers near Fredericksburg, Texas) typically consists of two or three stages shot after the main match and consisting of 10 to 15 rounds per stage, shot at different targets of varying distances. It sort of puts the "action" into long range and is a lot of fun.

One of the nicest aspects of BAM, however, is it's probably the only side event for which you don't necessarily have to spend a fortune on equipment. Even though rifles like 1903 Springfields and 30-40 Kraggs—which can set you back \$1000 or more—are popular, more economical rifles available for as little as \$200, like Mosin-Nagants and Yugoslav Mausers, are perfectly acceptable alternatives. All bullets must be lead, of course. So if you have an itch to try out something new and you're in an area with a club that offers it, give BAM a "shot." You may just get hooked on something new.

Comic Book Corner

Featured this issue is the fourth comic book adventure of Lone Ranger wannabe, the Lone Rider, from *Lone Rider #4* (October 1951) and was published by Ajax-Farrell. As always, material for Comic Book Corner comes to us through Comic Book Plus. Visit their website at www.comicbookplus.com to enjoy more vintage Western and other genre comic books.

—Skinny 🐾

Dear Valued SASS Members,

After careful consideration and evaluation of the countless requests and movements regarding scoring methods for Cowboy Action Shooting™, the SASS Board of Directors do hereby decree that effective immediately, all SASS Sanctioned Cowboy Action Shooting™ matches are to be scored using Total Time. A direct email has been sent to all Club contacts, SASS Sanctioned match directors, and event organizers giving notice to this effect and requiring immediate changes to match planning to accommodate the change. SASS Sanctioned matches will no longer be allowed to use any other scoring method.

We feel strongly that this monumental change will garner great support and appreciation from you—our valued members. 🐾



Misty Moonshine, SASS #83232



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Yuma Jack,
SASS #11261

Comancheria Days 2017

SASS Texas State Championship “Texas our Texas”



By Yuma Jack, SASS #11261 Patron Life

Photos by Dutch Van Horn SASS #51153

The article in the *Dallas Morning Herald* on June 6, 1885 read:

The morning of June 5, 1885 two men, both murderers and robbers, escaped from the San Antonio County Jail. One was captured but it is believed Jim McDaniels will make for his old haunts near Leon Springs, going probably by the Bandera Road.

And so, embracing this bit of Texas history, the SASS Texas State Championship began on Stage 1 with the shouted alarm,

“It’s a jail break boys!”

The annual Comancheria Days match has been the venue for the SASS Texas State Championship

four times that I recall, but I think the 2017 Comancheria Days Championship was one of the largest. This match was attended by 305 shooters who made the journey from all over Texas as well as 14 other states and Canada to the Texas Hill Country to join in the fun. The tradition of this “Old West” shootin’ match has endured for 22 years.

I wasn’t around these parts back in ’95 (1995 that is), when the Texican Rangers held the first “Comancheria Days” Cowboy Action Shooting™ match, but I have been attending this event almost every year since 1999 and reporting on it in *The Cowboy Chronicle* at least since 2007. That first match was the inspiration of Texas Jack, SASS #5148 (AKA Mike Harvey, owner of Cimarron F.A.C° and Texas Jack Wild West Outfitter). They called the match “Comancheria Days” to commemorate those days when the area was known as the Comancheria or “the land of the Comanche.” In the spirit of a celebration, that first



Things got downright busy on the Long Range firing line.



Judge Roy Bean (SASS #1) and Justice Lily Kate (SASS #1000) were in attendance.

Comancheria Days 2017

match, held in March, was attended by less than 100 shooters but it included an Indian (*i.e.* Native American) encampment, rodeo riders, and even a John Wayne impersonator. The match has been held annually on Becky Patterson's Stieler Ranch in the Texas Hill Country every year since, save one.

The Texican Ranger club must have paid much "wampum" to the rain dancers because the match experienced almost perfect Texas weather conditions right up until Sunday. A little chill to the morning, some breeze for the Lords of Soot, and warming up in the afternoon. On Wednesday, Range Officer (RO) Level I and II Classes were offered by the Texican Rangers Territorial Governor, Dusty Lone Star (SASS# 31537).

A full day of side matches were held on Thursday, beginning with 51 shooters competing in a four-stage Wild Bunch Match in the morning, put on by Sheriff Robert Love (SASS #8960). The Long Range event organized by Quin-



Comancheria Days hostess and owner of the Stieler Ranch, Becky Patterson.

tana (SASS #18843) at the Wm. F. Cody Long Range Pavilion for big bore lever action and single shot rifles also started in the morning,



Match Director Judge Gee Pee.

lasted for more than six hours, and attracted 68 competitors. Targets were 24-inch squares and 16-inch circles at ranges from 100 out to 200 yards. Big bore single shot rifles were employed against those targets by 25 shooters and 19 shooters tried for a perfect score of *(Continued on page 8)*



Show Me (SASS #90922) uses a Springfield Trapdoor in the Cody-Dixon category.



Top Elder Statesmen in order, Nonstop (SASS #17670), Evil Roy (SASS #2883), Skyhawk Hans (SASS #70053), and Bison Jim (SASS #85850).



Texas State Champion Buckaroo, Coyote Catcher (SASS #105326).

Comancheria Days 2017

(Continued from page 7)

30 using big bore lever action rifles. A total of 24 shooters tried their revolver caliber rifles at the long-range targets, which added an additional category to our Long Range award lineup.

In the afternoon there was the usual—Fastest Revolver, Fastest

Derringer, Fastest Pocket Revolver, Fastest Rifle, and Fastest Shotgun side matches. The option was offered that allowed multiple tries at most of the “fastest” side match events. Then there was also the always-popular “Blazing Saddles” side match that requires shooting a rifle and revolvers from a saddled 55-gallon “steel steed” while riding down range on rails. Take my word for it, it’s harder than it sounds or looks but more fun than a “drum of monkeys.” A version of Blazing Saddles was also offered allowing the use of 1911 pistols instead of single action revolvers. Reloading the 1911 while at “full gallop” is a challenge. Also in the afternoon, there was a “King of the Hill” side match employing swinging targets, falling plates and knock down shotgun targets all on one stage. And for the first time, a Bolt Action Military Rifle Match put together by Grouchy Spike (SASS #68125) was offered, attracting 12 high-powered warriors. And fi-

nally, experiencing a revived interest after an absence of many years, there was a three stage Plainsman Match. Fifteen men tried to fend off attackers and drop buffalo using percussion re-



Texas State Overall Champions, Waterloo (SASS #46072) and Hey You (SASS #64946).



Crosscut Hardy (SASS #54701) received the Spirit of the Game Award.



Bootstrap Richard (SASS #79130) shooting Modern style in the Wild Bunch Side Match.

Comancheria Days 2017 . . .

volvers, single shot black powder cartridge rifles, and shotguns in scenarios written by Mad Dog McCoy (SASS #17292). This was an event for shooters with grit.

So even if you just showed up on Thursday for the side matches, you could have shot from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and used just about everything from your gun safe except black guns and plastic pistols. You'd have had the opportunity to shoot side arms from cap and ball revolvers to cartridge revolvers to 1911 pistols and long arms from Sharps and double barrels to lever actions to pump shotguns and bolt action early military rifles. That could have amounted to a week in the man cave cleaning just the side match guns.

Friday morning was kicked off with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer under cool Texas skies. The mandatory shooter's safety meeting was led by Match Director Judge Gee Pee (SASS #32408). Attendance at the shooter's safety meeting was mandatory on both days of shooting for both morning and afternoon "flights." That was followed by the firing of the club's CANNON! It was made

(Continued on page 10)



Senior Lady Duelist Lefty Lin (SASS #89534) lines up a revolver shot at the Oriental.



Winning Junior Girls in order, Darlin Diamondback (SASS #103899), Paisley (SASS #64964), Ghost Angel (SASS #95206), Fanny (SASS #102167).

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(Continued from page 9)

back in 2014 by Capt. Gimp Tumlinson (SASS #63304) with help from Judge Hangin Knott (SASS #102642) and Grouchy Spike and donated to the club. The cannon was fired on two occasions in a salute to two departed amigos, Bad Hand (SASS #24260) and Meadow Biscuit Slim (SASS #76959), whose ashes were sent downrange with a roar. What a glorious start that was!

The “fastest” side match stages and main match stages were written by A.D. Texaz (SASS #16339) with stage narratives by Newt Ritter (SASS #5891). The stages were unique and highly entertaining but not

complicated. Targets were all recommended sizes and distances with no intentional “procedural traps.” There were no “stand and deliver” stages as each had at least three shooting positions. All stages required the almost standard 10 revolver rounds, 10 rifle rounds and four (plus) shot shells. As in past Comancheria Days matches, Cody-Dixon (C-D) categories were offered. This category is pretty much a Texas original, established by the Texas Historical Shootist Society club in Columbus, Texas and the Texican Rangers. C-D shooters use a big bore rifle either lever action (Cody) or single shot (Dixon) in-



Master of Ceremonies
Handlebar Bob (SASS #4650).



Match photographer
Dutch Van Horn on the other side
of the camera.

stead of the regular revolver caliber rifle to engage longer range targets placed at 50 to 75 yards. C-D shooters had to substitute six long-range rifle rounds for the 10 rifle rounds to engage two to four targets depending on the stage. Where knockdown targets were used for shotguns, it was the shooter’s choice whether to make up any shotgun misses. Shotgun



Cowtown Scout (SASS #53540) in the Plainsman Side Match.

Comancheria Days 2017 . . .

targets on all but one stage could be shot in any order. The single exception was Stage 2, where two shotgun targets had to be swept twice in either direction with no double taps.

All stages focused on real events or movie scenes in or about the great state of Texas. Here are just three examples:

Stage 3 at the Barn recognized a scene in the movie, *The Life and Times of Judge Roy Bean*. Bean was a longtime Texas resident and Justice of the Peace. When challenged to a gunfight by Albino Bad Bob in the movie, the Judge chose a strategic gunfighting position... hidden in a hayloft behind his opponent with a scoped big bore rifle. After the very brief skirmish, a bystander complained Bean hadn't given Bob a chance. The Judge justified the morality of his position by responding, "If he wanted a chance he should of gone someplace else."

With that line, the shooter, standing at "Texas surrender," was required to sweep the five revolver targets from either end as follows: 1, 1, 2, 3, 4 then 2, 3, 4, 5, 5 (or the reverse). Then at Position 2 engage the rifle targets using the revolver target instructions. Cody-Dixon shooters had to engage four long-range rifle targets 1, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4. Then, moving to the Barn door, engage four knockdown shotgun targets in any order.

The scene on Stage 5 (the Train) took off from a *Fort Worth Gazette* article published on May 20, 1887. According to the article, a train was robbed just outside of Austin the night before. One San Antonio resident was mortally wounded and another man wanted to "make a fight of it" with the robbers, except no one was armed! But on the day of the match we all had guns so the shooter began the stage at high surrender and shouted, "We'll make a fight of it!" At the

(Continued on page 12)



Winning Grand Dames, Texas Flower (SASS #43753), Wicked Felina (SASS #3483—1st Place), and Lady Ghost (SASS #60899).



Buckrette winners Hellfire Hanna (SASS #103777) and Texas Cutie (SASS #98454).



Texas Ghost (SASS #50125) brought granddaughter Ghost Angel (SASS #95206) to the match.

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(Continued from page 11)



revolver position in the cab of the locomotive, the shooter was to sweep five targets in either direction with the first five rounds then engage a center “dump” target with the remaining five rounds. After moving to the rifle position at the front window of the caboose, five-plus-one rifle targets were engaged with the rifle using the same instructions as the revolver, but C-D shooters had to double-tap the three distant rifle targets instead, from Position 2. From the rear window of the ca-

boose, four knockdown shotgun targets were to be engaged in any order. This stage could be shot starting with either the revolvers or the shotgun, thus being “south-paw friendly.”

Perhaps the most challenging stage, mentally at least, was at the Dentist Office/Barber Shop. This scenario was sort of based on a *Waco Evening News* article from May 24, 1894. On that day the Longview Bank was robbed and as reported in the paper, a wild shootout occurred in the alley.

More than 200 rounds were fired resulting in four deaths, including one robber. In addition, a bystander lost a leg, another was shot in the hand, and another robber was shot in the face. But all of the surviving robbers got away! So in keeping with the obvious confusion arising from such a scene, Stage 8 began with the shooter standing at Position 1 with both hands on hat and asking, “Whadda



Frontier Cartridge winners, *Preacher Kid* (SASS #92048) and *Manchacca Kid* (SASS #102211).



Junior Boys winners, *Pinfire* (SASS #103363) and *Curly Finn* (SASS #92262).

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you mean they got away?" At the buzzer the shooter was to sweep four rifle targets through the fence opening in the sequence 1, 2, 3, 4, 3, 2, 2, 1, 1, 1, or in reverse order if desired. C-D shooters were required to engage two targets 1, 2, 2, 1, 1, 2. Then,

moving inside the building to the first window, the shooter engaged four knockdown shotgun targets in any order. Finally moving to the far right window the
(Continued on page 14)

YESTERDAY'S LEGEND, FOR TOMORROW'S RANGE DAY



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Comancheria Days 2017 . . .

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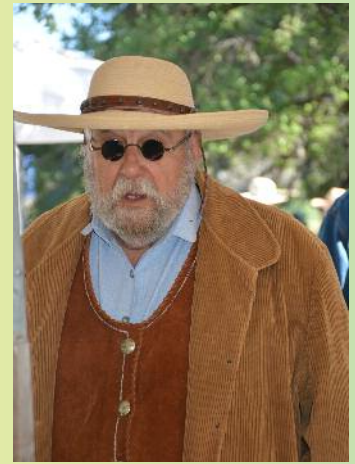
shooter was to engage four revolver targets using the rifle target instructions. At first glance this shooting sequence may seem a little confusing but was actually quite easy with the revolvers. It was just a trifle more thought provoking with the rifle.

This year there were probably more vendors set up to attend to the shopping needs of shooters and visitors alike than I have ever experienced at a Comancheria Days match. Engraving was available from **Larry Hopewell Engraving** and **Klassic Laser Works** (www.KlassicLaserWorks.com). Clothing and outfitting was sold by **D. Vine Hats**, **Flat Wearables**, **Miss Patty**, **Old Scyene Dry Goods and Dress Shop** (www.oldscyene.com), and **Texas Jack Wild West Outfitters** (www.texas-jacks.com). Leather goods were on display for sale by **Lone Star Leather**, **Mad Dog McCoy**, **Benchmade Gun Leather**, and **T-Star Leather**

(www.TStarLeather.com). Jewelry for the ladies was there from **Gold by Linda** and **Dirty Sally Handmade Earrings**. **Boomstick Arms**, **Long Hunter Shooting Supply** (www.longhunt.com), **Goatneck Gunsmithing** and **RH Custom Guns** (www.RHCustomGuns.com) were all available to provide their gunsmithing expertise. Shooting supplies were added by **Cimarron Bullets**, **QMAXX**, and **Dead Last**. There were also representatives from **Defenders CFL & Firearms Training** and the **Former Texas Ranger Association and Foundation** (www.FormerTexasRangers.org). **Major Photography** provided posse and banquet costume photos and **Mobley Ambrotypes** offered the chance to have your picture preserved in an original ambrotype. This photo was exposed on glass in a reverse image using a process that preceded tintype. Absolutely cool!

There was certainly plenty of grub available at the





Comancheria Days 2017 . . .

match also. Free doughnuts and coffee were available on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday mornings. Breakfast tacos were for sale at **Comfort Café** on those same mornings as well. At lunch, **Comfort Café** sold hamburgers, **Buzzie's Bar-B-Q** served up their delicious barbeque sandwiches and plates, and **Chapa's Cutting Board, LLC** offered a different specialty dish each day. After lunch you could indulge yourself with shaved ice from **Kona Ice** or some homemade fudge by **Oh Fudge Bakery**.

On Friday evening, after the first round of Main Match shooting, folks gathered picnic tables under

majestic old oak trees to enjoy a wonderful chuck wagon dinner provided by El Patron (SASS #102037). He set up his beautifully-restored authentic chuck wagon and served some great chicken and melt-in-your-mouth beef fajitas. The chuck wagon remained set up throughout the match to add to the old west ambience. During dinner, the crowd was further entertained by Three Fingered Dutchman (SASS #45779) singing and reciting some cowboy poetry. Dutch Van Horn entertained some youngsters as well as us "oldsters" with some prestidigitation and sleight-of-hand.

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(Continued from page 15)

Mixed in with the good food and camaraderie were also 45 awards presented to the Side Match competitors and Shooter Costume winners.

Agarita Annie (SASS #88620), Bexar Bill Brocius (SASS #102476), Col. Callan (SASS #73944), Colorado Horseshoe (SASS #68450), **Culebra Blaze** (SASS# 85966), **Dirty Dog Dale** (SASS# 56525), **Nueces Slim** (SASS #88619) and Shooting Iron Miller (SASS #85140), performed a myriad of organizing and maintenance tasks throughout the match that would make the heads of ordinary folks spin. At the conclusion of the main match the scores were tallied by a team consisting of Tombstone Mary (SASS #19524), Madam Ella Moon (SASS #56526), Little Bit Sassy (SASS #103150) and Miss Lucy, all of whom helped run the scoring process flawlessly. And a special thanks to Aunt T who assisted with everything from registration to shooter's prizes and Friday night meal set-up.

Saturday evening found folks in their finest period clothing ready to enjoy a wonderful Texas-style meal at the awards banquet held at the Gillespie County Farm Bureau in Fredericksburg, Texas. Buzzie's Bar-B-Q again provided their mouth-watering traditional award-winning brisket and pork. Entertainment was provided by the Texican's-own incomparable Master of Ceremonies Handlebar Bob (SASS #4650) who for the "umpteenth year" ran the program and announced the awards. The "Thrown Rider Award," sponsored by Dutch Dave (SASS# 12879) and Starry Knight (SASS #25197) was a Cimarron revolver presented to Hoss (SASS #95858), who drew the lucky-numbered poker chip. During the banquet, Texas Ghost (SASS #50125) spoke on behalf of the **Texas State Rifle Association (TSRA)**. He addressed the group, providing updates on various Second Amendment focused activities being pursued in the Texas State legislature. Crosscut Hardy (SASS #54701) was presented with a "Spirit of





Comancheria Days 2017

the Game Award.” Prizes were awarded in costume categories including Man and Lady Shooters, Best Dressed Lady and Gentleman, Soiled Dove, Military, and Best Dressed Couple, which is covered in more detail in a separate article. A total of 38 shooters completed the match with no misses or procedural errors. Main match awards were presented in a total of 41 categories, counting men, ladies and age-based groups. Judge Gee Pee presented the Overall Top Shooters and State Championship awards to Waterloo (SASS #46072) for the men and Hey You (SASS #64946) for the ladies.

Mixed in with the awards were “stretch” raffles, a poker chip raffle, and drawings for guns and other prizes provided by the Texican Rangers and the main match sponsor Cimarron F.A.C°. Six participants went home with new firearms, including four Cimarron revolvers, three Cimarron 1873 rifles, and a Cimarron 1911. One participant went home with a Dillon 650 loading press, another with a Rugged Gear Gun Cart, and yet another with a special ensemble for the ladies, in-

cluding a handmade carpet bag, lace collar, and necklace with matching earrings.

The club leadership did an amazing job of organizing this match, finding space for more than 300 shooters plus guests and making it run like clockwork. The

remarkable success is also due in no small part to the hard work and dedication of the many members of the Texican Rangers club who contributed their time, sweat, and treasure over the past months to put on the match. So mark your calendars for April 11-15, 2018 and plan to come shoot with the Texican Rangers when we will again be celebrating Comancheria Days. You can check the website for more information and for a complete list of 2017 winners at <http://www.texicanrangers.org>.

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Costuming Corner

2017 SASS Texas State Championship

By Texas Flower, SASS #43753 Life Regulator

Photos by Major Photography

April 6-9, 2017 at the Stier Ranch near Fredericksburg, Texas was the time and place of the SASS Texas State Championship hosted by the Texican Rangers. For many years, the Texican Rangers have hosted an annual match, Comancheria Days. This year it was the SASS Texas State Championship. I was honored to help with the costume

contests. And... I was so pleased to see so many fantastic costumes on the range and at the banquet.

The match began on Friday, April 7 and that was when costume judges, Shooting Iron Miller (SASS #85140), Dutch Van Horn (SASS #51153), and Newt Ritter (SASS #5891) hit the range in search of the best shooting costumes. There was an a.m. and a p.m. flight of shooters, so judges spent most of the day going up and down the range to every posse looking for those special costumes. They reported it was a "real job" to select the very best, But, in the end, they were successful in their mission. First place shooting costume awards were presented at the chuck wagon cookout on Friday evening.

Next, it was on to the Saturday evening awards banquet at the Gillespie County Farm Bureau in Fredericksburg where Doc O'Bay (SASS #63631), Skinny (SASS #7361), and I searched for the best costumes. We started out roaming around the banquet hall, but as so many folks came into the hall, it was hard to get around to see everyone. We eventually retreated to the kitchen area where contestants could come to be judged. The costumes ranged from an 1895 South Africa Black Watch soldier to Olive Oatman, the tattooed lady from *Hell on Wheels*. We saw a Steampunk Lady, a River Boat Gambler, a Cattle Buyer, a Lady in a beautiful 1880s gown, an 1898 Spanish American War Major, a Calvary Indian Scout, and of course the saloon girls! Many contestants had a story to tell and accouterments to show. Wow, did I say this was an easy job? Not at all! It is never an easy job with so many great costumes to consider. The SASS Costume



Texas Flower, SASS Life/Regulator #43753

Shooting Costumes



Best Junior Girl, Ghost Angel, SASS #95206.



Best Junior Boy, Coyote Catcher, SASS #105326.



Best Man, Yuma Jack, SASS #11261.



Best Lady, Shotglass, SASS #17153.

Evening Costumes



First Place Couple,
Col. Callan (SASS #73944)
and Little Bit Sassy
(SASS#103150) as an
1895 traveling couple.

He is an off duty
Black Watch soildier
and she is wearing an
1895 traveling outfit.



First Place Lady,
Yankee Texan
(SASS #56796) in her
1880s gold and rust gown.



First Place Military,
Cowtown Scout
(SASS #53540) as
Major Strickland in his
1898 Spanish American
War Uniform.



First Place Soiled Dove,
Sopapilla Su
(SASS #99775) as
Olive Oatman in a
replica outfit from the
TV series *Hell On Wheels*.



First Place Man,
Bexar Bill Brocius
(SASS #102476) as a
Riverboat Gambler.

2017 SASS Texas State Championship ...

Contest Management and Administration scoring forms were used for judging. Judges gave scores for authenticity, originality, knowledge of costume, and details. First through third place Best Dressed awards were presented

later in the evening.

Thanks to the costume judges for their time and expertise. They did a great job! Special thanks to all of the contestants and their fabulous costumes! Costuming is what makes our shooting sport so

unique. Please visit <http://texicanrangers.org/comancheria-days/> for a complete list of costume winners.

I have always said "a picture is worth a thousand words" so, I will let the costume pictures do the rest of my "talking."

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Annual Reports

Legends 2017

Four Corners Regional Championship Western Territorial Wild Bunch Championship

By B.T. Blade, SASS Life #35685



B.T. Blade,
SASS Life #35685

As I reflect on the Dixie Desperados' monthly club meeting about ten months back, it must have been a back spasm or pinched nerve that made my arm shoot up as if I were volunteering. What other reason would there be for Lucky Wheeler (SASS #35686) and me to give up ten months of our peaceful, relaxing retirement to be Match Directors? Match Directors for two back-to-back events, no less!

Well, the ten months went by like a bullet exceeding the SASS Power Factor and the next thing we knew, we were at the mike at the Hilton Garden Inn in St. George, Utah saying, "Goodnight everyone. Thanks for coming and safe travels home!"

It had been quite a week. While dozens of people stepped up to help us make this event a success, Southern Utah weather didn't cooperate as much as it could have. It seemed as if we went through all four



A great turnout for Red Shirt Friday! (Remembering Everyone Deployed.)



The Ladies of the Four Corners Regional!

Legends 2017 • Four Corners Regional Championship . . .

seasons in just five days! We experienced warm and cold temps, a few showers and wind that would send tumbleweeds and EZ Ups on an E-ticket ride; most unusual for April in this part of the country.

To start things off, 35 shooters participated in the Western Territorial Wild Bunch Championships from Monday thru Wednesday, April 24-26. This was followed by 130 shooters taking on the Four Corners Regional Championship match (Utah, Col-

orado, New Mexico and Arizona) Thursday thru Saturday, April 27-29. In between, there were Side Matches, Long Range, and Plainsman events, vendors, a chili feed, Cowboy Swap Meet and Garage Sale and root beer floats for all! At the end of the Main Match we went on to have a Team Event and Top Gun Shoot-Off. So if you “Came for the Shootin’” but enjoyed “Stayin’ Because of the Peo-

(Continued on page 22)



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Big Dave (SASS #55632) smokin' up the range.



Bootstrap Phil (SASS #104304) and Maisie Grace (SASS #104310) —always lookin' good!

Legends 2017 • Four Corners Regional Championship . . .

(Continued from page 21)

ple,” you weren’t disappointed either way! In addition to a Territorial Governors meeting headed up by J.T. Wild (SASS #20399), we had an RO1/RO2 Refresher Course. Our thanks to Chickamauga Charlie (SASS #47963) for taking the time to instruct this very important part of our game.

Our Long Range side Match was a success due to the efforts of Alaskan (SASS #79504), One Ton (SASS #45061) and Capt. Le Phew (SASS

#37210). To top it off, for the first time in Dixie Desperados history one person—a Cowgirl—hit all 15 Long Range targets out to 490 yards without a miss. Congratulations to Texas Tiger (SASS #74829).

With 29 categories represented in the Main Match plus Wild Bunch, coordinating the awards appeared to be as challenging as some of the stages. But in the end, it all worked out.

Saturday evening saw everyone in their finest Old West attire at the Hilton Garden Inn. Dixie Bell (SASS #5366) took charge of the evening’s Costume Contest. I have to say, this competition looked to be as tough as that of the Main Match. A tip of my hat to Dixie and her team for a job well done!

So, the 2017 Wild Bunch Western Territorial and Four Corners Regional are both in the books. To say it was quite the experience would be an understatement, as those of you who have put on events such as this surely know. Was it worth it? In the end, I’d have to say “yes!” While no match is perfect, the kind words and compliments we received from so many participants made all of the hard work worthwhile. Our thanks one more time to all of those who took the time to help us months before that first round went down range. We couldn’t have done it without you!

Over the years, our guns and gear have changed quite a bit, with short strokes and improvements that would set Wild Bill back on



The range is looking good and most all the bays have a new coat of paint.

Legends 2017 • Four Corners Regional Championship . . .

his heels. Stage times in the teens have replaced the “fast” 30- to 40-second times of SASS’s early days. But there are many things that have stayed the same—the smiles and laughter you see and hear whenever two or more of us get together. The handshakes and hugs women and men share when they



Darlin Dakota Jo (SASS #51343) knockin’ ’em down with her ’97.



Buckerette, Fast Draw Fawn (SASS #94157) concentrates on hitting those Rifle targets!

see old friends, or make new ones. What other sport, game or club has all that to offer?

Our Men’s Overall Regional Winner is J.T. Wild and our Ladies’ Overall Regional Winner is Texas Tiger. They are also our Western Territorial Overall Wild Bunch Winners. Visit <http://www.dixiedesperados.com/2017-legends-regional.html> for a complete list of scores. 🐾

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Annual Reports

SASS Midwest Regional Championship

Gunsmoke 2016



By La Mujer Loca, SASS #45985

In the American West, the era known and romanticized most frequently is that of the “cowboy,” although the actual span of time was just a few decades long. There is something about individuals forging on into new territory courageously that continues to intrigue us today. And in romanticizing this time, we choose to relive those aspects that elicit the best of the cowboy era annually in Morristown Minnesota, at the SASS Midwest Regional Cowboy Action Shooting™ Championship called Gunsmoke! The 2016 Gunsmoke regional master sponsors included **Wild West Mercantile, Dillon Precision Products, Inc., Cimarron F.A. Co., Wah Maker, Black Hills Ammunition, and EMF Company.**

This Cowboy Action Shooting extravaganza for 2016 spanned September 15 to 19. Campers vied for the choice spots closer to the action and vendors began to set up on Tuesday while the RO1 refresher course took place. Excitement built on Wednesday as more cowpokes arrived to pick up their shooter packets, spend some of their poke on chances to win some finery and jibjabs, while others aimed straight for the Deuce Stevens Shooting School!

Later that afternoon 1911s were being drawn at The Wild Bunch side match that commenced in autumn sunshine but gave way to side matches Thursday in pouring rain. That did not stop a good turnout for the warmup match or buffalo hunt! After a hearty and





Gunsmoke 2016 • SASS Midwest Regional Championship . . .

robust Meet ‘n’ Greet potluck Thursday evening however, we experienced a pink sunset on the trail, promising good weather for the rest of the main event and at dusk the Black Powder Night Exhibition Shoot commenced!

As expected, all the evening festivities and meals were well orchestrated and on time! The Cedar Valley Vigilantes, the local SASS posse, goes all out to present a welcoming, interesting,

and fun match where there is something for everyone, culminating in Mogollon Drifter’s MC of the awards banquet, which always starts off with a “bang!”

Gunsmoke is a favorite venue for SASS shoots because of the superior Old West shooting bays, the Lucky Lady Saloon entertainment center, and room to spread out when the wagons roll in, not to mention the Sutler’s encampment where even the weariest trail dust laden cowboy and gal can get themselves restocked with shooting supplies, gussied up with new

(Continued on page 26)





Gunsmoke 2016 • SASS Midwest Regional Championship . . .
(Continued from page 25)

clothes, and amused with an assortment of gewgaws, whether at Michigan Rattler Leather, Work-N-Ranch, Redwing Trading, XSteel Targets, Bruce More's Custom Leather, Rosewood Visual, The Cloak Drummer, Robert's Foods, Logos Leathercraft, Cowboy Shooter Supply, Coyote Cap Gunworks, Legacy Gun Cases, Lasergraphics, or Giby Made Gun Leather.

A total of 271 shooters from 18 states and foreign countries made their way from the mountains, plains, and prairies to *(Continued on page 28)*





SASS PRESENTS

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- Buffalo Hunt
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Gunsmoke Match Director—Mogollon Drifter



Gunsmoke 2016 • SASS Midwest Regional Championship . . .

(Continued from page 26)

compete in various Cowboy Action Shooting™ venues. Families and individuals, women and men, girls and boys, all came together to participate in a community of the Old West. In addition to the main attraction—the shooting competition—we also gathered to dress in our period costumes, adopting and reenacting the stories from our Old West aliases. And while many of us met again with old friends, there were plenty new friends to be made as well.

The friendly faces of Jackpine Bill (SASS #33477) and Riverboat Red (SASS #71733) are familiar to many of us as a well worn cattle trail, but this year we also met Belle Vaquera (SASS #101340) and Billy Broncstomper (SASS #101339) from Missouri, who are new to the sport just two years! A chance meeting with a Cowboy at their local range introduced them to the sport and being able to dress the part and shoot together keeps this couple interested.

Also mixed in with long time SASS shooters like Far Country Traveler (SASS #19695), Tuco (SASS #46748), and Mogollon Drifter (SASS #13690), was Lady Senior Granny Kathy (SASS #78995), who has been shooting seven years and Trigger Tillie (SASS #66631), eight years, both from North Dakota. What keeps these SASS Cowgirls participating in shooting and fun events is an appreciation of the camaraderie, patience, and acceptance within the family of SASS shooters. And from the looks of their costumes, they spent their pay from the trail at the Work-N-Ranch, who always donates a fancy costume for the ladies and gents that we get to buy a chance to win!

It's also always a pleasure to see the families who attend Gunsmoke like Evil Dogooder (SASS #91557) and Little Miss Lou Who (SASS #102787) as well,



because we know when a family participates together in a sport, they stay in the sport and that builds the next generation of enthusiasts. Volga Vigilante (SASS #102531), who has been participating for just two years, traveled to Gunsmoke from South Dakota with his family, 11-year-old Mr. Squeak (SASS #104373) and 13-year-old South Paw Slim (SASS #102532). Both love the sport, especially when they beat their Pa at the match in Iowa. Ma watches from the sidelines, but we know with a little gentle coaxing and a new outfit from Redwing Trading, shell be shooting soon too!

While I was visiting with the cowboys, a few things struck me about this Gunsmoke championship. First, we had a lot of new shooters or those relatively new to SASS. That was as encouraging as seeing our old friends who still annually join in. Second, most of the new shooters found their way to the sport accidentally. By that, I mean a chance encounter with a SASS member at a range or a sporting goods store. Others told me they found SASS on a TV program, or heard about it from a relative. Third, what appealed to these new shooters was the acceptance and friendliness of the other shooters. It was the “whole package,” as LeAnnie Oakley (SASS #96035) said, the costuming, and the family of shooters that included both women and men who enjoyed the sport and each other.

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Gunsmoke 2016 • SASS Midwest Regional Championship ...



Top Shooters

Overall Man – Deuce Stevens, SASS #55996
 Overall Lady – Two Sons, SASS #12636
 SASS Midwest Regional Champion, Man –
 Cowboy Carty, SASS #86059
 SASS Midwest Regional Champion, Lady –
 Pious Player, SASS #66297

All Results can be found at www.cedarvalleyvigilantes.com/ as well as match information. 🐾

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All this is good news, because if people are discovering this sport by accident, imagine what can happen when we have a consistent message out there accessible and inclusive to the public! Women’s days at the range, kids camps, posters, active online presence all helps, and let’s not forget the good old “tell a friend, family member, or colleague about the fun we have being a Cowboy Action Shooter™!” Also, the more social events spouses can dress up for and experience at our shoots, the more families we will have joining and participating.

Gunsmoke 2016 was a rootin’ tootin’ success thanks to all the hard working members of the Cedar Valley Vigilantes and the hundreds of Cowboy Action Shooters™ who came to play! See ya September 12-16, 2017, Pards!

Guns & Gear

DISPATCHES FROM CAMP BAYLOR

Wild Bunch Traditional Category 1911s

What You Can and Can't Do and What You Should and Shouldn't Do to Prep Your 1911 For Wild Bunch Part One

By Captain George Baylor, SASS #24287 Life Regulator



Captain George Baylor,
SASS Life / Regulator #24287

Wild Bunch Action Shooting has two basic categories (and Women and Senior—65+ variants) based on the 1911 pistols allowed and the shooting style. Traditional guns are meant to be stock appearing (military style) 1911s (and 1911A1s) shot with one hand, and Modern guns allow most of the modifications put into modern carry full-sized 1911s and two hands. We're going to limit this article to Traditional category guns—everything legal in Traditional is legal in Modern. There is still some confusion about what the rules allow, and some rules have changed. We're going to go into detail of items that can make your 1911 more durable, reliable, easier to shoot, and maybe even more accurate.

Traditional guns have to be ostensibly stock in appearance ("military style"), but that leaves several options considering the variations in military 1911s. The rules allow some latitude to make them better for what we do. Yes,

shooting a perfectly stock gun that fits in the rules is legal. Everything else in this series falls under "want to" not "have to." Read the current rules before doing any modifications, even the ones shown here. Don't just take our word for it.

Jeff Cooper once said, "All you need is sights you can see, and a trigger you can use." We'll cover those first.

Sights

"Only non-adjustable 'military style' simple blade rear and front sights allowed. The [10-8 National Match](#) and the [Harrison Design 003](#) are approved rear sights." (Wild Bunch™ Action Shooting Handbook) Several guns (Colt 1991A1 and Series 80 Government Model, Springfield Armory Mil-Spec, Remington R1, and others) have oversized military style sights. Some have white dots on them, but they can be painted over or just hit with a sharpie. Widening the notch to .140± is a good idea if it's narrow. There should be light on each

side of the front sight. The eye will center naturally.

Front Sight

If your sights are the tiny, narrow military sights, you'll want to have big sights you can see. If the front sight is big enough but staked in place, it's a good idea to replace it with a dovetailed front sight. I've had more than one Colt front sight fly off—only during important matches of course. Dovetailed, pinned front sights do not. [10-8 Performance](#) has a selection of taller, wider front sights, as does [Brownells](#) (Gunsmith needed). The front sight can be black, blued, or stainless (bare metal). Gold beads, inserts, and colored sights, sadly, are not allowed in Traditional.

Rear Sight

My number one Traditional gun is a Colt Series 80 Government Model that came with big sights (Photo 1, top). The Redhead won a Cimarron 1911 at the 2015 END of TRAIL Poker Tournament (Photo 1, bottom) that she kindly



1

Two 1911s that fit Wild Bunch Traditional Category rules but have been tuned.



2

Dovetailed front sight made from a blank.



3

Dovetailed front sight.



4

10-8 Rear sight, WB Traditional legal, but improved.

Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

allows me to shoot occasionally. It came with stock 1911A1 sights. I set to work on making it a competition gun to my specs. Long time 1911 gunsmith and Cowboy Ac-

tion Shooting™ and WBAS shooter [Wild Bodie Tom](#) installed a taller, *(Continued on page 32)*

THE Cowboy CHRONICLE

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The Cowboy Chronicle welcomes and encourages submissions of articles and match reports from any and all readers.

Please submit articles in MS Word or something compatible. Open Office and Apple Pages (saved as MS Word) are also fine. A count of 800-1500 words for the printed editions is a good target to shoot for, but shorter pieces are also fine, and we can accommodate larger reports in our virtual-only issues if the material warrants it. We may choose to break very lengthy articles up into two or more parts to run in consecutive issues, or heavily edit them, however.

Please do not embed your photos in the Word document. They can be extracted for use in the The Cowboy Chronicle, but it can be a chore to do that. Instead, send your photos separately, in one or more emails, as attachments. Three to six photos per email usually works best. It's best to send JPEGs, but other formats are acceptable, and it's best to keep them at about 300 dpi and 3000 pixels (10 inches) on the short side. That will allow us plenty of leeway when it comes to cropping and adjusting them for publication, but in any case try to use photos that are at least 1000 pixels on the short side. If you're unsure of the size of your pictures, or how to size them, send what you have and we'll adjust them.

Usually, six photos are sufficient for an article, especially for the printed version, but we will consider using more for a "big" event, if provided. The digital editions can accommodate more images, as well. Photos need not have captions, but captions always make photos more interesting. Ideally, the caption would consist of one or two sentences that say something about the picture that is not obvious and/or is not implicit in the body of the article. "Sam making smoke" is a title but not a caption. "Sam, SASS #XXXXX, shooting his first black powder match; after much deliberation, he decided to give it a try and now he's hooked" is much better. A caption may also serve to let everyone know why the picture is worthy of being published in an international newspaper.

For digital editions, short video clips may also be included. MPEGs, AVIs, WAVs, etc., may all be embedded in Chronicle pages, with MPEGs (mp4) preferable. A better option would be to post your video to YouTube and then provide us with the YouTube link. Those will be viewable provided the reader is connected to the Internet.

Please use editor@sassnet.com for all article submissions.

Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

(Continued from page 31)



10-8 rear sight top view showing setscrew. The setscrew keeps the sight in place during rough handling.

wider, dovetailed front sight he made from a blank (Photos 2 and 3), and A 10-8 NM rear sight (Photos 4 and 5) on it to match. He had installed a similar front sight on my Colt when the original staked front sight went to front sight heaven (during a state championship, of course). The sight pictures on the two guns are almost identical.

Trigger

Wild Bodie Tom gave the Cimarron a crisp trigger at the weight I asked for (not getting into the “mine’s lighter than



A solid trigger with an over-travel adjustment screw.

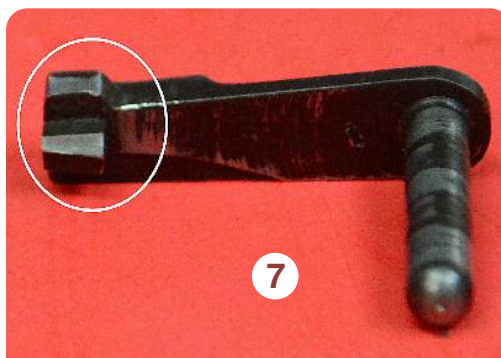
yours” battle). He installed a solid trigger with an over-travel adjustment screw (Photo 6). The rules allow long, medium, or short, but no lightening holes. An over-travel adjustment screw is legal.

Parts that Don’t Break

PARTS ONLY BREAK AT MAJOR MATCHES. This is a corollary of Murphy’s Law. Parts on competition guns take a beating that the average carry gun will never get. I have either encountered or observed failures of slide releases, extractors, firing pins, links, barrel bushings, sears, disconnectors, sear springs, and

plunger tubes. Some parts are MIM (metal injection molding). Some major companies use them extensively. Some are cast. Some are forged. Parts that are CNC machined from billets occupy the top of the food chain. Some companies sell forged slide releases, for example, which are good, and machined ones, better, for a few dollars more. Cylinder and Slide Shop and Wilson Combat are two. Wilson calls its top parts “Bullet Proof.”

All my competition guns have [Wilson Bullet Proof](#) Extractors, firing pins, and slide releases at least. We’ll use the slide release as



Broken Colt slide release.



Wilson “Bullet Proof” Slide release, machined from bar stock.

Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

an example. I have a bin in one of my parts drawers full of broken Colt slide releases. On the other



Standard Colt firing pin on left, Wilson "Bullet Proof" stainless steel firing pin on right.

hand when the first one broke on my 1982 vintage Wilson Combat Colt Series 70 sometime in the 80s, I put in a Bullet Proof Slide Release. It's still there. It has a lifetime warranty. It has a shaft diameter of 0.200. This aids in lockup and thus accuracy. It also has a detent to prevent the slide from locking open under recoil. The plunger should go in the detent and prevent this. Some slide releases don't have one.

Firing Pins

Wilson makes steel and titanium "Bullet Proof" firing pins (Photo 9). I have seen stock firing pins fail. Neither of these is likely to fail. The titanium ones cost twice as much but offer reduced lock time and increased drop safety.

Fitting to your hand

Original 1911s came with flat mainspring housings and long triggers. The complaints were the trigger was too long for some hands and the pistols shot low in point shooting. The A1 came with a short trigger and narrowing cuts in the frame behind the trigger, which allow people with smaller hands to reach the trigger. The arched mainspring housing cured the point shooting problem, but didn't help people with small hands. Mixing and matching these items and grip panels can do a lot toward fitting your hand. In the Traditional Category you can have, in addition to choice of trigger length, choice of mainspring housing to fit, flat or arched (Photo 10). It can be smooth, serrated, or checkered, and it can have a lanyard loop (Photo 11). My Cimarron came with a smooth flat one with a lanyard loop, which

looks really authentic early issue. Wild Bodie Tom put on a checkered flat one. Sadly, it has no lanyard loop. A lanyard loop is an excellent training device on proper loading techniques. If you bruise your hand on it, you're doing it wrong. This also teaches children in earshot words normally only used by drill sergeants, Navy chiefs, and characters in "Deadwood." It will, however, eliminate the blood blisters and gashes from pinching the heel of your hand between the mag and the frame if you grab the magazine too low during reloads. (Grabbing the mag with the tip of your index finger touching the top bullet prevents that, too, without bruises.)

(Continued on page 34)

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Flat mainspring housing on left, arched on right, both checkered. Could be smooth or serrated as well.



Flat smooth mainspring housing with lanyard loop, similar to original 1911 mainspring housing.

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(Continued from page 33)

Recoil Spring Plug

Cylinder and Slide's description of their recoil spring plug (Photo 12) is, "Machined steel recoil spring plug has mil-spec flange punched into the side so the recoil spring can be wound into the plug before seating in the slide. Prevents the plug from flying off spring during field stripping and getting lost or hitting the operator, possibly causing injury." Colts also have these flanges. The flanges don't catch every spring. When you get one for the spares box, get one with flanges. You will need a spare.



Three Recoil Spring Plugs. Colt on right has flanges to minimize the dreaded flying recoil spring plug.

13

Colt WWI replica 1911— frame has no angle cuts behind trigger, original small shelf safety, wide spur hammer, and short grip tang.



14

1911A1— frame has angle cuts behind trigger, wider safety, narrow spur hammer, long grip tang, with added Wilson “Bullet Proof” Slide Release).



Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

Mag Release

The magazine release must be stock size and shape. This does not mean “tactical.” Those stick out further than stock. Sometimes a mag release may be within tolerances but cause sticking mags. Then it’s time to get another good quality one and see if that solves the problem. Swapping with another one that works in another gun can tell you if that’s the cause of your problem. It’s just a matter of tolerances. I put in competition mag release springs on my competition guns (NOT carry guns). Several companies make them. They’re lighter than stock, making it easier to punch the slide release, which, being left handed, I punch with my trigger finger. Cutting a coil off the stock spring is not the same thing. On your carry gun you want a stiff mag release spring. You don’t want to drop your magazine accidentally while in a high adrenalin situation.

Legal frames, Hammers, and Safeties

Mil-Spec changed over the years, and either version is acceptable. The original 1911 frame has

no cuts behind the trigger (photo 13). The A1 frame has angled cuts added to fit the gun to smaller hands. (Photo 14)

The hammer has been a narrow spur (Photo 14) and a wide spur. (Photo 15) Neither is an advantage. Both varied with supplier and time. Both are legal.

The original thumb small undercut safety (Photo 13) and the later A1 safety (Photo 14) are both legal. Note: thumb and grip safeties must work. They are being checked at big matches now. 🐶



15

Colt WWI replica 1911. The wide spur hammer, commonly referred to as the Type 3 hammer, was used on Colt 1911 pistols from serial number 108,601 to 714,000. Both wide and narrow spur hammers are legal for WB Traditional. Neither has any competitive advantage over the other.

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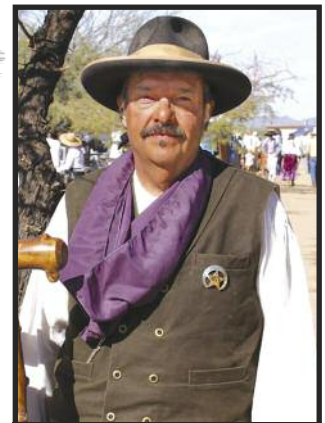
Holster Formers and other Goodies

By Larsen E. Pettifogger, SASS #32933 Life Regulator

We all know what our firearms cost and we know they must be maintained to give their best performance. There is another piece of our shooting equipment that in many cases gets

ignored. That is our leather. A good set of holsters can easily cost five hundred dollars or more. They are a substantial investment that also needs to receive some occasional care to perform at their best.

A lot of people shove tennis balls into their holsters to help the holsters keep their shape (Photo 1). A holster that is shaped properly minimizes friction on the gun when it is drawn from the holster. Aside from the cylinder and frame area of the holster, which is aided by insertion of the tennis balls, the ejector rod rubbing in the barrel channel portion of the holster can also cause a lot of friction (Photos 2 and 3). The gun in Photo 1 was used in one match and the bluing

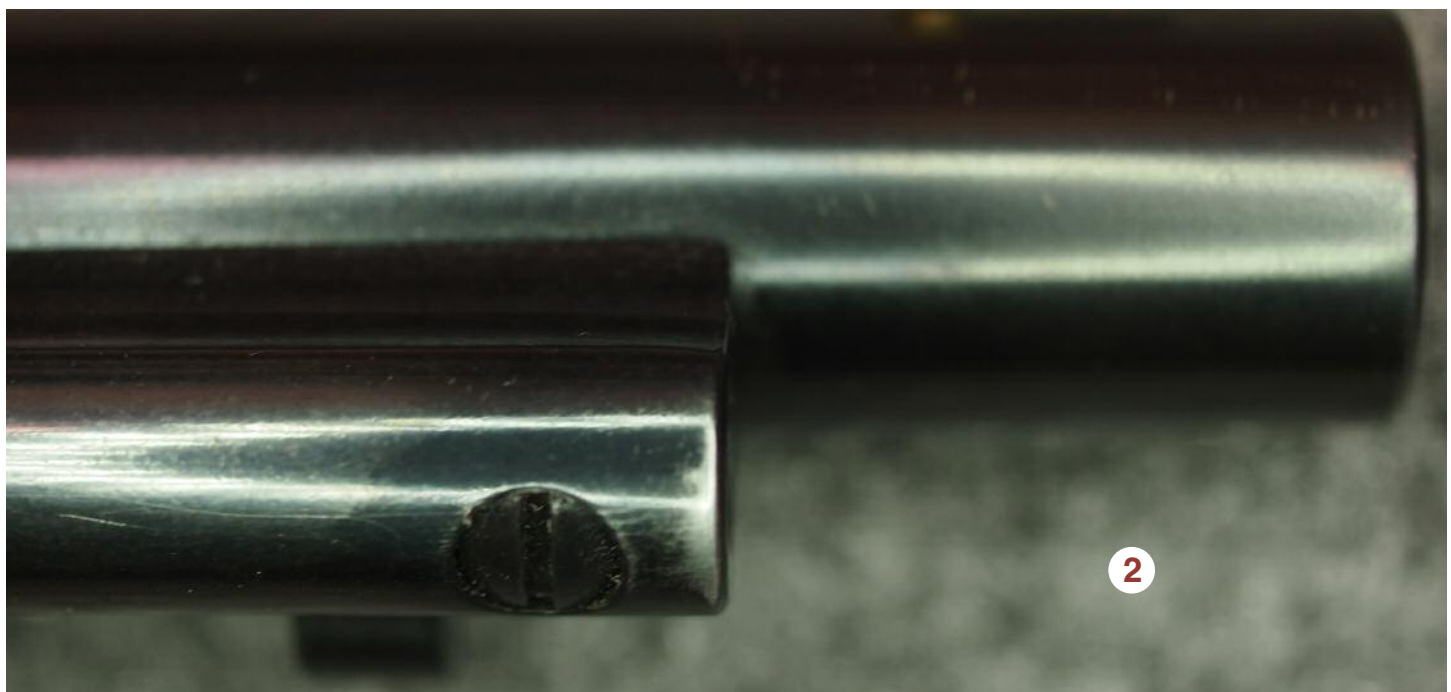


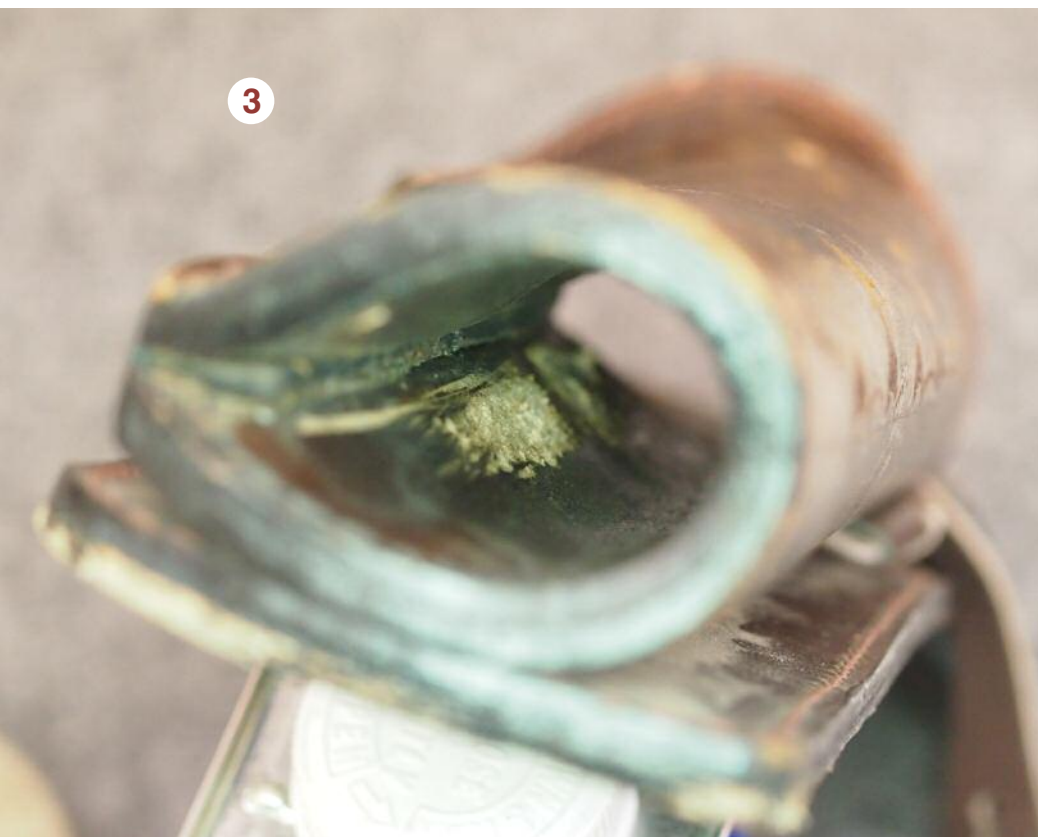
Larsen E. Pettifogger, SASS Life #32933



on the ejector housing is already starting to wear from friction with the holster. The light area inside the holster in Photo 3 is where the holster lining has been worn by friction from the ejector housing. The tennis ball trick does not address this area of friction. So many shooters will use one of the various holster “slick-um” treatments, available from several manufacturers. These are usually a thick liquid you stick a finger into and then use your finger to wipe the contact areas inside the holster.

Shotgun Boogie has taken these ideas to a new level. After





Holster Formers and other Goodies . . .

trying dozens of angles and configurations he has come up with something that looks deceptively simple—a set of wooden holster formers (Photo 4). While these formers look simple, the angles and contours were worked out after a lot of experimentation. The formers come bare wood and Boogie recommends putting finish on them to keep them from absorbing oil, dirt, and grime from the holsters. The formers in Photo 5 were given a coat of stain and then sprayed with polyurethane. If the formers are not finished they will still work just fine, they will just get a nice “patina.” Photo 6 shows some of the compound angles and curves and photo 7 shows the formers in a couple of different style holsters.

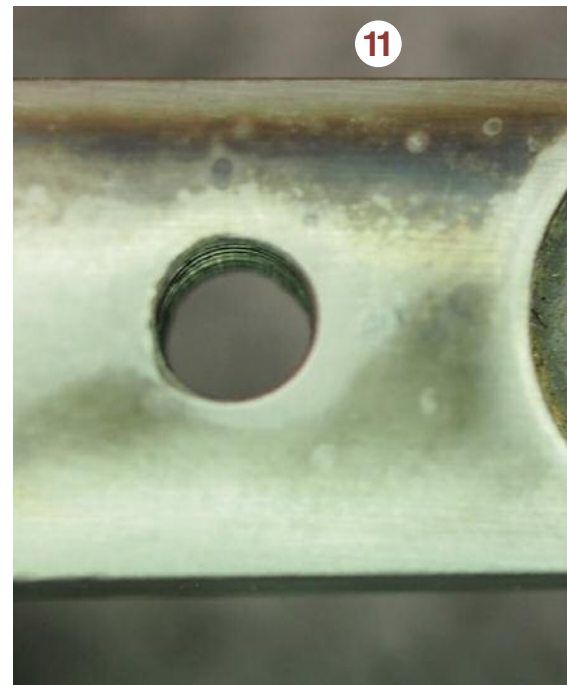
It’s dry here in Arizona and even though all my leather is hung from racks indoors in the air conditioning they still tend to dry out and shrink a little or lose their

shape if left unused for a long time. Photo 8 shows a former inserted into an old holster I have not used for about seven years. My revolvers would only fit into the holsters with a good deal of effort and trying to draw from the holsters was a bit of a chore as they were quite sticky. The formers were inserted and in a couple of days the guns slid in and out like greased lightning. These particular holsters are double flared so each time I go to a match, when I put the formers back in the holsters I reverse them. This keeps both flares in good shape. These holsters now feel so good I have started using them again as my main match holsters.

The formers fit pretty much all holsters except holsters with metal or Kydex inserts between the layers of leather that are form fitted to the exact profile of the revolver. For example, the holsters in Photo 1 have inserts and the inserts are

formed to the gun, as can be seen from the sculpting around the cylinders. They are also form-fitted around the ejector housings. The holsters in Photos 3, 7, and 8 all have metal inserts but they are not form-fitted to the guns, so the holster formers work perfect. Many brands of holsters are heavy single layers of leather or double

(Continued on page 38)



Holster Formers and other Goodies . . .

(Continued from page 37)

layers of leather with no metallic or Kydex inserts. The formers should work well with all of these.

Next up is a little item that won't make you any faster but it will spruce up your Uberti '73 rifle a bit. As seen in Photo 9, '73s have a lever lock. When using the rifle the lever lock is twisted to the rear to unlock the lever (Photo 10). Sometimes that little lock can get bumped and create quite a surprise when you pick up your rifle to blast off a quick ten shots and find you cannot work the lever. After a few seconds of fiddling, you figure it out, twist the lock, and finish the stage, but your

buckle winning time just went down the drain. A lot of folks simply remove the lock but this leaves an ugly hole (Photo 11). Boogie has made some stainless steel hole plugs. They are available in bright stainless or fire blue (Photo 12). They are super simple to install. Simply remove the pin and spring from the lock (Photo 13), install the plug, and replace the spring and pin. They look quite nice and are polished so bright you can even see my reflection in the plug surfaces (Photos 14 and 15).

The last item is something that might make you a little faster—a titanium carrier. Photo 16 shows a



factory brass carrier on the left, an aluminum carrier on the right, and the new titanium carrier in the middle. Some people like the mass of the original brass carrier. Others like the lighter feel they get from an aluminum carrier. Some try to compromise by removing material from the brass carrier to make it lighter. This may be a case where one carrier is too heavy, one is too light, and the one in the

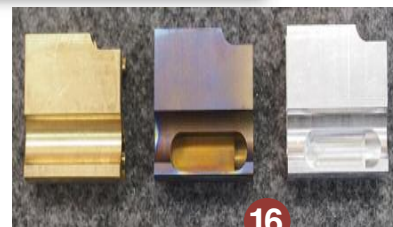




Holster Formers and other Goodies

middle is just right. The brass carrier weighs 3.6 ounces (Photo 17). The aluminum carrier weighs 1.1 ounces (Photo 18). The titanium carrier weighs in at 1.9 ounces (Photo 19). When you pick up the aluminum carrier and then pick up the titanium carrier, the titanium one feels almost heavy in comparison. However, when you then pick up the brass carrier everything comes back into perspective. The titanium carrier is markedly lighter but still has a little heft for those that like some feedback when they are levering quickly. Aside from the weight, the titanium carrier is also virtually impervious to wear. Titanium is a tough material and the carrier should outlast the gun in which it is installed.

As many of you know, Shotgun Boogie is from Germany and is a master craftsman and innovator. He enjoys Cowboy Action Shooting™ so much, he has moved to the good old USA. If you type his name in an Internet search engine his German website will still come up. However, he has a new American website. For pricing and availability you can reach him at <https://www.sbgwllc.com>.



History

Los Vaqueros

Creators of the American West

By Col. Richard Dodge, SASS #1750 Life



California horse.



*Col. Richard Dodge,
SASS #1750*

All SASS members and anyone else who has studied the American West are aware the Mexican vaquero started it all by creating the traditions and techniques that guided the development of the American cowboy and the cattle industry. The story of the vaquero is an interesting one and it reveals the fascinating history of California and the American West.

Before Texas or California, even

before the American Revolution, the Spanish occupation of Mexico and the American Southwest was based on the cattle industry. Spain's stronghold on the area lasted for some 300 years before being threatened by the southward movements of the Russian fur traders from the north. Fearing the intrusion into their New World Empire, they needed to establish a Spanish presence in California, which they did

by sending Franciscan missionaries to Christianize California's Native American Indians and with a chain of missions and a source of trade based on their own well-established cattle industry.

For centuries, many believed California to be an island of fabulous beauty and wealth—and they weren't too far wrong. California was a virtual island, one of the most remote places on Earth, separated from the rest of the world by the almost insurmountable barriers of the Pacific Ocean to the west, parched deserts and soaring mountain ranges to the east, and an impossible trek from Mexico City to the south.

The padres who made the arduous journey to California were a remarkable group of men. Most were second and third-born sons of an aristocracy that deeded everything to the oldest son, leaving daughters and younger sons to the mercy and generosity of the eldest. That left few options for establishing career and fortune, the military



Vaqueros and bull.

Los Vaqueros • Creators of the American West . . .

or priesthood being the most acceptable. Thus many of those who entered the priesthood were highly educated men. In addition to the study of horsemanship, fencing, dancing, the arts, and all the other obligatory lessons of the aristocracy, as priests they learned languages, architecture, agriculture, and other skills necessary for surviving in the wilds to which they would be assigned.

So California was settled with various levels of force by men highly educated, skilled in the arts and sciences, and filled with a determination born of righteous zeal. They established the beginnings of the American West in the form of the famous California missions running from Baja California in present day Mexico some 500 miles north—even beyond San Francisco—along “*El Camino Real*,” the “king’s road.” Spaced a day’s ride apart, most of the missions have now been restored and they are indeed outstand-

ing, beautiful works of art, designed by the padres and built on the backs of the “Christianized” Indians.

The missions were granted huge tracts of land far larger than the huge cattle ranches of Texas several decades in the future and charged with raising cattle and sheep as a major product for Spanish trade. The missions’ herds quickly grew into thousands of wild cattle roaming freely over hundreds of thousands of acres of mission lands.

Vast herds of free-ranging cattle require a means to control them. Thus, the padres had to train the Indians in their charge with the skills needed to manage the herds: horsemanship, roping, branding, breeding, butchering, etc. Traditionally, the horse was considered a weapon of war; only the landed aristocracy was allowed to ride and death was a routine punishment for a peasant who broke that rule. But the padres had no

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Vaqueros and bear.

Los Vaqueros • Creators of the American West . . .

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choice; they had to train the Indians to work the herds and that meant learning horsemanship. The time-honored equestrian skills of Old Spain were thus transplanted into California and within a couple of generations, these California Indians, who were naturally “in tune” with the behaviors and mind set of the horse, became splendid horsemen, some of the finest in the world. Sadly, for all their skill and pride in their craft, the vaquero began and remained a simple peon at the bottom of the social scale, never considered to be more than a lowly laborer. And he laid the foundation for the American cowboy to follow some 40 years later.

Contact and trade with ships of other nations was forbidden by the Spanish government, a foolhardy and unworkable arrangement as it turned out, considering the natural curiosity and hospitality of the priests and the aggressive business practices of the Yankee traders who immediately recognized the wealth to be had in trade with the California missions.

Following Mexico’s independence from Spain in 1821, Mexico realized it had to exercise control over California. Several groups of settlers were sent there to establish colonies and large land grants of hun-

dreds of thousands of acres each were awarded to almost any who requested them. Indeed, many Americans established homes and fortunes for themselves by fulfilling the requirements for Mexican citizenship at the time: learning Spanish, becoming Catholic, and marrying into a Mexican-Californio family. Many of California’s important historical figures are among them.

The impossible travel conditions and Mexico’s own internal problems eventually led to near abandonment of California by the Mexican government. Most of the administrators sent to Alta California were weak, corrupt or incompetent – or all three. Despised by the Californios, they were ineffectual in imposing Mexico’s rule and the Californios essentially did as they pleased.

In the early 1830s, the missions were secularized and sold as private property. Many were abandoned and began a long period of decay as the Rancho Period developed. Though it existed only from about 1825 until 1860—some 35 years—fading away with the Gold Rush and the arrival of the Americans and American statehood in 1850, the Rancho Period is one of the most interesting and colorful periods in American history.

The Californios were free to develop their own culture and society and they did. On close examination,

Los Vaqueros • Creators of the American West . . .

their life closely paralleled that of the Old South, which existed at the same time with wealthy landowners and a lower class of Indian servants and vaqueros.

The Californio horseman, caballero and vaquero alike, existed in a unique environment that allowed a comfortable and thoughtful development of his craft. Beginning with a highly developed equestrian tradition, they literally lived in the saddle and rarely walked anywhere. The major tools the vaquero had for his survival were his rawhide *reata* and his knife. In the vast unfenced lands populated by very wild cattle with vicious, hooked horns and very dangerous California grizzly bears, a man afoot was as good as dead.

With the time and traditions of fine horsemanship, the vaqueros developed a system of training their horses that was unhurried and remarkable in its results. Far different from the rough and tumble “bronc buster” of American cowboy fame, the vaquero normally took several years to train his mount and didn’t consider it finished until the horse was about eight years old after six to eight years of careful work. Beginning with the “bozell” or “hackamore,” the vaquero led the young horse gently and surely into a sure-footed, highly responsive and trusting steed, introducing the bit only after the horse was ready for it after two or three years. These training methods are still practiced in California today, especially along the California coast from San Diego to Monterey. The horses are a sight to behold as they perform splendid feats with perfection under imperceptible cues from their riders.



The Vaquero.

The vaquero’s horsemanship was his ultimate pride and he proved it at every opportunity. It was basic technique for a man to rope a cow and throw it without dismounting from his horse. It’s almost magic to see a horse standing patiently and seemingly unconcerned, then tuck his head and prick his ears at the slightest signal from its rider, ready to respond instantly to any command.

It was routine for a vaquero to ride out and rope a grizzly bear and drag it back to the rancho to be matched against a bull in an almost unimaginable, grisly fight to the death. More often, four or five vaqueros would go after a bear and secure the beast with several *reatas* to prevent it from attacking any one horseman. The California grizzly is the largest of the grizzlies on the North American continent; they are large, dangerous and aggressive. This practice is all the more remarkable in view of the horse’s natural fear of bears. Any horse not so well-trained will panic and flee

at first scent of a bear, with or without its rider.

Francisco Dana of the famed Dana family of Santa Maria tells of riding alone into the hills surrounding his family’s *hacienda* in search of such a bear. He tells of how cautious one must be to avoid accidentally encountering two or three at once. On this particular occasion he caught a rather large one, threw his *riata* over its head and proceeded to drag the beast home. The struggling bear managed to strangle itself to death and young Francisco simply retrieved his loop and went back to fetch another!

As an added historical note, the terms “bull” and “bear” market come from this bloody spectacle. The bull’s attack on the bear was an upward hook with its horns, while the bear moved to pull the bull downward. It is recorded that the bear usually prevailed in these matches, though he was usually seriously injured and was killed anyway for his pelt.

The *reata* was braided from strips of rawhide cut in a continuous circle from the center of a cowhide—a skilled leather craftsman could get a strip more than 100 feet long from one hide. The *reata* was often 60 to 100 feet long and the rider would throw a loop more than eight feet across, necessary for passing over the cattle’s long horns. The finished *reata* would stretch only so far and the rider had to exercise great care when controlling a thousand pound steer to not stretch it too abruptly and break it.

Many different casts were used, depending on the situation: backhand, over the top, backward, and so on. Often, bears were las-

(Continued on page 44)

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(Continued from page 43)

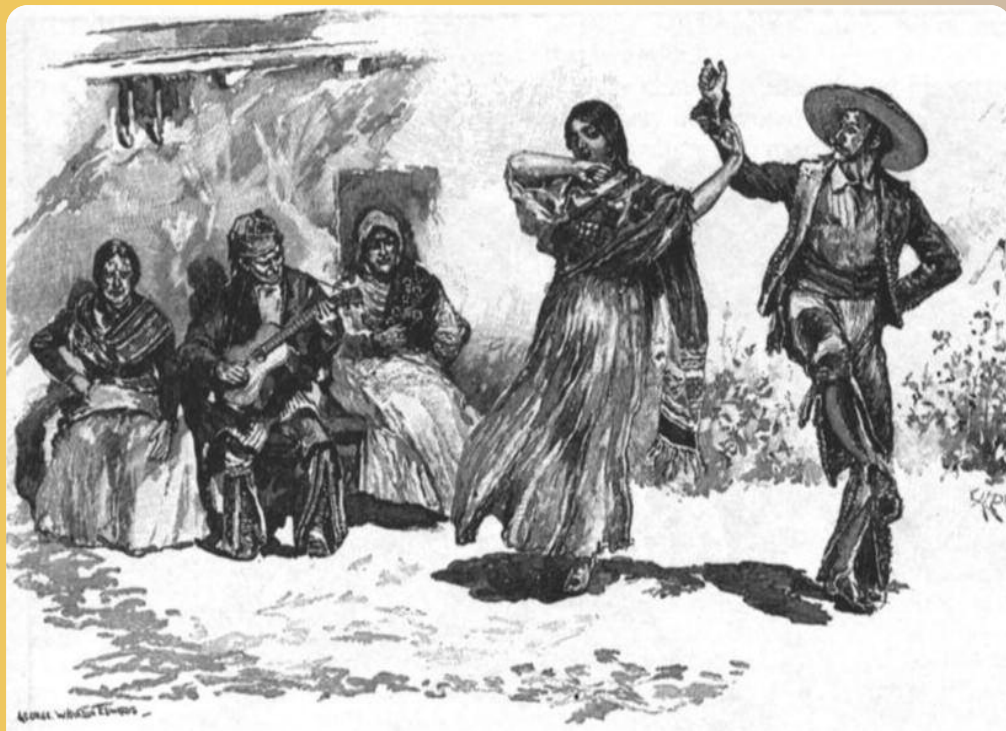
soed with the horse facing away from the bear to facilitate escaping the bear's charge.

Vaqueros were true artists at braiding their horse tack. Reins, quirts, headstalls and other leather tack were braided with thin strips of leather or horsehair into stunning works of art. The Californio reins were braided and joined at a loop where they were held by the rider's hand. From that same loop dangled a three-foot long braided fall, ending in a wide, flat strip of leather like that on a quirt. The vaquero's horse didn't need to be "ground-tied" as was the practice with the American cow pony; it would remain were it was when the rider dismounted, leaving the reins looped over the saddle horn.

Their saddle was developed from the military saddle of the *conquistadors*, adding the wide, flat horn for roping and the wide skirts to protect horse and rider from the brush. The American cowboy's saddle evolved from that vaquero saddle with various regional differences, again to suit the tastes and needs of that region. The horn became smaller and taller, the skirts became smaller, the cantle lower or higher, the pommel wider or narrower—true treasures of American folk art.

"Vaquero" became "buckaroo" in American lingo; "*la reata*" became "lariat," only two of many words assimilated into our language from the Californio vaquero. The rodeo ("ro-day-o" in Spanish) came from the vaquero tradition of competing and displaying their riding expertise. The Californios loved racing their prized steeds and waged frightening sums on the outcomes of even impromptu races. Snatching up a handkerchief or a chicken buried to its neck in the sand while riding at full gallop was a very popular game at which almost every vaquero was competitive.

The vaqueros—as did all Californios—loved to dance; it was one of the few things they would do dismounted. Fandangos were held in a three-sided enclosure called a "ramada" (another familiar word); the mounted vaqueros would gather at the open end of the ramada to watch. When the time came for the man to join in a dance, he would dismount, remove his spurs



The Fandango.

and hang them on his saddle horn, join the dance, then remount to wait until the next dance.

The American cowboy shared that love of dance and stories have been told of young men riding amazing distances to take a girl to a dance and return her home. The American cowboy inherited the vaquero's immense pride in his craft and in his station in life. Though he was at the bottom of the social order in the Old West, the cowboy envisioned himself as nothing less than nobility and the equal of any man. And he was right. Alas, the vaquero was never romanticized as was the American cowboy.

The next time you "cowboy up," it might be worth a thought back to that proud vaquero who was a product of the California missions and the ranchos and who was the creator of the history and traditions we all love and share.

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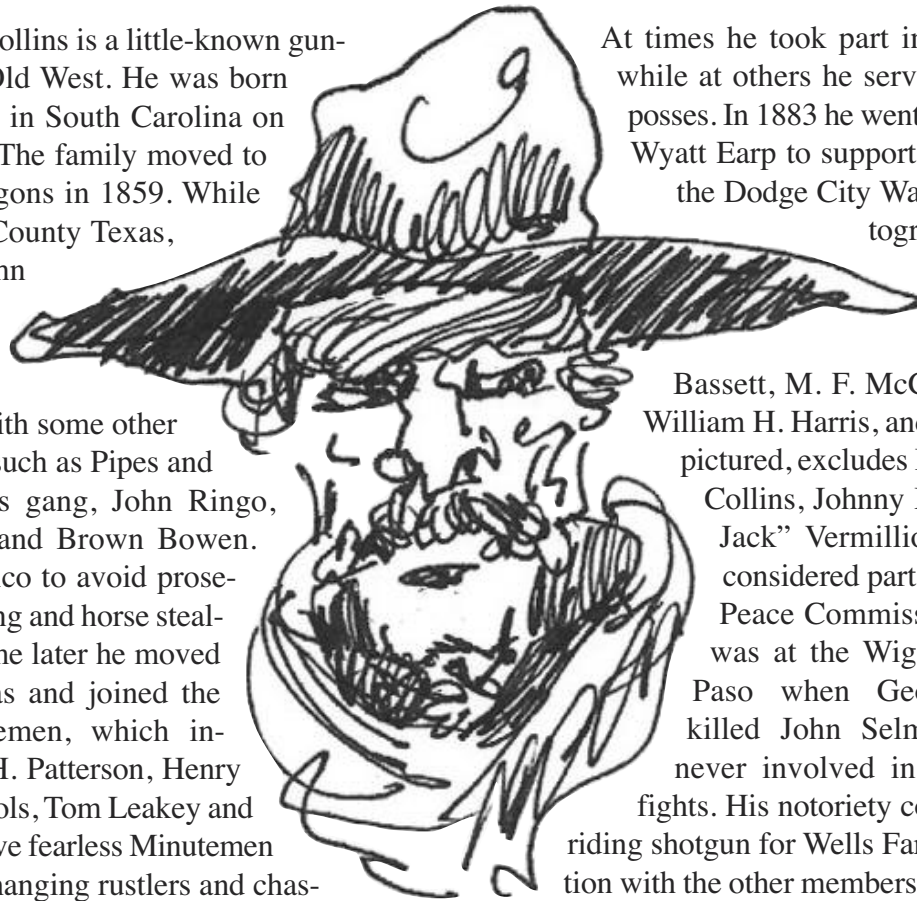
*Joe Fasthorse,
SASS #48769*

LITTLE KNOWN FAMOUS PEOPLE

- Way Out West -

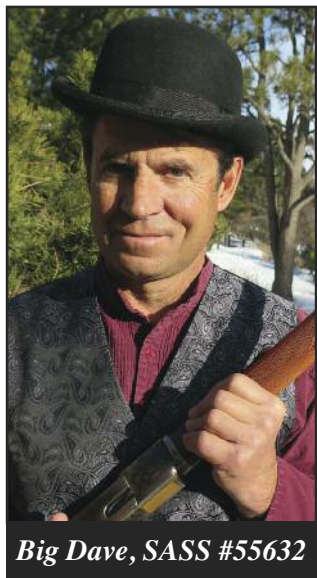
By Joe Fasthorse, SASS #48769

“Shotgun” John Collins is a little-known gunfighter of the Old West. He was born Abraham G. Graham in South Carolina on November 22, 1851. The family moved to Texas in covered wagons in 1859. While living in Limestone County Texas, teenagers Shotgun John Collins and John Wesley Hardin were partners. John Collins was associated with some other noted Texas outlaws such as Pipes and Herndon of the Bass gang, John Ringo, Manning Clements, and Brown Bowen. Shotgun fled to Mexico to avoid prosecution for cattle rustling and horse stealing in Texas. Sometime later he moved back to Uvalde Texas and joined the Uvalde Five Minutemen, which included Captain J. J. H. Patterson, Henry Patterson, W. B. Nichols, Tom Leakey and John Collins. These five fearless Minutemen cleared the range by hanging rustlers and chasing Indians out of West Texas. In 1875 Collins moved up to Silver City New Mexico where he shot and killed Jim Smith. He was arrested by Sheriff Whitehall but later bailed himself out for \$60. Shotgun Collins met William H. Bonney in Silver City and rode the countryside with Billy the Kid. The two became pals and both fought in the Lincoln County War. John Collins met Wyatt Earp and Pat Garrett while working for Wells Fargo. He later worked as a buffalo hunter and a US Cavalry Scout during the Army’s fight with Geronimo and the Apaches. Collins drifted for a time through El Paso, Texas and later to Dodge City, Kansas.



At times he took part in outlaw activities, while at others he served as a member of posses. In 1883 he went to Dodge City with Wyatt Earp to support Luke Short during the Dodge City War. The famous photograph in which Wyatt Earp, Luke Short, Bat Masterson, Charlie Bassett, M. F. McClain, Neal Brown, William H. Harris, and W. F. Pettillion are pictured, excludes Bill Tilghman, John Collins, Johnny Millsap and “Texas Jack” Vermillion, who were also considered part of the “Dodge City Peace Commission.” John Collins was at the Wigwam Saloon in El Paso when George Scarborough killed John Selman. Shotgun was never involved in any famous gunfights. His notoriety comes from his days riding shotgun for Wells Fargo and his association with the other members of the “Dodge City Peace Commission.” In 1903 Collins moved his

family to Mexico and worked as a guard for Greene Gold and Silver in Old Mexico until the Mexican Revolution. In 1910 he moved his family back to Texas. Shotgun John Collins died in a gunfight in El Paso at the age of 71. His death certificate says otherwise. The Old Ghost Horseman wasn’t a bad man or a good man. He was a product of the times. Outlaw, gunfighter, and sometimes lawman, “Shotgun” Collins was buried under his given name, Abe Graham, in the Catholic Section of El Paso’s Concordia Cemetery in the same section as his old partners John Wesley Hardin and John Selman. 🐾



Big Dave, SASS #55632

History

Grover Cleveland

Survives a Sex Scandal

By Big Dave, SASS #55632



The only thing people like more than a cannibalism story (see the June issue) is a sex scandal. As it turns out, President Grover Cleveland found himself to be the subject of just such a thing—a sex scandal, that is. Cleveland’s scandal had all the earmarks of a modern imbroglio, except back in those days reporters didn’t go into the lurid detail they employ today. However, there was one other point of departure. When the story broke, Grover Cleveland ’fessed up and the damage was mitigated, enough so he was elected president in 1884.

Cleveland, a Democrat, was nicknamed “Grover the Good” because, unlike his rival James Blaine, there was no hint of corruption about him. At the time of the election he was governor of New York and known to be a reformer. Blaine, on the other hand, was a congressman who had been involved in taking bribes for political favors. During the Election of 1884, the Democrats hammered Blaine about his past at every opportunity. Then the Republicans found out about Maria Halpin and Cleveland’s love child. As you can imagine, they gleefully wielded this weapon against “Grover the Good.”

Ten years before, Cleveland and Maria Halpin had been romantically involved. She became pregnant and had a child—a boy—who was given the surname Cleveland. Shortly afterward, Maria Halpin was committed to an insane asylum. Eventually, she was released and the Republicans got wind of the sordid tale in time for the presidential election. They even made up a catchy little jingle about it: “Ma, ma, where’s my pa?”

The Halpin story seemed to be a godsend. It was



When the news about Cleveland’s affair with Maria Halpin became known, Cleveland’s opponents gleefully used it against him.

sad and sleazy. It involved a “fallen woman” and an illegitimate child. Grover Cleveland could be painted as a hypocrite and even better, voters could focus on that rather than the fact James Blaine was as crooked as a dog’s hind leg. Somebody rounded up a preacher to decry the whole thing and pound the Bible about it.

Pastor Henry W. Crabbe wrote to the (New York) *Buffalo Evening Telegraph* to deliver the condemnation, “I am very sorry to say that he [Cleveland] is a corrupt, licentious man. He has never been married and is notoriously bad with women.” Cleveland was described as a “libertine” in another letter to the *Chicago Tribune*. This is kind of cynical, but I’ll bet the good pastor Crabbe was a rock-ribbed Republican who had

Grover Cleveland • Survives a Sex Scandal . . .



Cleveland claimed he was only one of Maria Halpin's lovers and that he took responsibility for her child to spare his married friends any embarrassment.

Maria Halpin. It was a “youthful indiscretion,” although Cleveland was 40 years old at the time. Besides, they suggested, Miss Halpin had been “free with her affections.” It was claimed those affections had been shared with a number of prominent businessmen and the governor, who was a bachelor, took the hit because some of the other guys were married. It was rather noble of Cleveland, they claimed. Cleveland wasn’t even sure the child was his but he took responsibility, gave the child a name, paid child support, and by golly did the right thing. Furthermore, he never took bribes like James Blaine.

Today a DNA test would prove who the father was, but back then it was a matter of “he said, she said.” The unfortunate truth is, everything was stacked in Cleveland’s favor. He may have been the father, but then again he may have been taking the fall for his married friends. Perhaps the whole thing about his married friends was “fake news.” However, it couldn’t be proven one way or another and given the double standard in the nineteenth century about men’s behavior and that of women, Cleveland had the upper hand. Besides, Cleveland was wealthy and well connected while Maria Halpin was not.

This was a period when women had little political power. Women were granted the right to vote in the



Grover Cleveland is considered one of the better presidents of the period between Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt.

state of Wyoming in 1890. This was six years after the Presidential Election of 1884. It’s irrelevant anyway; the vast majority of states, even after 1890, had no provision for women’s suffrage until well into the twentieth century. There were not a lot of female lawyers, and those few in existence were given scant respect. New York did not have a single female lawyer at the time of the scandal. As the great singer James Brown put it, it was a “man’s world.” A troublesome woman like Maria Halpin could be put in an insane asylum and have her child taken from her. This entire event would probably have had a different outcome today.

In the end, Cleveland won the election by a comfortable margin in the Electoral College, but it was much closer in the popular vote. The Halpin scandal was embarrass-

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Grover Cleveland • Survives a Sex Scandal . . .

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ing, to be sure, but by meeting the thing head on, Cleveland mitigated it. The truth was, enough voters in 1884 preferred Cleveland to Blaine. Cleveland had at least the appearance of integrity, especially in his home state of New York. Blaine, on the other hand, looked like another corrupt party hack. Even a number of Republicans couldn't stomach Blaine and voted for Cleveland. The Democrats' answer to "Ma, ma, where's my pa?" was "Gone to the White House, ha, ha, ha!"

It was remarkable that Cleveland managed to win. There had not been a Democratic president elected since 1856. (That was James Buchanan, rated by most historians as the worst in America's history.) The majority of Americans still associated the Democratic Party with the Confederacy, slavery, secession, and the Civil War. In a presidential election, it was much worse to be tagged as a Democrat than it was to be tagged as a lecher. Even if you were a Democrat from the northern states, you still had to deal with the association of dis-



While in office, Grover Cleveland married his law partner's daughter, who was 27 years younger than he. Frances Cleveland became a very popular First Lady.

loyalty to the Union, a legacy of the so-called "copperheads." (This was unfair since most northern Democrats remained staunchly loyal to the Union during the Civil War.)

Grover Cleveland turned out to be a pretty good president. Most historians consider him to be the most effective president since Abraham Lincoln. However, you have to take that with a grain of salt, since the presidents that followed Lincoln were a pretty bland lot until Theodore Roosevelt came along. James Garfield might have been great, but he was assassinated by someone who was one taco shy of a combination plate. Cleveland fought for lower tariffs and better government, but didn't manage to accomplish anything earth shattering during his first administration. However, he stood up to Congress and vetoed more than 300 bills in his first term.

Presidential trivia buffs will note that Cleveland was the only president to serve two non-consecutive terms. He was also the first president to be married while in office. In May 1886, Cleveland married Frances Folsom, who was 27 years his junior. At age 21, Frances Cleveland became the youngest First Lady in American history and still remains so. This caused a minor scandal in itself because Frances was the daughter of Cleveland's law partner. "Uncle Cleve" had known Frances since her infancy and she had been his protégé. Once, when asked why he remained unmarried for so long, Cleveland replied he was "waiting for my bride to grow up." The marriage

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brought about more than a few snickers. Despite all of this, Frances Cleveland proved to be an intelligent and popular First Lady.

Cleveland was also recorded as the second heaviest president in American history, coming behind William Howard Taft. (It should be noted that girth was greatly admired in those days and suggested wealth and solidity.)

Cleveland lost in 1888 to Benjamin Harrison in an aching close election. In fact, Cleveland won the popular vote but lost in the Electoral College. He failed to carry his home state of New York because his efforts at reform antagonized Tammany Hall in New York City. Tammany Hall was a corrupt rat's nest of city officials who were adept at buying votes and lining their own pockets. The irony of it was the Tammany Hall people were Democrats.

In 1892, Cleveland ran against Harrison again and won. It was a mixed blessing because Wall Street went into one of its periodic upheavals the next year. The Panic of 1893 wasn't Cleveland's fault, but he got the blame for it. This, of course, is a recurring theme in history. The best thing that happened that year to Cleveland was Frances gave birth to a daughter. "Baby Ruth" Cleveland allegedly had a candy bar named for her decades later. (This is open to controversy—the Curtiss Candy Company could have capitalized on the name of the famous baseball player and claimed Ruth Cleveland to avoid paying royalties.)

Is there a lesson in all this? I suppose the lesson is, if you get caught at something when you're a public figure, you might as well tell the truth, as long as there's no possible way to crawfish out of it. The problem is, the version of the truth Cleveland told regarding Maria Halpin is tainted by the fact she might actually not have been fooling around with a number of other men. That part of the story was hearsay. Cleveland might well have been her only lover at the time of conception and added the other part to appear nobler than he actually was. Furthermore, Maria Halpin was treated shabbily—there was no indication that she was mentally unstable and deserved to have her baby taken from her. The fact was, Cleveland won the Election of 1884 because the scandal was cleverly handled. Also, in every other way, Grover Cleveland was a man of considerable integrity, unlike his opponent.

So, it probably turned out for the best with some qualifications. That's about all you can say about many events in history. A lot of them, perhaps most, turn out for the worst. The only thing I can say with some certainty is Bill Clinton should have read up on the Election of 1884.

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Tuolumne Lawman,
SASS Life #6127

Reviews - Product

Taylor's Firearms Brings Back the Early West



Uberti 1860 Henry in .45 Colt / Schofield

Part 1

By Tuolumne Lawman, SASS #6127 Life



The 1860 Henry.

Tammi Loy and Taylor's Firearms have been pioneers in helping to bring us the firearms of the early Wild West. Their Uberti 1860 Henry rifle appeals to Cowboy Action Shooting™ competitors whose personas are from the earlier years of the Old West, and who want one of the earliest repeating rifles to journey westward with pioneers, cowboys, lawmen, and badmen.

1860 Henry History

In the late 1850s, virtually all shoulder arms were single shot. Most were "front stuffers" that required loading each shot by pouring powder down the barrel,

ramming a single bullet down with a ram rod, then priming the nipple with a percussion cap. Needless to say, this made repeat shots *very* slow! Some exceptions to the norm were the Sharps rifles and a few other breechloaders like the Smith and Maynard that loaded paper, brass, or rubber cartridges from the breech, but were still primed with a percussion cap. These were all still single shot arms. The most revolutionary exception was the experimental lever action Volcanic Repeating Rifle, which was designed by D.B. Wesson, of Smith and Wesson fame. This rifle was available in .31 and .41 calibers.

Both calibers used a hollow lead bullet that contained a small 6.5-grain powder charge and a priming compound. To say either Volcanic caliber was anemic in the performance area is an understatement.

Oliver Winchester saw the potential this design had. He bought the Volcanic Arms Co., renamed it New Haven Arms Co., and set out to improve on the design. He wisely employed Volcanic's superintendent, an inventor named B. Tyler Henry. Winchester, knowing the Volcanic's shortcoming was the very underpowered ammunition (that had a really nasty habit of going off in the under barrel magazine), put Henry

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Matthew Brady's photo of the 7th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, armed with their Henrys.

Taylor's Firearms Brings Back the Early West (pt.1) . . .

in charge of ammunition development.

In 1858, Henry patented a revolutionary .44 caliber rimfire cartridge. It utilized a copper case with a priming compound in the folded rim, much like a modern day .22 LR cartridge. The powder charge was 26 to 28 grains of black powder behind either a 216-grain conical or 200-grain flat point bullet. The latter was referred to as the ".44 Henry Flat." The bullet was a "healed" design, which means the bullet is the same diameter as the cartridge case. To attach the bullet to the case, the base of the bullet is rebated, this smaller diameter portion being crimped inside the case (also like a modern .22 LR round). The original Henry rounds moved out at between 1100 and 1150 fps. While not a powerhouse by today's standards, it would prove very popular during its time.

Winchester coupled this cartridge with a modification of the old Volcanic rifle, and in 1860 the Henry Repeating Rifle was born. It was a heavy weapon, tipping the scales at almost 9½ pounds! The majority of this weight was in the barrel and magazine, which was machined out of a single solid forged piece of steel more than two feet long. The Henry rifle had an exposed hammer and finger lever like the earlier Volcanic. Rather than a cartridge loading gate on the side of the receiver like later designs, the Henry loaded from the muzzle end of the magazine tube. Another distinctive feature of the Henry is the absence of a wood forearm.

The new Henry rifle held an unprecedented 15 shots in the magazine and one more in the chamber. In

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Loading the Henry.

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a world full of single shot muzzle loaders, this was unbelievable! The Henry rifle earned a much-deserved reputation for awesome firepower! While a muzzle-loader is capable of several shots a minute, the new Henry rifle was capable of one aimed shot every second! Because of this, the 1860 Henry has long been referred to by many gun writers as “the first Assault Rifle.” Oliver Winchester capitalized on this with some rather fanciful advertising. He said the Henry was the most effective weapon in the world. He also said, “A resolute man, armed with one of these [Henry] rifles, particularly if on horseback, cannot be taken!”

Production of the Henry began very slowly, with only a couple of thousand rifles being completed by 1862. Some early production rifles had a forged iron receiver, but the majority of the Henry rifles were produced with the more familiar brass receiver. With its expensive machining of the one-piece barrel and magazine tube, the rifles sold for the incredibly high price of \$42.00, a truly princely sum in 1861 dollars! Ammunition was sold for \$10.00 a thousand. Winchester tried to interest the Ordnance Board with his new repeating rifle. In 1862, the “Great Conflagration” of the Civil War was in full swing. Even with an encouraging ordnance test that showed the Henry bullet imbedding itself five inches into a wood target at 400 yards, the official reception was less than enthusiastic. Members of the Ordnance Board, steeped in their Napoleonic style of warfare, felt that there was no advantage to a repeating rifle!

While not officially accepted for general issue, just under 2,000 were ordered for some select units. In 1862, Union General James Blunt's personal

bodyguards were armed “with Henry's Volcanic rifles and two revolvers.” The First District of Columbia Cavalry and 66th Illinois Infantry were armed with Henry rifles and several times defeated much larger Confederate forces. Even Confederate President Jefferson Davis' bodyguard were armed with 1860 Henry rifles! Private sales to Union troops, however, far outstripped the government sales. Winchester could not keep up with the orders coming in. Fully 11,000 of the 13,000 Henry rifles produced during the war were used in the conflict. The Confederates called it “that damn Yankee gun you load on Sunday and shoot till Wednesday!” Union troops called it a “sixteen shooter,” for the 15 rounds in the magazine and one in the chamber. Even with this, Union military bureaucrats did not take the Henry rifle seriously.

Out west is where the Henry really became a household word. While some Henry rifles went west during the war, most migrated with the displaced and restless former combatants as they journeyed west for their fortunes and to find adventure. It was not long until the Henry gained a reputation as a fearsome weapon, both with settlers and Native American warriors. The braves, accustomed to military single shot muzzle-loaders, were stunned by their encounters with the “white eyes” armed with the firepower of the Henry rifles. They referred to it as “the Spirit Gun of many shots” or simply “the Spirit Rifle.”

One very notable encounter where the Henry earned this reputation was the “Hayfield Fight” on August 1, 1867. In the Hayfield battle, nine troopers and nine civilians were cutting hay when they were beset by a large war party. The group held up in a makeshift corral and held the war party at bay with their Henry and Spencer repeaters. Many of the at-

Taylor's Firearms Brings Back the Early West (pt.1) . . .

tacking Native Americans were killed or wounded, but only three troopers and one civilian were killed. D.A.Covin, armed with a Henry and 1,000 rounds of ammunition, shot steadily from 9:30 in the morning until 5:00 in the afternoon. He fired more than 300 rounds and according to Finn Burnet (a Spencer wielding participant), "He was a dead shot, and if he [Covin] missed an Indian in that fight, none of us knew it."

The next day, August 2, 1867, the "Wagon Box Fight" was a battle in the vicinity of Fort Phil Kearny, Wyoming. Several hundred Sioux warriors attacked a work party of 26 U.S. Army soldiers and six civilians who were cutting firewood. Although vastly outnumbered, the soldiers were armed with newly supplied breech-loading Springfield Model 1866 rifles and the civilians with lever action 1860 Henry rifles. They made a defensive bulwark of wagon boxes to take cover from the attack and held off the attackers for hours with only seven killed and two wounded, but inflicted heavier losses on the attacking Sioux war party.

Yet another notable encounter in which the Henry played an important role occurred September 17 to 22, 1868. The "Battle for Beecher's Island" occurred when a band of civilian scouts under the command of Major George Forsyth and Lt. Frederick Beecher was beset by another war party. The party held up on a sandbar in the middle of the Arikaree fork of the Republican River in Colorado. Once again, the Henrys and Spencers of the scouts rained lead on the attacking force, successfully holding them off for five days. The white casualties were 25 wounded and five killed, while the Indians suffered 75 dead and an unknown number wounded.

In my research, I found there are many other instances of the Henry rifle's well-deserved reputation during the period of 1861 to around 1880. Some notable figures carried the Henry rifle. Ed Shieffelin, the prospector who founded Tombstone Arizona, carried a Henry. As a side note, in 2000, when writing an article for *The Cowboy Chronicle*, I was actually able to handle the Shieffelin Henry (wearing white cotton gloves) in the Tombstone Courthouse Museum. The notable Wells Fargo Detective who captured the notorious Black Bart, James B. Hume, also carried a Henry rifle. Marshal

Stephen Venard, of Nevada City, California used a Henry when he tracked down and killed three Wells Fargo stagecoach robbers on May 15, 1866 in the Yuba River's Myers' Ravine with four shots from his Henry rifle. He returned the stolen \$8,000 of gold dust and then apologized for the extra shot! Venard was presented an engraved Henry rifle by a grateful Wells Fargo stage company.

Native Americans also liked the Henry. Sitting Bull carried one, as did High Back Wolf. His Henry was found beneath his mummified body in 1921. Recent archaeological excavations in South Dakota show Henry rifles were carried by some at the large war party at the Custer battle at the Little Big Horn. Many period Daguerreotypes and tintypes show Native Americans and scouts armed with 1860 Henry repeaters.

In 1866, Oliver Winchester stopped producing the Henry rifle in favor of his new "King's patent improved Henry," the 1866 Winchester. It was essentially a Henry with the barrel and magazine tube being

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The 1866 Henry paired with a brace of 1872 Colt open tops for an “early Wild West” rig.

Taylor’s Firearms Brings Back the Early West (pt.1) . . .

(Continued from page 53)

separate pieces and a loading gate on the side of the familiar brass receiver to make loading easier. This 1866 Model rifle and carbine proved to be even more popular than the Henry. The carbine was especially popular with cowboys and scouts, for its ease of transport on horseback.

The 1860 Henry has a certain mystique and is in my mind (with the exception of its cousin the 1866 Winchester) the quintessential rifle of the early Wild West, a short period of time, from 1860 to around 1900. The 1860 Henry and 1866 Winchester far outnumbered 1873 Winchesters the frontier until almost 1880 (based on Winchester production figures). The Henry and 1866 still continued to be popular until the turn of the Century.

Taylor’s Uberti 1860 Henry .45 Colt/Schofield

Uberti 1860 Henry rifles have helped recreate the Early west, not just with their use in Cowboy Action Shooting™, but also the use of the 1860 Henry in numerous Hollywood Westerns, such as the *Lonesome Dove* series, several Sam Elliot and Tom Selleck westerns, and even some TV mini-series.

The Uberti Henry is one of the more expensive Cowboy Action Shooting™ rifles, retailing at \$1,250 to \$1,450, but it is well worth it. Just as it was in 1865, the 1860 is an extremely expensive rifle to produce. The barrel and magazine tube are still machined from a single piece of forged steel. These Uberti 1860 Henry replicas are currently available only in .44-40 or .45 Colt. The .45 Colt will also feed .45 Schofield, as long as you don’t use the short 180-grain bullets.

My current Henry, which I acquired earlier this year from Taylor’s Firearms, is a .45 Colt/Schofield version. I chose the .45 caliber Henry so I could use the Schofield cartridge to duplicate the ballistics of the original .44 rimfire round. The .452” diameter bullet of the Schofield is only a .01” larger in diameter larger than the original Henry’s .442” diameter



A .45 Schofield round compared to vintage .44 Henry cartridges.

Taylor's Firearms Brings Back the Early West (pt.1) . . .

projectile and the .45 Schofield also offers approximately the same overall cartridge length as the original .44 Henry Flat rimfire. With my Trail Boss load, I get about 1100-1150 fps from the Henry, which is the stated velocity of the original .44 rimfire. The Uberti Henry will hold 14 rounds of the 200-grain Schofield loads, which is just one less than the 15 rounds of the original.

The second consideration for my selecting the .45 Schofield round is I paired my 1860 Henry with a brace of Taylor's/Uberti 1872 Open Tops to be "Early Old West" period correct, and with both the 1872s and the Henry sharing the same ammunition, as did the originals.

The Taylor's 1860 Henry rifles are as heavy as the originals. The Henry's long barrel is accented by the lack of a forestock, thus making the barrel seem even longer. The hammer and lever are a nice, bright color case hardened. The 1860 Henry's butt stock has a graceful, gently swelled curve, reminiscent of a Kentucky long rifle. The frame and butt plate are eye-catching brass. This brass frame and butt plate, even when tarnished with use, nicely accent the blued steel of the barrel. The finish on the barrel of mine is the standard deep blue finish, which is dark and even. The Henry has a long-range ladder sight, fancifully graduated to 800 yards. This folds down to expose a wide "V" notch "Battle Sight." The front

sight is a very wide, non-adjustable brass blade.

While mine is a standard Henry, the available Military Model Henry has military inspector's cartouches on the stock and frame. There is a sling swivel on the left side of the stock, also like the originals. There is a corresponding "D" screwed to the left side of the barrel to accept the peculiar hook device for the opposite end of the Henry military sling. I actually regretted not ordering the Military Model, so I bought a complete sling swivel and lug set from VTI after I bought the Henry and installed them myself!

The Uberti 1860 Henry rifles are subject to the same limitations of the nineteenth century design and materials. With its brass frame, **DO NOT SHOOT HOT LOADS FROM THE HENRY!** The rifle is designed to take factory loads that meet SSAAMI standard velocity specifications. Use of plus-P loaded .45 Colt ammunition or Buffalo Bore heavy duty hunting loads is a **REALLY BAD IDEA!** The 1860 is not designed for these loads.

When loading for the Henry, it is imperative you load only flat point bullets. This is even more critical than with other tubular magazine rifles. This is because

(Continued on page 56)

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Original advertisement for the 1860 Henry.

Taylor's Firearms Brings Back the Early West (pt.1) . . .

(Continued from page 55)

of the peculiar way you load the Henry from the muzzle end. The magazine tube has an open bottom its entire length. The magazine follower has a little thumb piece that rides in a slot. This is attached to the magazine follower. To load, you push the thumb piece (and follower) up to the muzzle end of the tube. When it reaches the end, it unlocks the last four inches of barrel and magazine tube (including the follower), which then rotate about 30 degrees around the axis of the barrel, leaving the muzzle end of the magazine tube open. You then loads up to 13 rounds of .45 Colt (or .44-40) or 14 rounds of Schofield, rim end first. This is best done by laying the rifle on its side on the loading table, and placing them in one at a

time. While holding the follower back, rotate the barrel back into place, and ease the follower down against the cartridges until all of the excess space in the magazine tube is taken up.

Even though the newer Henry rifles have a rubber shock absorber insert in the follower where it contacts the bullets, I still would not allow the follower to snap down on the stack of cartridges in the magazine. If one round has a high primer, it could still go off! This thumb piece on the follower moves along the bottom of the magazine tube as you chamber each round. Because there is no wood forestock, it is necessary to shift your grip on the tube when the follower comes in contact with your hand. In the beginning this was a minor annoyance, but I have gotten used to it and do it now without even consciously noticing it.

How does it shoot?

As I have already stated, the reason I chose .45 Colt/Schofield in the 1860 Henry was to be able to duplicate the ballistics of the .44 Henry round originally used in the 1860 Henry and 1866 Winchester as closely as possible. I use Starline .45 Schofield brass, Winchester and CCI primers, 7 grains of either Unique or Trail Boss propellant, and a Stateline Bullets 200-grain RNFP .452" bullet. Both loads feel the same and print to the same POA. In fact, the only difference I notice is the Trail Boss loads are smokier than the Unique loads. The overall length of the Schofield rounds with the 200-grain bullet is very close to the Henry, only about 1/10 inch longer overall.

As for factory ammunition, Black Hills makes both .45 Schofield and .45 Colt factory ammo for Cowboy Action Shooters™. I've used only the 230-grain Schofield loads, as the 180-grain Schofields are too short for the Henry. The Black Hills .45 Colt and Schofield smokeless loads shot a little higher above point of aim than my duplicate Henry loads.

Credits

The 1860 Uberti Henry rifle is from Tammy Loy at Taylor's & Co. at (540) 722-2017 or check there web-site at: www.taylorfirearms.com.

Midway USA, is were my .45 Schofield brass and dies are from. They are my main source for my reloading gear. Check their website at: <https://www.midwayusa.com>

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Reviews - Products

Rainbow Technology Corporation

STEEL TARGET PAINT

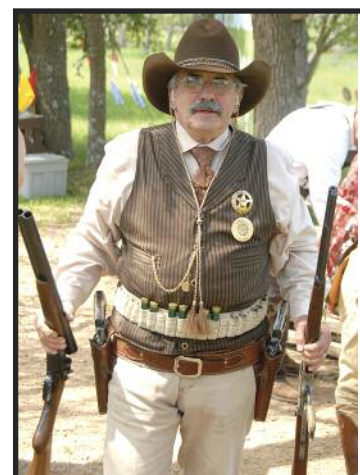
By Yuma Jack, SASS #11261 Patron Life

When you are shooting steel targets, one of the more onerous tasks is painting and repainting those targets between events. Whether you are painting the entire target at the beginning of a match or just spotting the bullet impact marks between stages, it takes time, money, and may even be a little messy if you are anything like me. Well, **Rainbow Technologies Corporation** in Birmingham, Alabama has been working on developing products to improve what otherwise seems like it might be just one of those menial tasks that just has to be done. They have developed a specialty steel target paint aimed precisely at painting steel targets used by firearms competitors. Larry Joe Steeley, Jr. sent me two spray cans (one black, one white) of specialty steel target paint for evaluation.

Rainbow Technologies' specialty steel target paint was designed for shooting ranges, shooting clubs, parks, private ranges, and for shooting match competitions. The paint is advertised as being specially formulated to cover steel targets quickly. It is made to be fast-drying and water-based to address

any environmental or health concerns. When used with a red oxide primer, it also protects targets and stands from rust and oxidation. Steel target paint produces a matte finish which diffuses sunlight and mirage. Common enamel paints dry slowly and typically have 40% less paint in the can than steel target paint. These spray cans contain a full 16 ounces—that's one pound of paint specially formulated with a high solids content for application on steel targets.

I wanted to test it on some new steel targets our club had purchased. In preparing this evaluation I followed the directions provided with the paint. After cleaning the steel I applied a coat of red oxide primer spray paint to the steel. Once the primer dried, I applied the black steel target paint to one target and the white paint to another. I also applied a coat of black spray paint from our bargain basement supply of the cheapest enamel spray paint we could find (less than \$1 a can when purchased by the case) to a third target. The black steel target paint went on very evenly with single back-and-forth strokes,



*Yuma Jack,
SASS #11261*



Targets set up on stage for monthly match (red targets not repainted yet).



Rainbow Technologies' Specialty Steel Target Paint.

resin/solids content, it is important to invert the can after spraying and give it two or three quick shots to clear the valve button to keep it from clogging.

I did time the drying time for the targets (but I did not watch it dry) and found steel target paint was dry to the touch in about 15 minutes and dry enough to handle in less than an hour. The “el cheapo” enamel paint was still wet to the touch in about the same time.

We then used these targets in a monthly match. Because we have a lot of black powder shooters, the existence of the white targets was not particularly popular. White targets often become almost invisible in the black powder smoke after the first shot. All of the paints held

up well, but a single spray of the steel target paint targets was all that was necessary to cover up the hits, as opposed to several back and forth spraying strokes with the cheap paint.

In talking to Larry Joe Steeley, Jr, I discovered he is himself a competition shooter. He worked with the people at Rainbow Technologies to develop this paint specially for use on steel targets. He told me if one “shot” of paint is applied over bullet splats a single can could last for about 670 such applications. A can of Rainbow Technologies’ steel target paint should even outlast two to three cans of Rustoleum™ brand spray paints. In fact, according to Larry, the people

(Continued on page 60)

Steel Target Paint . . .

pretty much covering the entire 16-inch target in a few seconds. It took two to three back-and-forth strokes on each line to apply the “el cheapo” black paint and seemed to take more than twice as long, though I didn’t actually use a timer. The spray nozzle on the can of white steel target paint malfunctioned at first, causing a loss of some of the paint and uneven coverage of the target. Our range technician did manage to remedy the situation and was able to apply the paint more evenly with a second coat. (The manufacturer admitted they did have a batch of paint with bad nozzles early this year and I apparently got one that was shipped in February.) Due to the high

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Square Target after application of black steel target paint.

Steel Target Paint . . .

(Continued from page 59)

at Steel Challenge were able to paint 35 steel targets of varying sizes with a single can of Rainbow Technologies steel target paint.

In addition to the black and white colors I received, Rainbow Technologies produces Bright Green, Bright Orange, Bright Blue, Bright Yellow and Stop Plate Red. This array of colors should provide sufficient variety for match directors to color-code scenarios during competition stages. For long-distance shooting, these colors can be combined for optimum visibility. Other custom colors are available.

Rainbow Technologies also has Magnetic Stencils available and Larry Joe included one of their 10" SASS Cowboy designs with the two cans of paint. These magnetic target templates can be used to create bright, colorful, and contrasting target zones on steel plates, gongs, etc. Designed to be used with their specialty steel target paint, the magnetic target stencils are "kiss cut" so the design is easily peeled out of the stencil. On the SASS Cowboy design they sent me, you actually end up with

both a positive and a negative stencil when the design is separated. You can use either one to create an image on the steel target. The recommended option though is to use the positive stencil, as it is easier to work with in positioning it on the target. Wearing disposable gloves is a good idea regardless of which stencil you use because if you have already sprayed paint through/on the stencil you will get paint on your hands when trying to use it again on another target. It will take a little practice to get the hang of how much paint to spray and how far back to hold the can, etc. If a steel target has too much paint accumulation, the magnetic stencils may not adhere very well and the excess paint will need to be cleaned off. A fun way to remove that excess paint build-up is to use your shotgun to "blast" the paint off. Any opportunity to shoot more is good, right?

At \$4.99 per can, this paint is not inexpensive compared to the less-than-\$1.00-per-can you might pay for



Round target after application of black "el cheapo" spray enamel.

Steel Target Paint . . .

a case lot of bargain basement brand spray paint. But if looked at from the standpoint of a single can of Rainbow Technologies' steel target paint outlasting three cans of the "el cheapo" paint, then the comparable \$1.70 cost per can becomes more bearable. And then, when compared to the fact those inexpensive hardware store brands contain only about 10-12 actual ounces of paint per can, the difference narrows even more to the equivalent of about \$1.25 per can for the Rainbow brand.

The time needed to paint and repaint targets between monthly matches of five or six stages may not warrant your club spending the additional fifty cents or less per can for the Rainbow Technologies paint, but if you are hosting a multi-day match where 140 targets need to be repainted and maybe even repositioned at the end of each day, fast coverage and fast-drying time becomes a more important consideration. Under such circumstances, Rainbow Technologies may just be the ideal paint for you. If so, you can contact them for more information at www.rainbowtech.net or call (205) 733-0333 and ask for Larry Joe Steeley, Jr. Or if your mind is already made up, you can order direct at www.rangestore.net.



White target after shooting.



Tombstone target after application of primer and white steel target paint.



White target repainted after shooting.

Profiles

✿ HOW I GOT MY ALIAS ✿

Shooting Iron Miller, SASS #85140

When I finally decided to get serious about Cowboy Action Shooting™, I went online to do a little research to find an alias that would be acceptable to SASS as well as one I could live with and like for what I'd hoped would be a long time. I started by looking up various women of the Old West and came across a few that seemed interesting. One in particular caught my eye—F.M. Miller. I found her name in an article entitled “Women of the Shooting Iron,” and it intrigued me.

It was not infrequent for an officer of the law to name a woman as a deputy, but that woman would normally be an “office” deputy who would perform clerical duties and never take to the field serving writs and warrants and making arrests as any rude man might be called to do. An article from the *Muskogee Weekly Phoenix*, November 19, 1891, discussed a female Deputy United States Marshal named F. M. Miller. She was commissioned out of the federal court in Paris, Texas. She was known then as the only female deputy who worked the Indian Territory. Ms. Miller had the reputation of being a fearless as well as efficient offi-



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How I Got My Alias . . .

cer. She had locked up more than just a few offenders. She was noted as being a “young woman of prepossessing appearance, wears a cowboy hat (also known to wear a Mexican sombrero) and is always adorned with a belt full of cartridges and a dangerous looking Colt which she knows how to use.”

It appears that there were two other women in the Oklahoma Territory who were actually office workers but did occasional field work out of the Guthrie federal office. Ms. Miller’s

scenario was entirely different.

Ms. Miller was said to be a dashing brunette of charming manners (must be why I liked her so much)! She would carry a pistol buckled around her as well as a Winchester strapped to her saddle. She was known to be an expert shot, a superb horsewoman, and brave to the verge of recklessness. It is said she aspired to win a name equal to Belle Starr, but differing from her by exerting herself to run down criminals and in the enforcement of law.”

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Profiles

HOW I GOT MY ALIAS

Grey Fox, SASS #223 Life, Regulator, Hall of Fame

By Miss Mary Spencer, SASS #55147 Life, Regulator

Our Cowboy Action Shooting™ odyssey began when the Grey Fox read an article by Phil Spangenberg in *Guns & Ammo* magazine early spring of 1984. Having been acquainted with Phil since 1979, Grey Fox called him to ask about the article. Phil referred the Grey Fox to Diamond Jim Chisum (now deceased). Diamond Jim was very accommodating and shared the information for END of TRAIL 1984 to be held a couple of months hence. Grey Fox only had one cowboy gun at the time, but Diamond Jim was very gracious and said he would supply all the guns and ammo if we were to appear. So we flew to Southern California, rented a car, and drove to the gated community of Coto de Caza in Trabuco Canyon. Having rented a condo there we were set for the next five days. On Friday morning we went to the range to check on registration. At the registration desk was the Judge along with the General U.S. Grant, Diamond Jim and Wes Turner. When Grey Fox introduced himself the Judge said he was registered but wanted to know what his alias was. Grey Fox had adopted an alias which now can not even be remembered, and he was about to reveal that alias, when Wes Turner said “Oh, you are from British Columbia.” Grey Fox replied “yes” and before the conversation went any further Wes and the Judge stated “he



Grey Fox at END of TRAIL 1984.

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looks like the Grey Fox” and the alias was sealed. Grey Fox was named by SASS icons. When the name had been registered, Diamond Jim did as promised, producing the guns and ammo, put them in the trunk of our rental car, and said he would collect them back at the end of the event. Grey Fox won the award for Best Dressed Working Cowboy and the rest is history. 🤠

Trail Markers

Boggy Draw Buford

April 21, 1968 - May 22, 2017

*By Aneeda Huginkiss, SASS #23798
and Helda Huginkiss, SASS #23799*



Boggy Draw Buford and Twinkie.

Empty Saddle, empty hearts around the campfire... the Re-ven-gers of Montezuma and SASS have lost a wonderful man. Boggy Draw Buford, SASS #41420 (AKA Brent McClain) of Cortez, Colorado has passed over to that large open range in the heavens. Boggy Draw was our saddle pal, our dancing partner, and a true cowboy with a heart as big as the Colorado skies. He loved SASS Mounted Shooting, he loved to rope, but he loved his family the most. He and his trusty horse "Twinkie," a big paint, rode many miles together. He was a member of several volunteer organizations in the community, including United Search and Rescue and the Montezuma County Sheriff's Posse. Buford always had an encouraging word and a big smile for everyone he met and he was always willing to lend a helping hand. You will be missed Boggy Draw Buford but never forgotten. You live on in our hearts. Rest in peace good friend. 🤠

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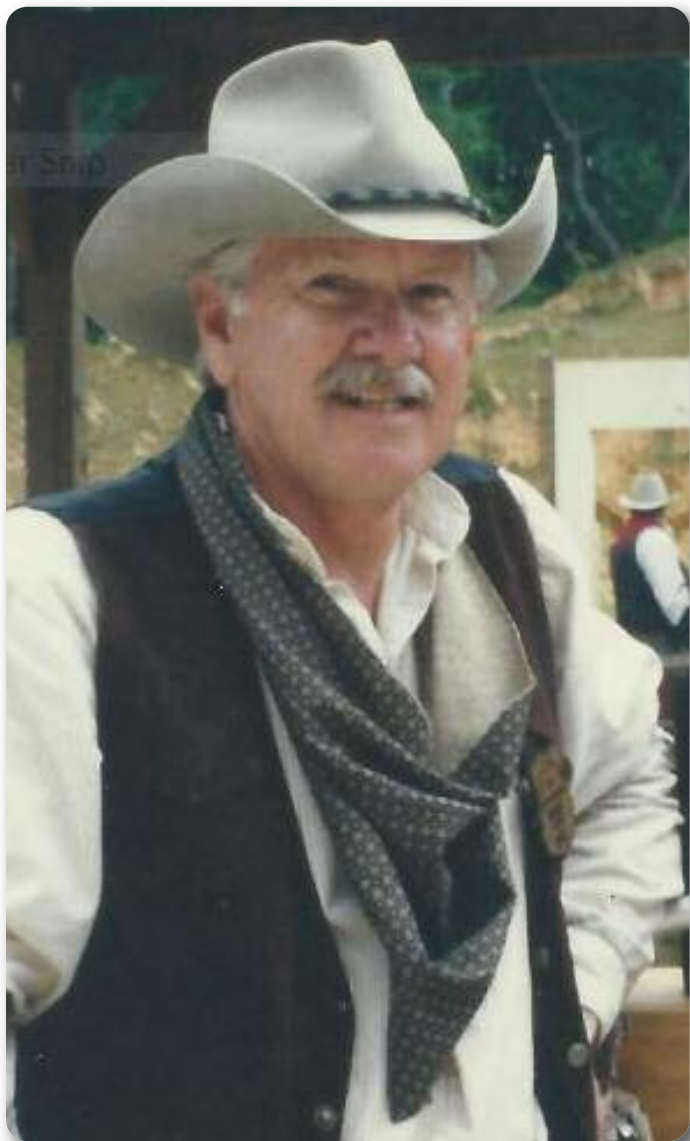
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Trail Markers

Easy Lee

By Jered Maddox, SASS # 26216, TG, Regulator



SASS and the Cowboy Community lost a true Gentleman Cowboy on May 8, 2017. Leman P Albrecht, AKA Easy Lee (SASS #9753 Life) went to his great reward at the end of the trail.

Easy Lee, along with his wife Patty (Casino Clair, SASS #9754 Life), and initial club members Tarantula Jack and Duel Chambers founded the Mississippi River Rangers in April 1997. It was the 59th SASS affiliated club to be established. MRR was born and built on Lee and Patty’s private property and it was through the vision and dedication of Easy Lee that the town of Gunsite grew and flourished.

The first time I visited the range was in June of 1999. I had followed the directions to the range from a flyer I picked up at the public gun range, but by the time I had arrived it was raining and the match had been called off. Easy Lee and a few other members were hanging out talking under the carport and I stopped to ask questions. I hung out with them for several hours talking about SASS, Cowboy Action Shooting™, MRR and the Cowboy Way. Any shooting sport needs to be taken seriously and Easy Lee explained the driving philosophy behind MRR was to “be safe, have fun, and be safe.” So I could see this was a club where the people were going to be serious about safety and serious about having fun safely. When I left that day I knew Cowboy Action Shooting™ was something I wanted to do and MRR was where I wanted to be. That was in no small part due to Easy Lee’s enthusiasm for the sport. The next week I fired up the credit card and bought guns, holsters and clothes (without ever shooting a match) so I would be ready for the next month’s event.

The same passion that convinced me to join SASS and jump into the game was the same passion that drove the growth of the club itself. Lee’s favorite saying regarding our annual matches was “better than last year, not as good as the next.” His drive to make sure that statement was true year after year led the club to add, move, rebuild, and update stages and props over the years at a remarkable pace. As Easy Lee and Casino Clair traveled to out of town matches, Lee was always on the lookout for new ideas to bring back to the club and always sharing ideas that were working for our club. It was this growth and the sharing of ideas with other clubs that led MRR to receive the SASS Woolly Award for Best Club in 2003 and to repeat it by winning the award again in 2006. MRR was the first club to be a two-time winner of the award.

It wasn’t just the passion to create a great shoot-



Easy Lee . . .

ing facility at MRR and to help our sister clubs to grow over the years that made Easy Lee a wonderful person. He was the true personification of the Cowboy Way. If you look up the Code of the West, Hopalong Cassidy's "Creed for American Boys and Girls," Roy Roger's "Rider's Rules," and Gene Autry's "Ten Commandments of the Cowboy," there isn't an item on those lists that could not be checked off when you were speaking of Easy Lee. They all have the same theme. What it takes to be a good friend and a good person. Easy Lee was a good friend, a mentor, role model, and someone to look up to and emulate. We are diminished by his absence, but encouraged by his example. Always outgoing and friendly, helpful and courteous he was a true Gentleman, a true Cowboy. A Gentleman Cowboy. Rest in Peace Cowboy. You've earned it. 🤠



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Trail Markers



Mississippi Tom

By Jered Maddox, SASS # 26216, TG, Regulator

Tom, the first thing that came to mind was I never saw him in a bad mood. He was always cheerful and enjoying whatever he was doing. I remember one time when one of our monthly matches ended early due to a rainstorm, his comment was, "at least it will make the flowers grow so pretty." It was that kind of cheerful attitude that endeared him to everyone who knew him.

Mississippi Tom and his cheerful attitude reminds me of Joshua Deets from *Lonesome Dove*. When Deets is killed trying to help a blind Indian child, Captain Call is so moved by the loss that even though he is a man of few emotions and even fewer words, he writes the following on Deets' grave marker:

JOSH DEETS
SERVED WITH ME 30 YEARS
FOUGHT IN 21 ENGAGEMENTS WITH
COMANCHE AND KIOWA
CHEERFUL IN ALL WEATHERS,
NEVER SHIRKED A TASK
SPLENDID BEHAVIOUR

The lines about his years of service and number of engagements fought could be said about any number of the Rangers. The telling thing is how Captain Call takes the time and effort to carve the last two lines. It's there we get to the heart of who Deets is and what makes him a special person. The same could be said of Mississippi Tom. We all love our family and friends. Many of us have hobbies we enjoy. But how many of us can truly say we go through life with the kind of cheerful attitude shared by Deets and Tom? If we could all go through life with the same kind of cheerful attitude shown to us by Mississippi Tom, we'd all be much happier people and the world would be a much happier place.

Tom, you will be sorely missed. The range and the world is a less cheerful place with your absence. *Vaya con Dios Amigo.*

The Mississippi River Rangers lost another good friend and cowboy only a few days after the funeral for club founder Easy Lee. Mississippi Tom, SASS #50618 (AKA Gerald Thompson) passed away on the May 13, 2017.

Mississippi Tom was a beloved family man. He served his country in the Air Force. He was an avid hunter and fisherman. He loved cars and was a Hot Rod enthusiast. He loved Cowboy Action Shooting™ and brought an enthusiastic attitude to the game. It never mattered if his shooting was good or bad, only that he was having fun. When someone asked me what I remembered the most about



Trail Markers

3 Fingers Mike

25 October 1931 - 23 April 2017

By Redleg Reilly, SASS #46372

With great sadness, the Shortgrass Rangers report the passing of Ray Jackson, AKA 3 Fingers Mike, SASS #82476.

3 Fingers Mike was born in Kilgore, Texas. He served his country for 26 years as a US Army artilleryman, retiring as a Master Sergeant. He participated in the occupation of Germany at the end of World War II and fought in both Korea and Vietnam.

He enjoyed the shooting sports, participating in military bolt action competition as well as SASS. He was particularly interesting in collecting historic rifles, desiring to own every unique action from history and restore them. This included Martini-Henry, Brown Bess, Snider, Prussian needle

gun, Evans, Burnside, and so on. Seems like every match Mike would show up with some ancient weapon he had nursed back to life and figured out how to reload for it.

He thoroughly enjoyed Cowboy Action Shooting™. No one had a better time on the range than 3 Fingers. The one mental picture we all have of him is having his head back, laughing at something he had done shooting the stage. His alias reflected he was missing a finger on one hand, but he would tell new members not to allow the club to pick their alias as he had all his fingers before someone named him 3 Fingers. And the club couldn't have had a better worker. He was always the first to volunteer to help with club activi-



ties. His usual job was painting the targets, hopefully with more paint on them than on himself. But if something needed doing, he was there helping.

Mike was someone we all admired—85 years young, shooting, enjoying his life. Many of us have said when we grow up, we want to be like 3 Fingers. He was a gentleman, a good friend, and a valuable asset to the Shortgrass Rangers. He is already greatly missed by all who knew him. Ride on, cowboy. 🤠



Tinsel Town Tony

By Lawless Len, SASS #92258

Given by God on September 3, 1942, our partner Tinsel Town Tony (SASS #75157) was given to God on May 10, 2017. Born in Queens, New York as Anthony Joseph DeGiacomo he succumbed to pancreatic cancer after a long and good fight at 74 years.

Tony lived in Cape Coral, Florida with his loving wife Eileen and faithful dog, Molly. Tony shot with the Southwest Florida Gunslingers and Five County Regulators. He loved shooting and anything cowboy. Tony was always helpful around the range. He also loved his automobile, a Mustang (an appropriate cowboy ride, don't you think) and was a member of the Gulfshore Mustang Club.

Tinsel Town Tony was a very obvious New York Italian and when asked why he picked a Hollywood sounding alias he replied he just liked how it sounded. I just called him Triple T and he liked how that sounded too. We miss you Tony, but know you are riding happy trails now. 🤠



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Articles

Gun Carts and Recycled Cowboy History

By Wild Horse Jack, SASS #64334

*Some of us use gun carts... some of us fancy them up...
but some carts carry cowboy history as well as our guns.*



North West Mounted Police on patrol during the 1885 Rebellion.

Note all riders have the "California" style saddles and the issue saddle carbine can be clearly seen held by the rider on the right. The constables were disguised as cowboys except for their striped uniform pants.

Montana May (SASS #95820) was looking for something different in a gun cart so she decided to build hers around an old saddle and asked me if I came across something suitable to let her know. The gun cart saddle arrived in my hands by a long circuitous route as I had found it in a used tack store. It had been partially restored and was exactly what Montana May was looking for. "Can you find something out about its history," was her next question so the search began to trace the history of Montana May's saddle.

Dave Watkins farmed near Aylesbury Saskatchewan and he found the saddle in pretty

rough shape in one of the old deserted buildings that was once part of the Peters ranch that eventually was incorporated into the Watkins holdings. He put it on consignment in the tack store. Bert Watkins, Dave's grandfather homesteaded near Aylesbury in 1907 and Casper Peters sold him his ranch in the late 1940s. The old Peters ranch is still owned by the Watkins family and comprises about 3000 acres. Dave suggested I give Doug Dale a call to continue my search.

Doug has ranched in the Aylesbury area of Saskatchewan's *Qu' Appelle* Valley all his life. Now in his 80s, he remembered the owner of the old saddle that lay in a heap on my chair and explained over

Gun Carts and Recycled Cowboy History . . .

the phone, “The Peters ranch was about five kilometres from us. We often went to dinner there when I was a youngster and I remember the Peters family well. It was the first place I ever drank coffee as a kid.” Doug explained to me Casper and Johanna Peters came from Minnesota when settlers were moving in a wave west and north in the 1870s to early 1900s. At first they were in partnership with a man named Walstead who seems to have moved on to places unknown. They settled 20 miles south of Craik on the *Qu’Apelle* River in 1903 and by 1905 they had traded land with a rancher named Rinertson, which moved them to the mouth of Trent Ravine. Casper was always called Peters by members of the community, including his wife. He was a large heavy set but quiet man. Johanna was always called Mrs. Peters by everyone, including her husband and she was considered the boss of the family. She was a small slightly built woman but physically strong who enjoyed gardening and raised the best watermelons in the county. She liked to visit with neighbors and had no phone but always seemed to know what was going on in the community. Mrs. Peters, Doug Dale remembers, was one who paid attention to world events and as isolated as they were she foresaw trouble was coming in Europe. She once said to Doug, watch out for the Russian bear, alluding to Stalin’s activities in the 1930s.

Information as to the owner of the saddle might have ended there but Marge Cleave, president of the Moose Jaw branch of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society added some history. Casper Peters was born in October 1859 in Regenwalde Hesse, Germany. Johanna Bathke was born in Brandenburg Pommern, Germany in September 1864. She was 26 years old when they married in 1885 in St, Paul Minnesota. Casper was a teamster until 1900 and he took up farming be-



The saddle, as it now sits on Montana May’s gun cart.

fore moving to Saskatchewan.

The Peters knew family hardship as they outlived all three of their children. A son Charles was born in 1886 but died in 1918 the year of the Spanish flu epidemic. A daughter Margaret was born in 1888 but died the same year she was born and a son Harry, aged 11, died in 1900. Perhaps the losses of two children helped motivate them to move to Saskatchewan.

By the 1930s the Peters were full time cattle ranchers with some of the first Hereford cattle in the area. Rob Phillipson, Saskatchewan Archivist, found a CJ brand listing for a Casper Peters in the Brownlee area in a 1939 brand book, but there was an odd note

(Continued on page 72)



Montana May tries out the old saddle on Champion Cutting Horse, Declaration of War.

Gun Carts and Recycled Cowboy History . . .

(Continued from page 71)

attached to the brand. It was a jaw brand on the left side and neither Saskatchewan nor Minnesota regulations allow that brand position for cattle, although it is used sometimes on horses. Brand inspectors Garth Woods and Rusty Hawryluk explained it might have been a case of use before registration. They may have used a horse branding iron because that was available and then the need to register it evolved because it was being used.

When the Peters sold out to Watkins they moved to Aylesbury and Casper Peters passed away on March 9 1948 at 89

years of age. He was buried in an unmarked grave in Elmhurst cemetery, St. Paul Minnesota. Johanna eventually moved to Moose Jaw and passed away aged 94 on August 16 1960 and is buried in Moose Jaw's Rosedale Cemetery, also in an unmarked grave.

The saddle in question most likely belonged to Johanna Peters. It is a small three-quarter seat and built on a solid tree wrapped in rawhide and may have originally been a California style saddle adopted by the North West Mounted Police in 1878. When the NWMP came west in 1874 they used British style cavalry gear but these saddles did not fit the local horses well, as they were often mustangs or draft horse mustang crosses. Two years later, the Mounties adopted 1876 saddle ring carbines as standard issue, which were not so easily carried on a cavalry saddle. By then cavalry equipment such as sabres were less often used and some of the cavalry saddle fittings were redundant for police work.

The first California style saddles to be used by the Mounties came from Ft. Benton. They were later supplied by I.G. Barker (1882), Main and Winchester in San Francisco (1883), and later from Canadian firms S&H Borbridge, R.S. Montgomery and Sons, and the Great West Saddle Company in Calgary. This particular saddle is stitched and laced together with some carving work that was added later but has been mostly worn smooth and there is no maker's stamp. It has straight fenders and the lack of almost any skirt in the front may have been a weight consideration to keep the saddle lighter. Even though the saddle is small and old it is still strong and time has not weakened the tree. When I cinched it up on one of my horses and Montana May sat in it, it looked ready to carry a rider through a full day's work.

Perhaps a saddle is the most per-



The saddle looks strong enough to do a full day of work even today.

Gun Carts and Recycled Cowboy History . . .

sonal part of a cowboy's gear because the phrase "never sold my saddle" has come to mean sticking to your beliefs and standing your ground. Ironically, the Peters ranch was about 150 km from Avonhurst Saskatchewan where May's father grew up on a farm in the 1920s. Her grandparents were Hermann and Barbara (nee Adolph) Gillert and he was also born in Germany and she was

originally from Austria. Perhaps they may have met the Peters at some point.

No pictures of Johanna have surfaced as yet and since she has no headstone, the most tangible reminder of her life is her saddle, which has ended up being recycled as a gun cart. Come to think of it, maybe re-cycling her saddle is the best grave marker an old cowgirl like Johanna Peters could ever have. 🐾

Articles



Blackjack Zak,
SASS #26828

RO Corner

SASS Stage Convention #7

Holstering Revolvers after the String

By Blackjack Zak, SASS #26828
SASS RO Committee Vice Chairman
Match Director—Winter Range

There is much “to do” on the SASS streets regarding the SASS Convention dealing with holstering revolvers after the revolver string. It appears some folks are a little confused about when the rule applies and in what context.

Let’s start with a review of the actual convention: *Shooter’s Handbook*, Page 21, Stage Convention #7 reads, “Revolvers are returned to

leather after the shooting string.” We should also understand what the “shooting string” is: *ROI Manual*, Page 31, Glossary of Terms—“Shooting String: shots from one type of firearm prior to the use of the next type of firearm engaged.”

So, what does all this really mean? Well firstly, the shooting string, as experienced during a stage: if you just finished shooting the rifle, that is the “rifle string.” Then, if you shoot four shots from the shotgun, you have moved on to the “shotgun string.” It follows then, the next two firearms are the revolvers—five shots from each of two revolvers consecutively fired would be the “revolver string.” If you are shooting split revolvers (e.g., revolver-rifle-revolver), then shooting five rounds from one revolver would be a “revolver string,” followed by a “rifle string,” then followed by another “revolver string.” This can be applied to any sequence of firearms.

How does the SASS Convention fit in here? We know in absence of any other instruction in the stage description, the convention applies, and it says you must holster revolvers at the end of the shooting string. If you are shooting both revolvers consecutively, then the “end of the shooting string” is when the second revolver is fired dry, and you are about to move on to the next firearm. So according to the convention, it is perfectly acceptable for a shooter to place the first

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RO Corner • SASS Stage Convention #7 . . .

revolver down on an adequate/safe surface after use (not holster it), and then draw the second revolver. Before moving on to the next firearm (end of the shooting string), the shooter must holster both revolvers. If the revolvers are the last firearm type to be used on a course of fire, a shooter may place both revolvers on an adequate/safe surface after use, provided they are holstered before they are removed from the stage.

In the case of a double duelist (a duelist who uses different hands, left hand for the left revolver and right for the right revolver), the shooter may hold the first used revolver out of leather and draw the second revolver with the other hand. This is why you will see double-duelist shooters typically draw one revolver with one hand, fire it dry, then draw the other revolver without holstering the first revolver. They will then holster both revolvers before moving on to the next firearm. In this way they are similar to a two-handed shooter who places the first revolver on the table after use, then draws the second revolver, uses it, and finally holsters both revolvers before moving on.

A word of caution: shooters who are not shooting Gunfighter or B-Western gunfighter style must remember the rule about having only one loaded firearm out of leather at a time. If you intend to leave your first revolver out of leather after use and then draw the second revolver, (and you are NOT shooting Gunfighter or B-Western gunfighter style), you must make sure you fire the first revolver dry

before you draw the second revolver. This could be a significant “gotcha,” as you would be shooting “out of category,” and would earn yourself a 10-second procedural penalty. Note: a shooter may correct this mistake without penalty by holstering one of the revolvers before cocking the other.

Why do shooters do this? Well in some cases, for a two-handed shooter, when shooting revolvers at the end of the stage (revolvers are last), there may be a slight speed advantage in not holstering the first revolver after its use, even if the revolvers are shot from two separate locations.

For the double-duelist it may be faster to draw the second revolver after using the first and not have to waste time holstering the first revolver until the end, when they can both be holstered at the same time. Having said that, those kinds of decisions are solely for the shooter to make and for the shooter’s own shooting/transition style. *A*

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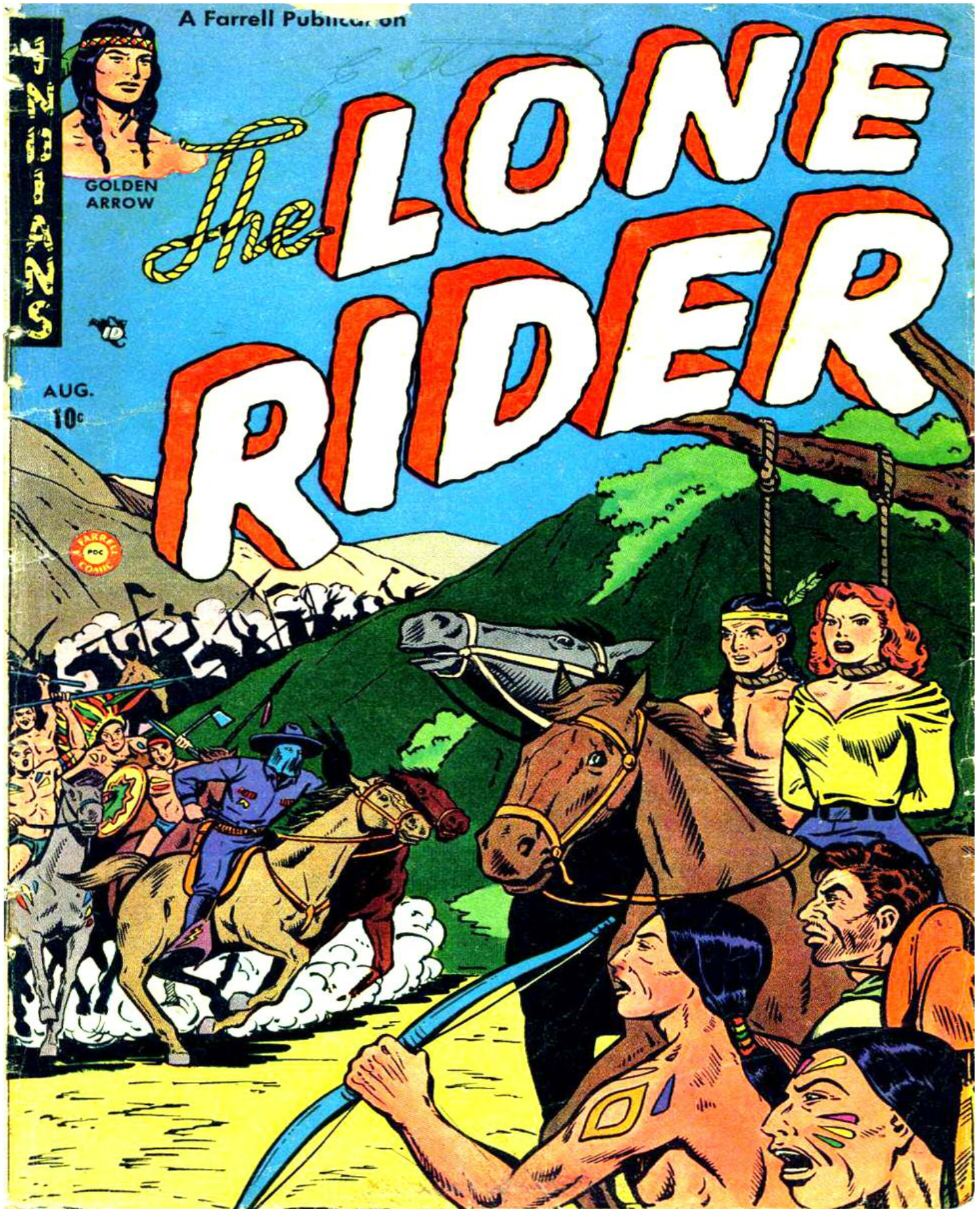
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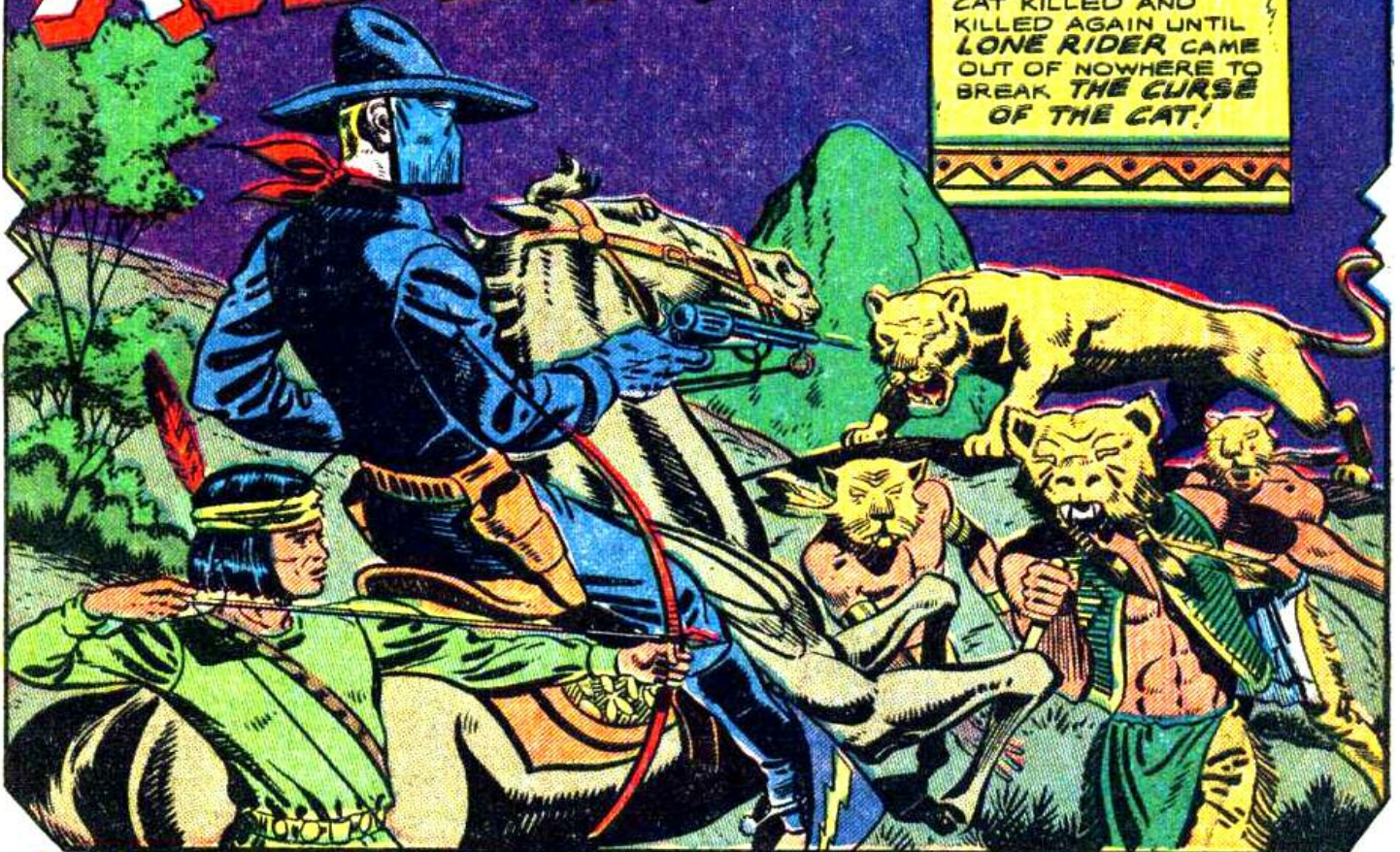
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Comic Book Corner



The LONE RIDER

OUT OF THE MISTS OF TIME THERE CAME A CURSE TO HAUNT THE PEOPLE OF BRIGHT FEATHER! IT WAS WHISPERED IN THE LODGES THAT THE KILLER-CAT WAS A GHOST...AN AVENGING SPIRIT OF AN OLD ENEMY! THE CAT KILLED AND KILLED AGAIN UNTIL LONE RIDER CAME OUT OF NOWHERE TO BREAK THE CURSE OF THE CAT!



ON A VISIT TO BRIGHT FEATHER'S TRIBE...

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE VISITED YOUR PEOPLE, BRIGHT FEATHER! IT'S TIME FOR THE RAIN DANCES... BUT IT LOOKS MIGHTY QUIET...

SOMETHING IS WRONG, FRIEND! I HAVE NEVER SEEN MY VILLAGE SO DESERTED!

LOOK, SON! ASHES ON HIS FACE!

DEATH IN THE VILLAGE!

MUCH DEATH. IT IS BEST YOU DO NOT STAY!

BEWARE, THE KILLER CAT! HE SLAYS OUR PEOPLE, YET HE CANNOT BE SLAIN! HE IS NOT A TRUE CAT, BUT THE SPIRIT OF OUR ANCIENT ENEMY... WHITE BUFFALO!





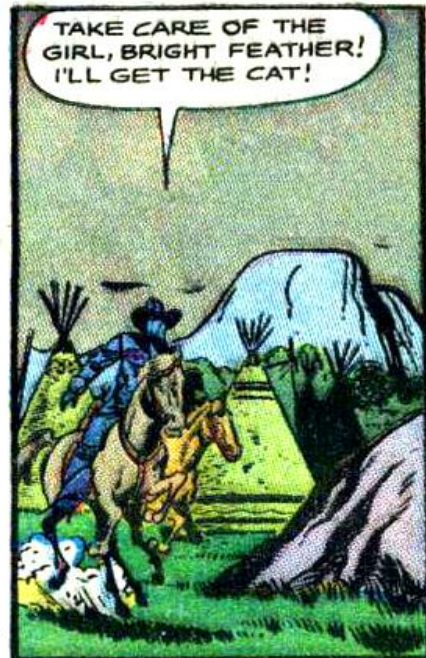
WHITE BUFFALO? WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT, BRIGHT FEATHER?

A LEGEND OF OUR TRIBE, LONE RIDER. ONCE, MOONS AGO, MY PEOPLE FOUGHT WITH WHITE BUFFALO AND WON... AS HE DIED, HE VOWED TO RETURN AS A GREAT CAT AND SLAY US!

SUDDENLY...



HELP! THE KILLER CAT!



TAKE CARE OF THE GIRL, BRIGHT FEATHER! I'LL GET THE CAT!



TOO DARK FOR A GOOD SHOT! BIGGEST MOUNTAIN CAT I EVER SAW AND HE'S GETTING AWAY FROM ME!

I MISSED THE CRITTER! AT LEAST THE POOR GIRL IS SAFE!

FEAR HAS STOLEN HER WITS, LONE RIDER, WE MUST TAKE HER TO THE MEDICINE MAN AT ONCE!

IT IS THE CURSE! WE WILL ALL BE KILLED!



LATER, THAT NIGHT...

FORGET THIS LEGEND ABOUT WHITE BUFFALO! THE CAT IS ONLY A CAT, AND I'LL KILL HIM FOR YOU!

MY PEOPLE KNOW YOU ARE A FRIEND, LONE RIDER!

THERE ARE MANY THINGS A PALEFACE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND!

YOU ARE A TRUE FRIEND, LONE RIDER. ALWAYS HAVE YOU SPOKEN WITH A STRAIGHT TONGUE. THIS TIME YOU ARE WRONG. THE SPIRIT OF WHITE BUFFALO WILL DESTROY OUR TRIBE. SO SPOKE THE OLD CURSE...



WORKING BY MOONLIGHT, THE LONE RIDER AND BRIGHT FEATHER BUILD A SERIES OF DEADFALLS...

THERE, THE LAST ONE! NOW WE'LL SEE HOW IMMORTAL THAT BIG CAT IS!

IF HE RETURNS...

EARLY THE NEXT DAWN...

LOOK! THE TRAP IS EMPTY!

RIGHT! BUT IT'S BEEN SPRUNG BY SOMETHING!

WHOA, **LIGHTNIN'!** EASY, BOY! I KNOW YOU SMELL THE CAT, BUT HE'S GONE!

WHEN LONE RIDER INSPECTS THE TRAP CLOSELY, HE MAKES A STRANGE DISCOVERY...

FUR! AND **BLOOD**, TOO! THE CAT WAS HERE ALL RIGHT, BUT SOMEONE LET HIM OUT! HE COULDN'T HAVE ESCAPED UNAIDED!

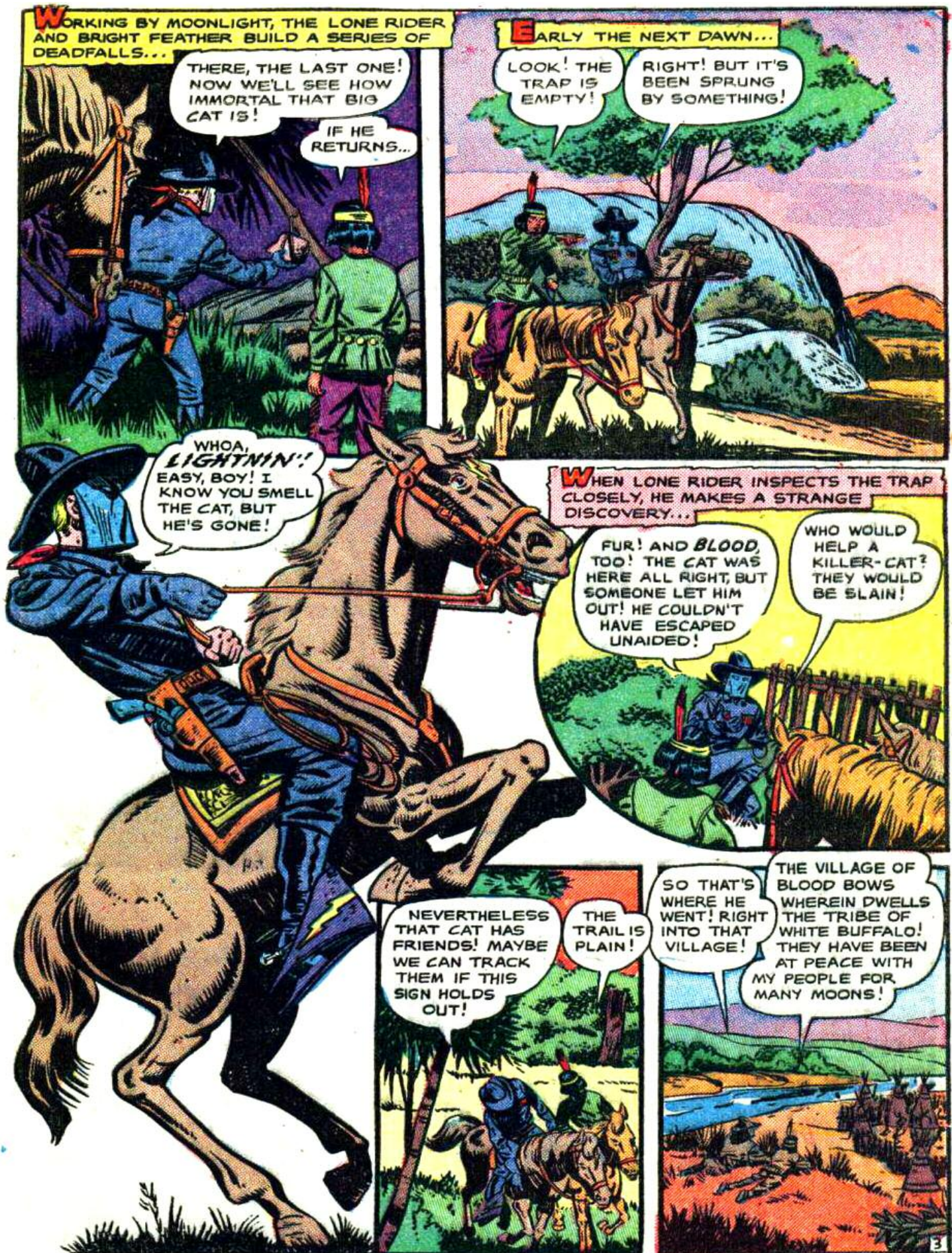
WHO WOULD HELP A KILLER-CAT? THEY WOULD BE SLAIN!

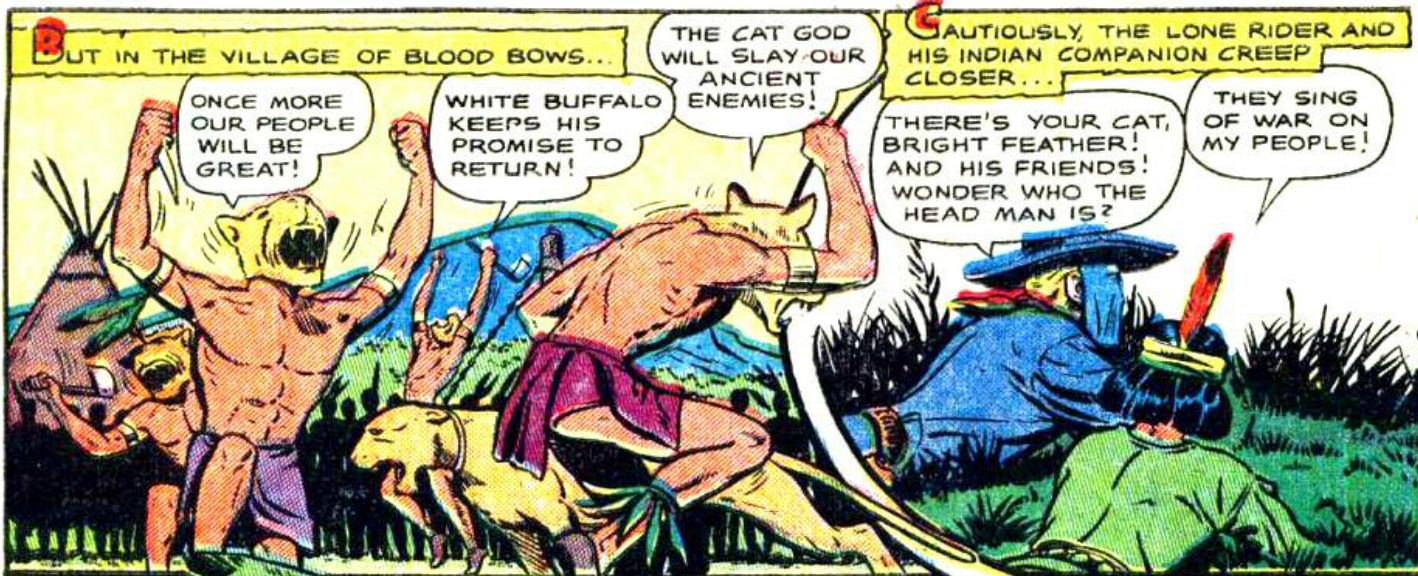
NEVERTHELESS THAT CAT HAS FRIENDS! MAYBE WE CAN TRACK THEM IF THIS SIGN HOLDS OUT!

THE TRAIL IS PLAIN!

SO THAT'S WHERE HE WENT! RIGHT INTO THAT VILLAGE!

THE VILLAGE OF BLOOD BOWS WHEREIN DWELLS THE TRIBE OF WHITE BUFFALO! THEY HAVE BEEN AT PEACE WITH MY PEOPLE FOR MANY MOONS!





BUT IN THE VILLAGE OF BLOOD BOWS...

ONCE MORE OUR PEOPLE WILL BE GREAT!

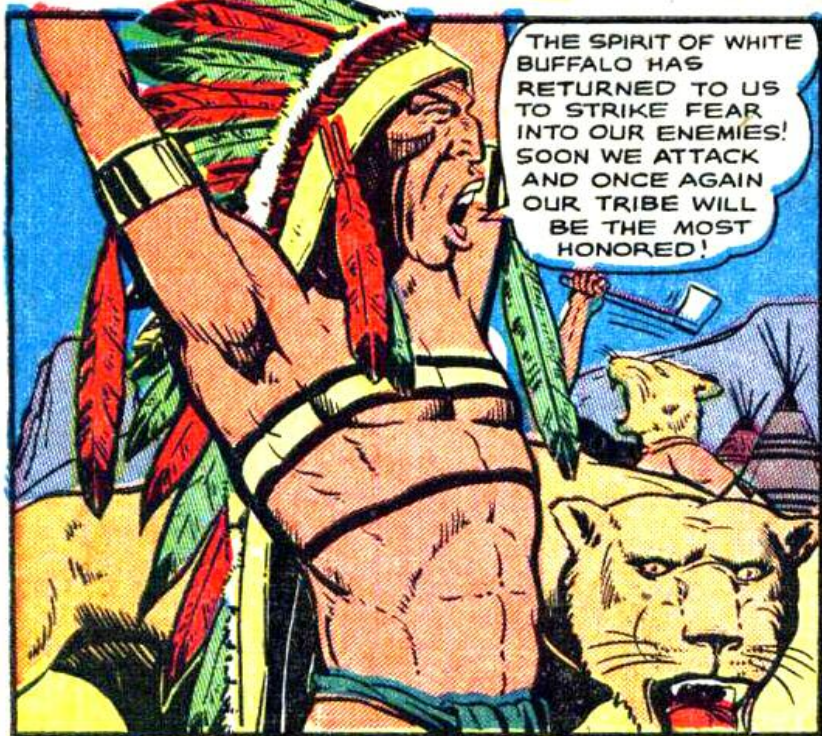
WHITE BUFFALO KEEPS HIS PROMISE TO RETURN!

THE CAT GOD WILL SLAY OUR ANCIENT ENEMIES!

CAUTIOUSLY, THE LONE RIDER AND HIS INDIAN COMPANION CREEP CLOSER...

THERE'S YOUR CAT, BRIGHT FEATHER! AND HIS FRIENDS! WONDER WHO THE HEAD MAN IS?

THEY SING OF WAR ON MY PEOPLE!



THE SPIRIT OF WHITE BUFFALO HAS RETURNED TO US TO STRIKE FEAR INTO OUR ENEMIES! SOON WE ATTACK AND ONCE AGAIN OUR TRIBE WILL BE THE MOST HONORED!



RECKON THAT EXPLAINS IT! HE'S TAKEN OVER THE TRIBE AND IS USING THE CAT TO MAKE THEM FIGHTING MAD! BUT I'LL GET THAT CAT RIGHT NOW!

SHOOT STRAIGHT, LONE RIDER! THEN WE MUST RUN SWIFTLY BEFORE THEY KILL US!



BEFORE THE LONE RIDER COULD FIRE...

KILL!

RUN, BRIGHT FEATHER! GET HELP!

I GO...



DO NOT KILL YET!

TWO ELK WILL WANT TO SEE THIS PALESKIN SPY!



AS THE REDSKINS LOOK ON IN SAVAGE GLEE, LONE RIDER ENTERS THE CAGE...



MY SHIRT WILL BE SOME PROTECTION... BUT THIS STICK AGAINST THOSE CLAWS...



HE'LL LEAP AT ME IN A MINUTE! I HOPE THE TRICK I'M THINKING OF WILL WORK, OR IT'S GOODBYE LONE RIDER!

FANGS BARED AND A DEATH GROWL ROARING FROM THE GIANT JAWS, THE ENRAGED ANIMAL JUMPS HIS VICTIM...



THE CRASHING WEIGHT OF THE HUGE CAT SENT THE LONE RIDER LURCHING BACKWARD...



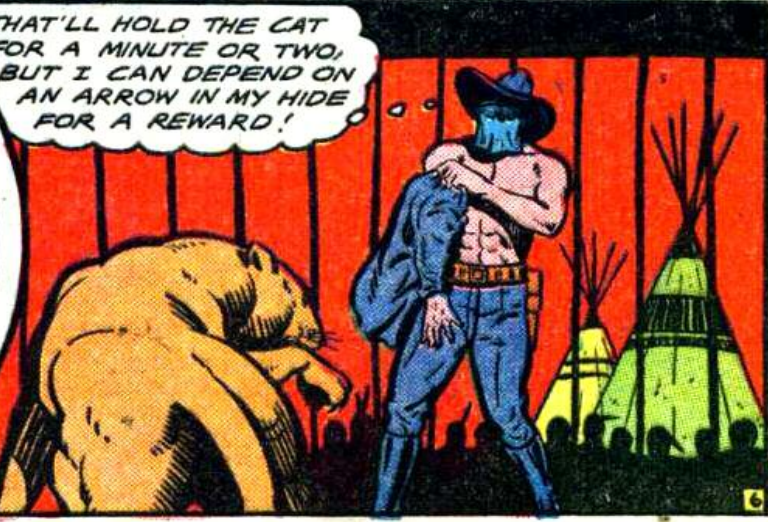
I'M ONLY GOING TO GET ONE CHANCE!

I SURE HOPE THIS STICK IS STRONG ENOUGH!



IT WORKED!

THAT'LL HOLD THE CAT FOR A MINUTE OR TWO, BUT I CAN DEPEND ON AN ARROW IN MY HIDE FOR A REWARD!









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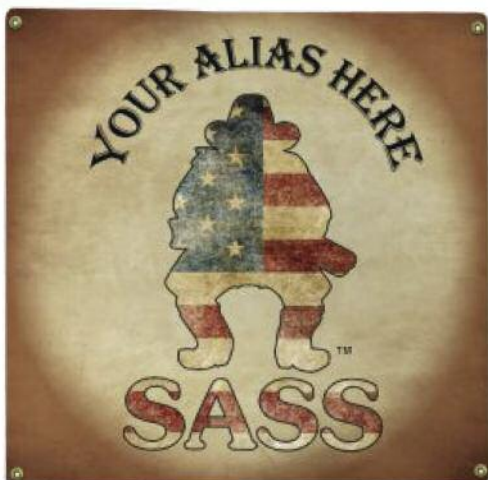
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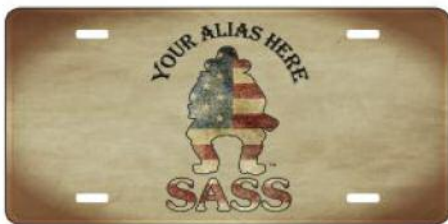
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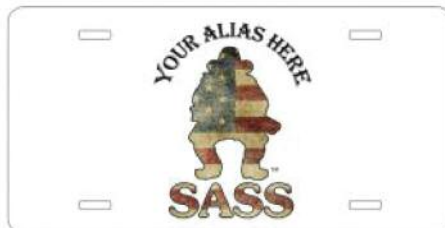


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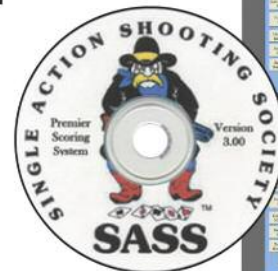


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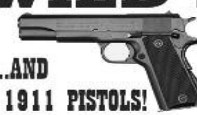


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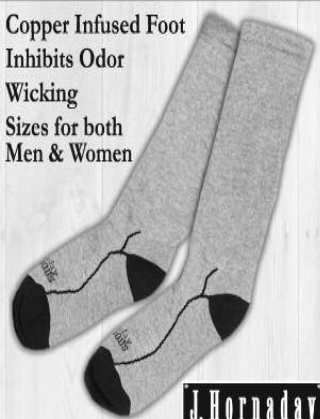
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