

INNOV

FEBRUARY | 2017



Cowboy CHRONICLE

Inside...

**RANGE WAR 2016
MICHIGAN STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**

**DISPATCHES FROM
CAMP BAYLOR
JOHN KING FISHER AND THE TIGER**
By Capt. George Baylor

**A BOTCHED DECADE PART 1
THE DISASTROUS 1850s**
By Big Dave



Grace Under Fire and Dallas Dancer pose for a striking photo in front of Comox Lake during Bustup at Boomtown, the 2016 SASS® Canadian National Championship. There's a glacier down yonder under the clouds too.



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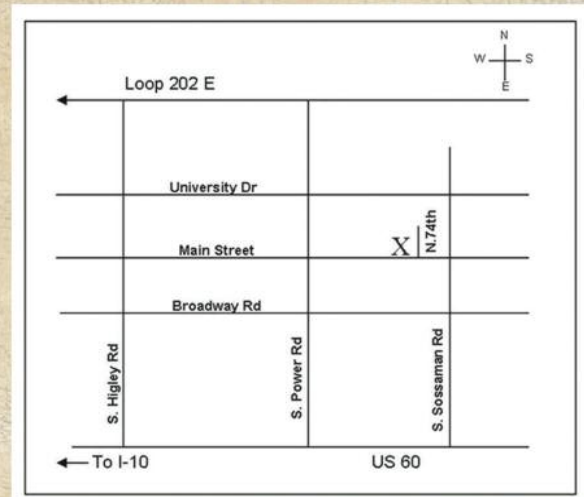


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*Black River Bill
(SASS #39388) races
his way through one
of the stages at
Range War 2016—
The SASS®
Michigan State
Championship—
under the watchful
eye of RO Lassiter
(SASS #2080).*



Bustup at Boomtown 2016

SASS Canadian National Championship

North of the Border 2016

SASS Canadian Wild Bunch Championship

By Helena Handbasket, SASS #85280

Photos by Crotchety Old Grouch, SASS #51188;

Dallas Dancer, SASS #42365; and Swede Olsson, SASS #96110

Cowboys and Cowgirls aren't scared off by a little rain, are they? Heck no! We proved that in Courtenay, British Columbia over the Labor Day weekend. Well more than 100 shooters, spouses, and kids made the ferry trip to Vancouver Island (a bit north of Seattle) late in August, anticipating ten days of cowboy fun. Our sister club in Victoria (also on the Island) had made it well worth the trip by combining their 25th annual match ("Headquarters") with our first-ever Canadian Wild Bunch Championship and the 2016 SASS Canadian National Championship. We had four days of side-matches, three major two-day matches, and two RO courses at Boomtown to keep everyone busy. And it only rained at night (mostly). This is the "Wet Coast," after all.

The Courtenay festivities got underway on Tuesday at Boomtown with a large Wild Bunch RO class, led by Canadian Wild Bunch Ambassador Serenity (SASS #64982) and her husband Legendary Lawman (SASS #73160). We were extremely pleased



Alberta Annie, Victoria Diamond (SASS #60952), Dallas Dancer, Mustang Heart (SASS #24909), and Kissin' Carol (SASS #96421) took home the honors in the very crowded Lady Senior category.

they were able to make the very LOONG trip west to Vancouver Island (West Coast) from their home in Ontario, in Central Canada, especially when we heard they had just come back from a match on the East coast, almost 3,000 miles away. Talk about

frequent flyer points! At the end of the day, we had 14 new Wild Bunch Range Officers to help with this fast-growing sport. Canadians love their Wild Bunch!

Wednesday dawned dry (almost) and sunny, eventually. Our First-Ever

Bustup at Boomtown 2016 ... North of the Border 2016 ...



Crotchety Old Grouch took a break from taking hundreds of photos to show us how it's done in Wild Bunch.

Canadian National Wild Bunch competitors set out to test their mettle on some challenging and intriguing stages. This match was called "North of the Border," and was dedicated to Texas Ranger Frank Hamer. Match Director Slim Delgado (SASS #85279) took the rulebook very literally and laid out a series of stages that were heavy on pistol targets, light on rifle, and heavy on shotgun. If you didn't have five extra magazines for your 1911, you had to borrow some. Innovative sweeps like the "Mozambique" and the "Dog's Breakfast" kept shooters on their toes and smiling, and the hard-working brass-pickers kept the mountains of brass and expended pistol magazines from taking over the range. It was a tough job, but somebody had to do it! We even had a few first-time Wild Bunch shooters who surprised themselves with the amount of fun they had. Once the five stages were done for the day, it was time to head over to the other ranges for some side-match rivalry. Our match directors had decided we wanted to give each shooter a chance to shoot every side-match, re-



Artie Fly (SASS #25397) traveled all the way from Texas to stick a feather in his cap and put on a smoke and flame show.

gardless of other events taking place. To that end, we offered four hours of side-matches on each of four days! There were 40 side-match categories up for grabs. That's a lot of range marshals, but we had many volunteers from within and outside the club.

After the second day, and five more stages of Wild Bunch action, our Canadian National Wild Bunch winners accepted their accolades in our Boomtown Saloon. Top Man shooter was Legendary Lawman, top Lady was Serenity, and we had one clean shooter for the Wild Bunch match. We didn't

know how many folks would be interested in a Tex-Mex potluck, but as it turned out, it was almost EVERYBODY. The food was fabulous and endless, the setting was cozy, and the seating was Standing Room Only. We had a lot of fun, ate too much, then everybody made their way back to their RVs to get ready for the next day.

Friday was jam-packed with events. The Ladies Red and White Victorian Tea/Brunch was well attended in the morning, and it also kicked off the weekend swap meet. Gowns and shirts and skirts and hats were flying off the racks. The happy sellers and happier purchasers sealed their deals over an impressive array of home-baked goodies and delicious teas. At the same time, we had reserved our Sporting Clays range, one of the most picturesque venues you can imagine, for a large contingent of cowboys and cowgirls to try their cowboy shotguns on six stages of Cowboy Clays. No gun-carts required, just a bag to carry your shells. Lots of fun. And if that wasn't enough for one morning, we also had an RO1 course underway in the saloon. Whew! When that was all finished, our four-stage warm-up match was held in

(Continued on page 6)



Serenity, winner of the Spirit of the Game award and Canadian Lady Wild Bunch Champion for 2016 took everyone to school and gave us a lesson in how it's supposed to be done.

Bustup at Boomtown 2016 ... North of the Border 2016 ...

(Continued from page 5)



the afternoon. This was also the last day to shoot those side-matches if you'd been too busy the other three days so far. Are we having fun yet?

Friday night, as is our tradition, was steak and corn night. You may not know this, but Boomtown is right smack dab in the middle of the finest corn-growing countryside in Canada. Possibly in the world! Our corn was fresh-picked that morning and shucked by a tireless group of ladies at our big clubhouse. Rib-eye steaks, aged to perfection, were ready for each shooter to grill his or her own. This was interactive cowboy dining at its finest. Nobody went home hungry. We had a lively and well-attended Dancehall Darlin' contest, run by our own appropriately attired Judge Gus McCrae (SASS #85851) and Miss Beadazzled (SASS #72424). Miss Belle Fire (SASS #96009) and Grace Under Fire (SASS #99267) took home the prizes for best costume. Now it was time for everybody to gear up for the main match the next day!

Saturday was the first day of the main match. Cowboy *Uuuup!* Boomtown was crammed with spectators,

volunteers, shooters, spouses, and gun carts. Match Director High Country Amigo (SASS #49198) and Chief Range Officer Kananaskis Kid (SASS #62402) made sure that all posses were well equipped to get through the six stages safely and quickly. Our stage writer Swede Olsson had assembled a fascinating group of Canadian frontier stories, giving shooters a history lesson at each stage. The Wild West wasn't just in the American Southwest, apparently. Who knew that our own past was so colorful! The Mad Trapper, the Flying Dutchman, and lots of other famous and infamous scoundrels got what was coming to them. The good guys won and the bad guys didn't. That's how we like it here at Boomtown.

Newcomers and old friends alike love shooting at our range, which is nestled in a forest, looking down a spectacular lake at a glacier. It doesn't

Bustup at Boomtown 2016 . . . North of the Border 2016 . . .



get much better than this. Boomtown consists of 19 permanent buildings and fronts, ranging from a full saloon (the family-friendly kind) to a complete general store, mine office, train station and trestle, fort, jail, livery stable, and lots more. It's easy to have a great match when the setting is so natural and looks so authentic. We do get the odd rainy day here so we have plenty of covered bays. There isn't much snow on the west coast, so we shoot year-round.

After Saturday's six great stages, the rest of the afternoon was spent getting spiffed up for the evening Formal Banquet and costume judging, held in our main Clubhouse. We were blessed to have a fabulous caterer feeding us for the whole weekend. I think everyone who was at the match would agree we had probably the best banquet food ever. And everything they fed us was prepared in their custom food truck! As always, there were long hungry lines of

beautifully costumed folks patiently waiting their turn at the buffet table. It was worth the wait. This was cowboy food in the very best sense. No rubber chicken here! When everyone had eaten their fill, it was time for the costume judging. Serenity and Legendary Lawman had kindly consented to bring their costume expertise to bear and act as two of the judges. There was a strict process through which contestants had to go, involving answering questions about their character, the costume's authenticity, and knowledge of the period. The costumes were dazzling, the setting was amazing, and the weather cooperated. The sun broke through the clouds right on cue, making for great photo ops looking out at the lake, with the glacier in the background.

Sunday started off bright and early with Cowboy Church, presided over by Preacher Man John (SASS #87098). Then the last four main match stages flew by quickly, made livelier by the newly built stage props and signs painstakingly and accurately created by Starr Phoenix and Swede Olsson. There's a lot of talent in our club! That wasn't the end of the shooting though. Once everyone had a chance to catch

their breath, the final competition of the match was held. The One on One showdown on Sunday afternoon was, as usual, a huge hit. Our younger shooters run this competition and a large appreciative crowd loved it. Whistlin Will (SASS #88382) took home the honors for top one-on-one Man, and Senorita Itchy Finger (SASS #80037) was top Lady.

Sunday night found the weary shooters celebrating the end of a long fun-filled week of friendly competition at the Awards banquet. We tried a new form of trophy this year, with gorgeous custom laser-engraved plaques made of solid slate awarded to the top three winners in each category. Our 2016 overall top Male shooter was Talisker (SASS #90810), and top Lady was Alberta Annie (SASS #85914). Spirit of the Game honors went to Serenity, and we had eleven Clean Shooters. Please visit <http://www.valleyregulators.com/> for complete results and further information.

The SASS 2017 Canadian Nationals are going to be held in Kamloops, BC. We are excited to be heading back to high desert cattle ranch country again next year. Can't wait to see everyone there! 🐾



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From The Editor

SKINNY'S SOAPBOX

By Skinny, SASS #7361



Skinny, SASS #7361

Corrections to January's Champions of SASS Listings

Shortly after the release of our January issue of *The Cowboy Chronicle*, I received a note from Back Forty (SASS #23910) expressing his disappointment that the Illinois State Wild Bunch Champions, Shell Stuffer (SASS #5424) and Bad Bad Beth (SASS #103716) were not included in our list of state champions. Please consider this their official recognition. Our deepest apologies for the oversight. The match, hosted by the Kaskaskia Cowboys in Sparta, Illinois, was actually a combined championship for the states of Illinois as well as Indiana and Kentucky, but it was attended by Illinois residents only, so there are no Indiana or Kentucky champions for 2016.

Other errors have been called to our attention. The 2016 Midwest Regional Men's Champion is Cowboy Carty (SASS #86059), not Johnny Otter (SASS #71070), as reported; Connecticut Overall Lady is Appaloosa Amy (SASS #63949), not Calico Jan, (SASS #102676), as reported; Massachusetts Overall Lady is Birdie Cage (SASS #32773), not Hawley McCoy (SASS #59588), as reported; New Mexico Champion is Mica McGuire (SASS #18526), not Sandoval Kid (SASS #86892), as reported; Nebraska State Men's Champion is Platte Valley Kid (SASS #89861), not Speedbird (SASS #93670), as reported; and the Canadian Western Regional Lady Champion is Alberta Annie (SASS #85914), not Canadian Two Feathers (SASS #70784), as reported (Canadian Two Feathers is the Canadian Eastern Regional Lady Champion). Our apologies for the numerous errors this time around; if there are any more that we missed, please contact me at editor@sassnet.com and I'll make sure an amendment gets into a future edition.

SASS Sanctioning

This seems like a good time to segue into a pitch to all clubs to keep their information up to date and to keep up to speed with the SASS Sanctioning process for annual matches at the state level and above. This will make it easier and more accurate for us to compile winners lists in the future. The information we provide can only be as accurate as the information we receive.

For information on the SASS sanctioning process for Cowboy Action Shooting™ and Wild Bunch matches, go to <http://www.sassnet.com/AnnualMatches.php>. Once there, look on the right side of the page for the various links to download sanctioning information.

Background Checks in Canada and in the USA

This edition contains an essay by one of our SASS Scholarship recipients from Canada, as well as a letter from Palaver Pete (SASS #4375), one of our long-time contributors, both advocating stronger background checks for the purchase of firearms in the United States. Smoke N' Ash (SASS #86017)—our scholarship recipient—makes

the argument that stricter background checks and regulation of firearms ownership is a beneficial thing and has not seriously affected the ability of Canadian citizens to purchase firearms, whereas Palaver Pete believes the various "loopholes" in the U.S. background check system need to be closed up. I'm afraid I must take issue with some of those sentiments, however.

While I'm sure no one (myself included) would argue that procedures should be in place to deter criminals and mentally unstable persons, *etcetera*, from purchasing firearms, my fear lies in allowing *any* government agency the broad authority to decide who can or cannot own a firearm. No matter how benign "gun control" measures seem to be when first implemented, the unfortunate outcome of such measures worldwide is the eventual elimination of gun ownership, and anyone who studies the history of gun laws in places like Australia, Asia, and Europe should be able to see that. I don't know what the ultimate answer is, with regard to keeping firearms out of the hands of those who should not own them, but I'm pretty certain giving the power of denial to *any* government is *not* the answer. To my mind, the only reasonable solution is to make the penalties for misconduct with a gun severe—and such laws already exist—and then strictly enforce those laws. Freshman economics theory suggests to us an individual will (consciously or subconsciously) weigh the probable reward for an event (like a crime) against the probable penalty and likelihood of being caught and convicted, and if the reward outweighs the penalty will engage in that activity. Thus, presently, criminals *will* acquire firearms and misuse them despite it being illegal for them to do so because the penalty for their misuse is not severe enough and/or the probability of their being apprehended and convicted is not great enough. To curb gun crime, that's where the solution lies, in my opinion.

Palaver Pete

Speaking of Palaver Pete, we're also reporting—elsewhere in this issue—his decision to retire from his writing chores for *The Cowboy Chronicle*. Pete has been a dedicated and faithful contributor for many years and he will be missed. We wish him well and hope he makes the most of his "retirement."

Comic Book Corner

Once again, we're featuring an adventure of the Fargo Kid from the late 1940s, mostly because I like the artwork of John Severin. We'll run one more story next issue, then move on to something else. 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.

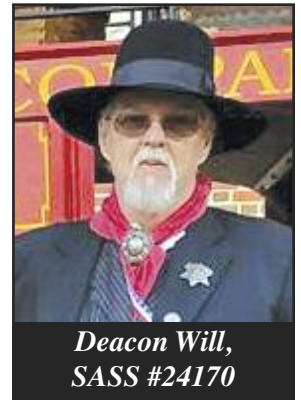
—Skinny 🐾

Riding for the Brand

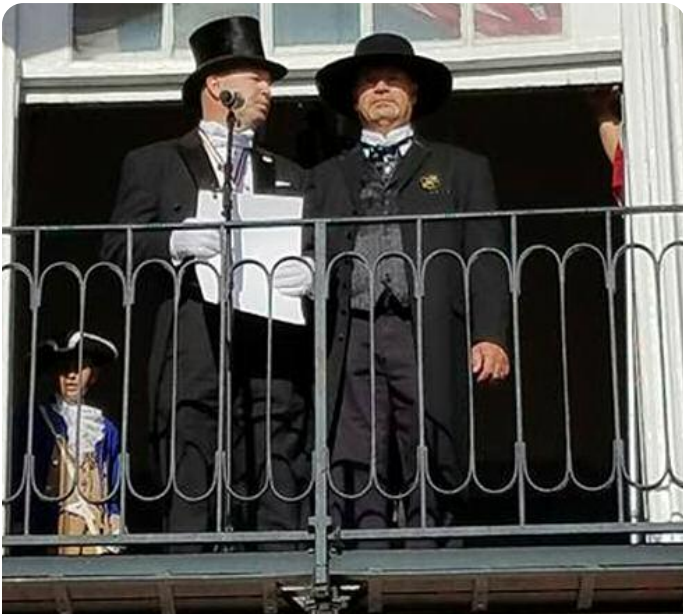
The Single Action Shooting Society® Makes History In the First State, Delaware

By Deacon Will, SASS #24170

Photos by Robert T. Lee, SASS #104419



Deacon Will,
SASS #24170



Sheriff Lee with the Georgetown Town Crier Kirk Lawson,
who read the Official Election Results to the citizens.

Delawareans take pride of their place in history. On December 7, 1787, Delaware became the first state to ratify the [Constitution of the United States](#), thereby becoming known as The First State.

In 1791, the Delaware Legislature required all votes to be cast on Election Day at the new County Seat, Georgetown, located at the center of the county. Delaware has three counties and Sussex has the largest land area. Thus, all Sussex County residents had to travel to Georgetown in order to vote on Election Day and then return two days later to hear the results—hence the name **Return Day**. The winners of that year's political races would parade around the town circle in horse-drawn carriages and then the winners and losers and the chairs of the county's political parties would perform the ceremonial "burying the hatchet" into a tub of sand.

In 1811, voting districts were created across the state, but the Board of Canvassers would still meet two days later in Georgetown to announce the final election results. Although television and the Internet have eliminated the need for Return Day, it is still a time-honored tradition for Delaware residents to join together for a day of fun and a touch of nostalgia. Sussex County Return Day is recognized as the only event of its kind in the nation. The ceremonial burial of the hatchet symbolizes the official end of Delaware's political season and a return to civility within Delaware politics. The sand used to do the symbolic burying is brought from Lewes, which is the site of the original

(Continued on page 10)



The ceremonial Burying of the Hatchet
by political party leaders, accompanied with applause,
shouts of joy, and Amen's.



Lori Darling, Sheriff Robert T. Lee, Doc in the Box, Dead Eye Dutch, and Returns Day VP Jim Bowden.

Riding for the Brand . . .

(Continued from page 9)

Sussex county seat. The “hatchet” is a “single-handed striking tool (axe) and is also referred to as a tomahawk.”

There is also an ox roast on the circle where, after a two-day preparation, an ox open pit BBQ is served after the “reading of the results.” Citizens are invited to eat free.

The theme for 2016 was “Honoring Law Enforcement” and offered a grand opportunity for SASS members to be a part of the festivities. It just so happens the elected County Sheriff, Robert T. Lee is an active member of SASS and the two clubs in the area, Paden’s Posse and the Eas’dern Shore Renegades.

When the ballots are cast on Election Day, they are counted and certified at the courthouse and then given to the custody of the sheriff

until they are presented to the Town Crier to be read aloud to the citizens. The Sheriff is also given custody of the Hatchet, to be delivered for the Burying Ceremony.

Sheriff Lee had seen a stagecoach built by Dead Eye Dutch (SASS #62266) after its unveiling at the Delaware State Match in May of 2016 and was impressed with quality of the build. With some discussion among a few SASS members, Sheriff Lee presented an idea to the Return Day Committee to invite Dead Eye Dutch and his Stage Coach to be the vehicle to deliver the all-important Hatchet for the completion of the ceremony on Return Day. The Committee approved the idea and the services of Dead Eye Dutch, Doc in the Box (SASS #40647), and Deacon Will were secured to assist in the presentation and documenting this historic event.

To make the day “official” for

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having custody of and being given the responsibility of transporting the Sheriff and the all-important “axe,” Dead Eye Dutch and Doc in the Box were sworn in as Sussex County Deputy Sheriffs and presented Badges during the ceremony prior to the event.

The event was opened with much pomp and circumstance with bands playing and singing, and a parade that featured more than twenty horse drawn carriages with the politicians that were running for office—both winners and losers. Following the carriages, The Dead Eye Dutch Wells Fargo Stage Coach delivered the Sheriff, his Wife Lori Darling, Dead Eye Dutch, and Doc in the Box to present the ceremonial Hatchet to the officials who would eventually bury it for all those present to see.



The 2016 Return Day President’s Award, presented to Dead Eye Dutch and his remarkable stagecoach.



Just to make it official, Deputy Sheriff Badges were presented to the SASS "messengers" entrusted with the transportation and security of the Return Day axe.

Riding for the Brand . . .

The parade continued for another hour with more bands, marching units, police motorcycle contingent, fire trucks (new and antique), a bevy of classic vehicles, and many politicians addressing the crowds that had packed the city streets and town circle.

At the conclusion of the parade and acknowledgment of State officials, Governor and former Governor, Senators, and Representatives, a few speeches were made and the election results were read by the Town Crier, concluding with the hatchet being buried in the sand. It was time to start packing up to get the stage back on the trailer and get a bite to eat, as it was now after 5:00 p.m., but enthusiastic people kept coming up asking to have their pictures taken with the stage coach and SASS members, and asking questions about SASS and our shooting sport. With the coach parked on the lawn of the old courthouse, people continued to ask for pictures. Finally, around 7:00 p.m., a long and happy day that had started at 8:00 a.m. came to an end.

We enjoyed the opportunity to discuss and interact with hundreds of people and introduce them to the world of SASS. It was an honor to "ride for the brand" and be ambassadors for our shooting sport. During the event, there was a panel of judges whose task it was to decide which "float" or group best represented the spirit of the event... and Dead Eye Dutch's Stage Coach and the SASS theme won the President's Tro-



Dead Eye Dutch's stagecoach as it approaches the town circle, carrying Sheriff Robert T. Lee and the "hatchet." Note the great detail taken in the construction.

phy, the top trophy presented for the event.

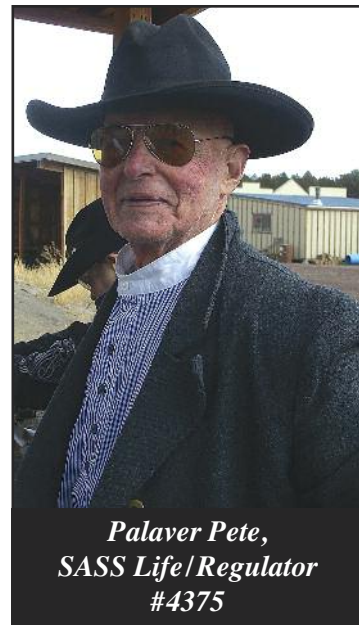
The stagecoach is the creation of the fertile mind of Dead Eye Dutch, who took a golf cart and modified it for his personal gun cart to be used at big matches. It seats four people with ease and has a boot (trunk) that safely protects his firearms, ammo and gear. Dutch tells the story of the evolution of his project from having seen a Wells Fargo Calendar with a bright red stagecoach. Drawing out a pattern on plywood and after a couple of weeks work, followed by another week of painting and pin striping with the help of Chris Heart (Sea-GAL Signs), fitting a canvas boot, welding up a roof rack and constructing a driver's seat and placing life sized dummies as driver and shotgun guard, he topped off the roof with "antique" trunks to give it that real old west look and feel.

Thanks to Teton Tracy (SASS #40592) and South Paw Sadie (SASS #49471) and the Eas'dern Shore Renegades for their logistical support, encouragement, and help; also to our partners, The Jackson Hole Gang, Chuckaroo (SASS #13080), Debbie Jones (Return Day President), Jim Bowden (Return Day Historian and Vice President) and the Committee for Return Day, Inc., who made the day memorable and historic. 🤠

News

Staff Writer Palaver Pete

RETIRING



*Palaver Pete,
SASS Life/Regulator
#4375*



His first article appeared in the March 1993 issue of *The Cowboy Chronicle*. "I remember it well," said Palaver after indicating to Editor Skinny he was going to retire. "My first article was actually about myself and the fact I was entering the business of producing Cowboy Greeting Cards for members of the Single Action Shooting Society®. My business effort did not pay off despite experiencing very good sales at the 1993 END of TRAIL in Norco, California." After that, he continued, "cowboys were more interested in purchasing firearms than greet-

ing cards, and I don't blame them. SASS was experiencing a growth spurt and guns were the name of the game."

After his failed business venture, Palaver decided he could best contribute to the growth of SASS by writing articles about the Cowboy events he attended nationwide. One of his favorite articles was about the "Plainfield Raid," directed and administered by Diamond Dick (now deceased), Max Sand, Paniola Lady, and Tequila Peach. The Plainfield Raid, or one similarly named, continues to be held annually in Davis, California, located slightly west of Sacramento. "My writing," continued Palaver, "apparently pleased then-editor of the *Tex*, because he asked me to write the primary article about the Twentieth Annual END of TRAIL, held at the Raa-hauge Ranch in Norco in June 2001. That was a fun article, with so many people to interview and so many posses to mention. I think the article wound up at four pages, which really surprised *Tex* and Cat Ballou—anyway, they both thanked me and that's all the com-

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Staff Writer Palaver Pete • Retiring . . .

pensation I wanted to receive.”

Now going on 83 years young and fighting Cancer, Palaver celebrates his writing life with SASS as one big party—“I will miss it, but I want to simply

relax and concentrate more on beating the Big C and doing more shooting than writing. I guess I can say to myself for once, ‘I’m a Daisy if I do!’ Happy Trails to all my friends in the SASS Family!”

Mernickle Holsters

Helping to create **“World Champions”** since 1975.

When it comes to “High Performance” Bob Mernickle “world champion Speed shooter and multi speed record holder” knows how to get to the gun fast! “He then says you have to get it back in equally as fast!” Welcome to the

NEW “HP series” of Cowboy Action Shooting Holsters.

The NEW HP1REF1 comes with a lot of new design ideas .

Here are just some of them.

- We have dropped the holster down 1 ½” lower than anything we have done before making for an easier reach for the gun.
- We have cut the front down to allow a full thumb landing on the upper frame for those who do a gun transfer.
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Letters & Opinions

Dear Editor,

I am glad to see SASS® approach the problem of target distance. The clubs in my area are placing targets shorter than recommended distances and for this reason I am no longer shooting with these groups because I feel the safety is not there.

—Blacksheep Ron, SASS #99569

Hi Skinny,

I must respectfully take issue with Desert Pete’s statement that “The Second Amendment [would have] survive[d] a Clinton Presidency.” It is possible, but I am thankful that we will not have to find that out. The question is not whether a liberal Supreme Court would abolish the Second Amendment, which it could not legally do, but whether a liberal Supreme Court would emasculate the Second Amendment. A liberal Supreme Court could substantially curtail the right of everyday citizens to use firearms for personal protection and allow other restrictions on our gun rights. Needless to say, our sport could be substantially affected by a liberal Supreme Court. I think we are safe for a few years but this will be a never ending battle. We will all need to stay strong and support candidates who support a strong Second Amendment.

May God Bless The United States of America, our Cowboy Action Shooting™ family, and The National Rifle Association.

—R.J. Law, SASS Life #15466

Territorial Governor

NRA Life Member

Skinny’s column in January issue of The Cowboy Chronicle discussed the various proposals to replace the

Electoral College. In the 2016 election, the Electoral College worked exactly as intended. Clinton won the popular vote in Metropolitan New York City and Los Angeles County, while Trump won the popular vote in the rest of the Country. There is no provision in the U.S. Constitution for the popular vote for President. It is left to the state legislatures to decide the method of selecting delegates, with the states providing for popular vote selection of the electors, most with winner take all. If the election were to be decided by a straight popular vote the campaigns would have had a very different strategy.

—Brooklyn Slim, SASS #95065

Close the Loopholes!

Make Background Checks tougher!

To silence critics of the Second Amendment and gun ownership, we must work together to reduce gun violence on the streets, schools, and homes in America. A start to that task is to close all the existing loopholes in the background check system. The Supreme Court has recently closed one by ruling those found guilty of domestic violence (especially repeaters) will be regarded like felons and cannot own firearms. The number one threat to our police officers is domestic violence, so this was an excellent decision by the Supreme Court. The other significant loophole to the background check system is mental health issues. The 23 executive orders recently issued by President Obama addresses this loophole and offers solutions on how mental health providers can and should report those who present an immediate danger to others (<http://www.forbes.com/sites/rickungar/2013/01/16/here-are-the-23-executive-orders-on-gun-safety-signed-today-by-the-president/-6b47eac7cff4>). Had this been in effect earlier, we



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might have avoided the Roseburg, Oregon shootings. The shooter in this case was undergoing psychiatric treatment, and in addition he had recently joined the Army and was booted out two weeks later. None of this appeared on his background checks. We honest, law-abiding shooters who are concerned about the mounting resentment in our society to gun violence should be supporting all these efforts to stop the violence. To be against closing loopholes just doesn't make sense.

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

Western Three-Gun Correction

Dear Skinny,

Please post a correction in the next *Cowboy Chronicle* to Palaver Pete's December article. Western Three-Gun is not dead. I don't know where all they shoot; but they do have monthly matches and an annual in Piru, CA. I've shot the annual several times.

—Allie Mo, *SASS* #25217

Costuming in The Cowboy Chronicle

Are you kidding me? I am very surprised by the letter in the December issue of *The Cowboy Chronicle* and the comment that non-participants want to shoot but don't want to "dress like clowns." I hear quite the opposite as I travel around the country attending matches and SASS events. Visitors (non-participants) are always quite interested in our attire, asking how to get involved and where to find clothes like we wear. We are always posing for photos with visitors and for the media.

Yes, I understand there are those who just want to shoot and do not want to dress (a very small percentage), but most of us spend countless hours researching, planning, making, and acquiring accessories for our "period appropriate" attire. I learned to shoot a rifle and a shotgun so I could participate and DRESS like the ladies I saw in SASS pictures! Whoever made the comment that we "dress like clowns" needs to attend a costume contest and listen to the presentations made by the many contestants. Not only are they "spot on" with being authentic and original to our cowboy time period, contestants spend much time and money assembling their costumes.

As a writer for "Costuming Corner," I try to inform folks about costuming and promote the costuming associated with our sport as much as possible. In Skinny's reply, he pointed out the requirement for costuming as written in the *SASS Shooters Handbook*. This is a fantasy shooting sport, appropriate costuming is required!

Take a look at the Costume Corner in this issue to read "Kudos to the Gentlemen of SASS Costuming!"

—Texas Flower, *SASS Life/Regulator* #43753

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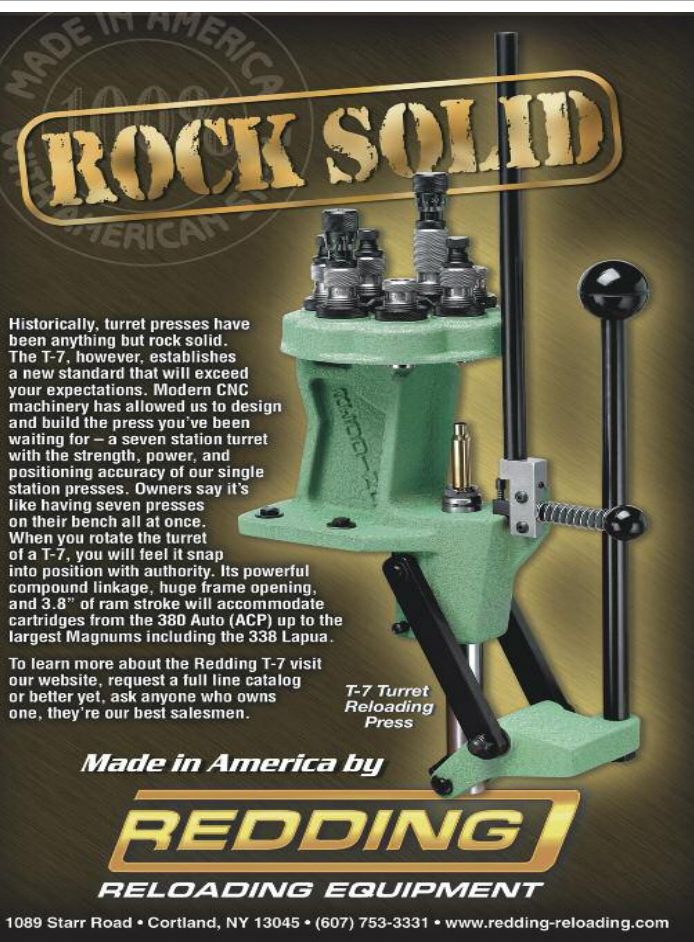


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Costuming Corner

Kudos to the Gentlemen of SASS Costuming

By Texas Flower, SASS Life Regulator #43753

Pictures by Texas Flower



Texas Flower, SASS Life/Regulator #43753



— Best Dressed Gentleman —
SASS Convention, January 2015

Wow, the Gentlemen of SASS® are amazing with all of their fabulous costumes! Not only are the best-dressed costumes fantastic, but the shooting costumes are wonderful as well! Yes, ladies, we are often the center of

the costume attention, but as I travel to matches and look at the pictures of matches in *The Cowboy Chronicle*, I notice the fabulous costumes the men are wearing. As I mentioned in a previous article, the gentlemen of SASS really

seem to be taking the costuming associated with our sport to the next level.

Because I am often asked to be a costume contest judge, I've noticed an increased number of gentlemen entering the costume contests. The men's categories many times have the most contestants, and they all look so good it is very difficult for judges to choose winners. Recently, I was told by some gentlemen costume winners, who had been shooting only a couple of years, they enjoy the costuming associated with our sport as much as the shooting! Here again, the costuming required to shoot our sport attracts many folks to become Cowboy Action Shooters™! (As stated in the SASS Costume Contest Management and Administration Mission Statement, "Costuming is what makes Cowboy Action Shooting™ unique among all the shooting sports, and dressing in costume is as impor-

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Kudos to the Gentlemen of SASS Costuming . . .



Bart Bittertrigger Finger



Huckleberry Pace as Tonto

swords, bling, and fringe! I am always surprised to see all the items and details that complete their costumes they are eager to show. I am impressed with the attention and creativity they put into getting



Quintana's shooting costume



Handlebar Bob as Roy Rogers

tant to many SASS members as the shooting events.”)

Out on the shooting range, there are many cowboys in their chaps, spurs, vests, bandanas, military uniforms, and B-Western bling. As I look at shooting costumes, I realize how much time and planning must have gone into putting some of the costumes together. It becomes a difficult task to select shooting costume winners.

Once again, when it is time to judge the best-dressed gentlemen, it is often difficult to select winners because there are so many great contestants in the men's categories. They have their walking canes, pocket watches, top hats,

ready for the costume contest. Many of the items they have are original and often have been handed down to them from family members. Some dress to portray a western or movie character. Some have a story to tell. I especially remember a traveling doctor with all his medical accessories, a banker with a hearing horn, a bartender with a keg mallet, and the movie character Rooster Cogburn.

I always look forward to seeing the costumes the gentlemen wear when there is a theme category. It does not seem to matter if it is Civil War, Silver Jubilee, or at

(Continued on page 18)



O Bar Freddie—Judges Choice Winner, SASS Convention 2015



Constable Nelson and Hawkshaw Fred at EOT 2016

Kudos to the Gentlemen of SASS Costuming . . .

(Continued from page 17)

one match, a Super Hero category, the cowboy shooters of SASS always come out in the most amazing costumes!

Yes, ladies, we can strut about with our bustles, sparkles, and feathers, but the cowboys on the range and the gentlemen in their formal, military, and B-Western attire are very impressive and handsome indeed!

#lookinggoodguys

#keepupthegoodwork

(Selecting pictures to use was a difficult task because

I had many pictures of gentlemen in great costumes!)



Doc O'Bay



Paso Tom



Yuma Jack





Texas Mac, dressed for Wild Bunch



Bexar Bill Brocius

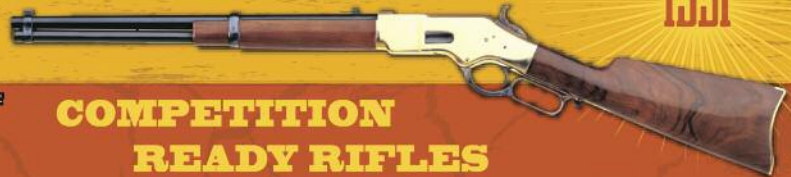


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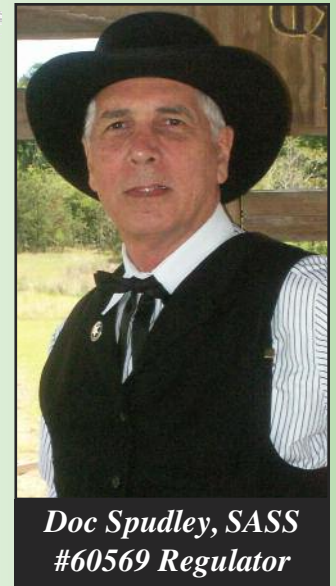
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Annual Reports

Hot Lead in DEADWOOD

By Doc Spudley, SASS #60569 Regulator



Doc Spudley, SASS #60569 Regulator



Quick draw shooting with Yosemite Sam (© Warner Bros. Entertainment).

Hot Lead 2016 was a great success, considering the town of Deadwood was under three feet of water from the south Louisiana floods just two months before the match. Clean up, repairs, and painting was needed for all the stages. Thanks to the members, everything was ready in time for the big event. This year we were honored to have the founder of SASS, Judge Roy Bean (SASS #1) and Justice Lily Kate (SASS #1000) join us to cele-

brate our Hot Lead annual match. The event started Friday with side matches. Side matches included the Texas Star, speed pistol, fastest three-gun, pocket pistol/derringer, man-on-man, and a quick draw with Yosemite Sam. The Yosemite Sam quick draw has become one of our most popular competition challenges, where two shooters compete to see who is fastest on the draw. Blanks are used to shoot balloons held by a cutout of Yosemite Sam; the first balloon to break lights up one of

Sam's eyes. (Yosemite Sam is © Warner Bros. Entertainment.) Friday evening after the side matches, everyone enjoyed a fine meal and socializing at one of our local restaurants. Saturday morning, before the match started, a group picture was taken of all the participants, and there was a good group in attendance. Shooters came from Florida, Mississippi, Arkansas, Texas and Louisiana. The weather was perfect—cool mornings and mid 70s in



Texas Flower (SASS #43753) blazing away at the derringer side match.



Top Man and Lady shooters, Copenhagen Calhoun (SASS #95060) and Dixie Deadeye (SASS #88756).



Cajun Outlaw and Donna provided the match with delectable food.

days by Cajun Outlaw (SASS #95535) and his wife Donna. You can't beat good Cajun gumbo. If you can't shoot good, you will surely eat good.

Saturday afternoon following lunch, Duke City Deadeye (SASS #80657) held the Wild Bunch match, which consisted of two

stages with plenty of movement and a lot of action. Saturday evening, we all gathered at Mike Anderson's Restaurant in Gon-
(Continued on page 22)

Hot Lead in Deadwood . . .

the afternoon. Saturday morning kicked off the main match with five stages and another five stages on Sunday. The five stages we shot each day went by quickly and all shooters were done shortly after noon. A great lunch was prepared both

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Hot Lead in Deadwood . . .

(Continued from page 21)

zales for a great banquet. Good food and lots of it. After everyone had their fill, the side match winners and best-dressed awards were presented. There was plenty of time to socialize and participate in the bucket raffle for the numerous guns that were to be given away.

Sunday afternoon, following the last five stages and

lunch, there was the presentation of awards. Custom Deadwood buckles were presented to the category winners and the top male and female shooters were presented a beautifully engraved trophy. A special trophy, the Golden Toilet, was awarded to the last place shooter, Squawty Bawdy (SASS #62932). All in all it was a great weekend, perfect weather,

good food, and a lot of fun.

Deadwood is a cowboy town in Sorrento, Louisiana, between New Orleans and Baton Rouge. Monthly matches are held on the first and third Saturdays of each month and the annual match is the fourth weekend in October. Please visit www.deadwoodmarshals.com for scores and for more information on the Deadwood Marshals. 🤠

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Annual Reports

Range War 2016

The SASS Michigan State Championship

By Misty Moonshine, SASS #83232



*Misty Moonshine,
SASS #83232*



Clean Shooters.

The first weekend in September brought just under 200 Cowboys and Cowgirls to the Blue Water Sportsman's Club in Marysville, Michigan for the Wolverine Ranger's eighteenth installment of Range War—the SASS® Michigan State Championship. Luckily, I was one of them, and I must say, if Range War is on your match wish list, get there! You will love every minute of it!

After flying into Flint and renting a car for the short drive to Marysville, I was greeted with a warm welcome akin to all SASS Cowboy matches. R.J. Law (SASS #15466) leads the crew at Range War and, along with his family and countless volunteers, flawlessly handles all of the event organization and administration. After meeting up for a

bite to eat, we headed to the Blue Water Sportsman's Club just as the sun began to dip under the horizon. The facility offers a clubhouse and an expansive area for camping that was already beginning to come alive with eager Cowboys and Cowgirls ready for the fun to begin. A central campfire ties all of the campers together and a warm, crackling fire was already blazing thanks to Hoot Hamilton (SASS #86407) and was surrounded by friends—both old and new—setting the stage for a veritable camping community.

Day one included check-in at the clubhouse and another warm welcome from the Range War crew. I picked up my shooters packet and, as were all shooters, was gifted with a tee shirt, a cart towel, and more friendly smiles. The offerings of the day included a

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The Memorial Wall.

Range War 2016 . . .

Wild Bunch match, a Doily Gang Ladies clinic, an afternoon four-stage warm up match, and an EMF new shooters clinic. The EMF new shooters clinic was led by Slipnoose (SASS #88329) and was a great way to introduce new shooters to the sport. The Doily Gang's ladies-only shooting clinic, hosted by Shamrock Sadie (SASS #78511) focused on transitions and raised \$250 for the SASS Scholarship foundation. There were side matches, speed events, clays shooting, and a Plainsman match too—something for everyone! When the lunch ven-

dor couldn't make it at the last minute, R.J. Law rallied his troops and brought pizza, ensuring everyone got lunch and proving once again their focus and dedication to ensuring every attendee was taken care of.

The Wild Bunch match was spearheaded by Hoot Hamilton and 31 shooters shot three stages of Wild Bunch fun! Ethan Callahan (SASS #41105) reigned supreme in the Traditional category and Mean Gun Mark (SASS #78668) took the top seat in the Modern category. One brave lady joined the ruffians for the

(Continued on page 28)



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Special thanks from R. J. Law

Range War is somewhat of a unique match because we do not have permanent stages and props. Each year we start from scratch to set up Range War. This takes a tremendous amount of work to move steel and props for both set up and take down. We could not do it without our volunteers and I would like to thank them all from the bottom of my heart. Thanks also to Deuce Stevens for being an outstanding Match Director and to his lovely wife K.J. for all of her help and support. I would also like to thank our Secretary and my daughter, Cosmopolitan Christine (SASS #89401) for all of her work both leading up to Range War in handling all of the Shooter applications and doing much of the organizational work in getting ready for Range War. I would also like to thank my wife, The Lady (SASS #15467) and my daughter K.C. Kate (SASS #22115), and all of the other ladies who helped with registration and other responsibilities at the clubhouse. Thanks also to Camptown (SASS #22279) for handling all of the scoring, and to Snareman (SASS #21425) for handling all of the financial aspects of Range War and for the Wolverine Rangers. Range War is clearly a team effort! Thanks also to all of our Servicemen and Servicewomen who fight and sacrifice for all of us. It cannot be said enough.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about Range War or the Wolverine Rangers.

—R. J. Law

Wolverine Rangers Captain 🐾

Range War 2016 . . .

(Continued from page 27)

Wild Bunch match—Mean Mary (SASS #45913) held her own in the Lady Modern category.

The late afternoon and early evening of the first day was spent in the camping community making the rounds and catching up with old friends... and making some new ones! Andy Horshurodinon (SASS #20360) offered up his unique, ice-cold apple pie made with rum. A stop at the campsite of Stone Creek Drifter (SASS #58853), Split Rail (SASS #24707), and the entire Ohio Gang meant sipping on Stoney's famous

frozen lemonade, tall tales, a lot of laughter, and a great time among friends. A fantastic meal capped off the night around the campfire, and day one was in the books.

As the sun came up on Saturday, the range was abuzz with an excited energy as everyone was ready and gearing up for the main match. The morning began with opening ceremonies and a safety meeting led by Range War stage designer and Match Director Deuce Stevens (SASS #55996).

The theme for Range War was "Honoring our Servicemen and Ser-



Shamrock Sadie conducting the Doily Gang's Ladies Clinic.



EMF's New Shooter Clinic.



Michigan State Champs Deuce Stevens and K.J. Stevens.

Range War 2016 . . .

vicewomen" and the AMVET Post 29 from Mount Clemens, Michigan brought out their Honor Wall in memory and in honor of Michigan Fallen Soldiers who fought in Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), and in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). The honor wall was a very moving display and commemoration for all.

(Continued on page 30)



Overall Match Winners Deuce Stevens and Sunshine Marcie.

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Range War 2016 . . .
(Continued from page 29)

The main match consisted of 10 stages and was shot five stages each day over two days. The stages were all clear, brilliantly written, straightforward, offered a lot of shooters choice, fun action, and some new sweeps (well, new to me!). The overall stage design and target placement proved to be a testament to the amazing skill level and reputation of match director Deuce Stevens. This was a FUN match to shoot and it catered to the skill level of every shooter equally—a feat in and of itself!

Saturday evening offered dinner in the clubhouse followed by another great evening spent around the community campfire led by R.J. Law, Laurie L'Amour (SASS #94581) and Snuffy Dave Edwards (SASS #51055). Everyone was invited to bring along a guitar



or other musical instrument and their voices to join in on singing songs around the campfire. The sun set on the second day as the air was filled with music and friends around a crackling fire.

Sunday ushered in the final five stages of the main match and, as in past days, the weather couldn't have been special ordered to be any more perfect than it was! Another nice lunch was offered on the range and the afternoon brought more visiting and match tales as everyone began to ready for the Banquet and Awards ceremony. Held just a short drive away from the range, the banquet facility was warm and welcoming. After a cocktail hour, dinner consisted of a delicious roast beef or turkey and all the trimmings. The Awards ceremony was well orchestrated and a great time was had by all!

Congratulations to Michigan State Champions Deuce Stevens and K.J. Stevens (SASS #62782), the overall match winners Deuce Stevens and Sunshine Marcie (SASS #64900—from West Virginia), as well as all the category winners and Michigan state winners!

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Guns & Gear

DISPATCHES FROM CAMP BAYLOR

John King Fisher and the Tiger

By Captain George Baylor, SASS #24287 Life Regulator



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

John King Fisher was every bit as much a “pistoleer” as John Wesley Hardin or James Butler Hickok, as much a thorn in the side of law enforcement as Billy the Kid, and as charismatic an outlaw as Jesse James. The tale of his death is as compelling as any of the four, but he has been overlooked and underrated by the popular press and movies. Born in 1854, in 1869 he escaped legal heat by going to the Nueces Strip. In a few years the man with “King” as his middle name was “King of the Nueces Strip.”

The Nueces Strip is the part of Texas between the Nueces River, which Mexico claimed as the border with Texas, and the Rio Grande, which Texas claimed as the border with Mexico. Longhorn cattle grew wild there and ranchers on both sides of the Rio Grande raised Longhorn cattle into a marketable commodity. Mexican outlaws stole them from Texan and Mexican ranches, while Texas outlaws stole from Mexican and Texan ranches. Mexican folk hero Juan Cortina captured Brownsville in 1859, starting a long conflict called the Cortina wars. During



“John King Fisher” at Winter Range 2016 and END of TRAIL 2016.

Reconstruction, the area was without law and order until a few Texas Rangers arrived in 1875.

“Located in the center of the Nueces Strip was Dimmitt County,

where John King Fisher reigned as the acknowledged leader of a large band of outlaws and stock thieves. From his stronghold on the Penedencia Creek he ran a loosely or-

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John King Fisher and his wife at the time of their wedding.

Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

ganized gang that took the art of changing brands with a running iron to new heights. When asked, most people that lived in the area would be quick to say it was “King Fisher’s land” and he controlled everything that went on there. At the same time, most would say he was “a pretty good ol’ boy.” Feared by some, hated by a few, Fisher generally had a reputation of being friendly with most people as long as you were not facing him with a gun.”¹

King Fisher wore two guns, practiced incessantly, and survived several gunfights. In SASS terms he could shoot double duelist or gunfighter.

On June 3, 1876 Captain Leander McNelly’s company of Texas Rangers, having dealt with several outlaw gangs and even invaded Mexico to retrieve cattle stolen from the King Ranch, came to arrest him. Captain McNelly was another larger than life Texan. He had been diagnosed with tuberculosis at age thirteen. It didn’t prevent him from enlisting in the Confederate Army as a private. It did prevent him from having any fear. When the war ended he was a captain and a Confederate war hero. In the spring of 1875 he was commissioned as captain of a Ranger company and sent them to the Nueces Strip. His actions there became legendary.

Paying no attention to the sign at the intersection of Fisher’s ranch road and the main road, “THIS IS KING FISHER’S ROAD. TAKE THE OTHER,” McNelly and his 25 rangers surrounded King Fisher’s ranch and arrested him and 8 of his men without violence.

The Rangers took the prisoners to Eagle Pass, but King Fisher had a lawyer, and McNelly didn’t have a warrant for specific crimes. Eventually King Fisher and his men were released and their cattle returned. The brand inspectors had been afraid to go out to inspect them.

King Fisher’s Outfit

So King Fisher threw a fiesta and invited the rangers. His outfit was described by two rangers George Durham in *Taming the Nueces Strip*, and J. A. Jennings in *A Texas Ranger*. The descriptions varied in some details, but both wrote about their ranger experiences many years later.

“King Fisher came down from the Pendencia—every inch a king, something to blink your eyes at. He rode a deep-chested dapple gray gelding that would heft around twelve hundred pounds, a lively prancing piece of horseflesh that had plenty of Kentucky breeding in him. His only blemish was a burned brand that

(Continued on page 34)

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(Continued from page 33)



“His hat was a brown beaver-the kind built for a cattle king or bandit king.” Boss Of The Plains hat and Stampede String by D Bar J with leather hatband from Cowboys and Trappings of the Old West.

had ended up as a 7-D. The saddle was everything a master workman could contrive out of plenty of flank leather and about ten pounds of beat silver. His hat was a brown beaver-the kind built for a cattle king or bandit king...



King Fisher’s chaps after Doc’s Old West refurbishing.

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“But even this and his two pistols, his hand-tooled belt, his silk shirt were topped by his leggings. They were made from the pelt of a genuine Bengal tiger and given him by his compadre, Ben Thompson. The story was that Ben took a liking to the skin while visiting a circus in North Texas. He tried to buy the tiger and the man wouldn’t sell. So Ben shot the tiger dead in his cage, bought the skin, and had a pair of leggings made for his friend.”²

Jennings remembered some details differently. “His shirt was of the finest and thinnest linen and open at the throat, with a silk handkerchief knotted loosely about the wide collar. A brilliant crimson sash was wound about his waist, and his legs were

Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

hidden by a wonderful pair of chapearejos, or chaps as cowboys called them – leather breeches, to protect the legs while riding through brush.”³

Jennings described the chaps as made from the skin of a royal Bengal tiger and ornamented down the seams with gold and buckskin fringe.

“In addition, Jennings said that King was fitted with a cartridge-filled belt housing two ivory-handled, silver-plated revolvers.¹

“Durham described the pistols as having gold streaks on the grips, and that the “hammers and barrels shined like glass.”¹

So what happened to John King Fisher?

McNelly talked to King Fisher before he let him go. His talk concluded “King. You’ve got a nice wife. You could make a good citizen. You’d also make a nice corpse. All outlaws look good dead. I only aimed to tell you to get out of this outlaw business. The next time the Rangers come after you we just might leave you where we overhaul you – and you could make a better life for yourself. But it’s up to you.”¹

Eventually some charges did get through, and King Fisher spent some time in jail and in trials, two for murder.

“So, after being indicted in twenty-one cases that included capital murder and rustling, King Fisher and his lawyer T.T. Teel won six acquittals. The rest of the indictments were dismissed when the state had to admit that their evidence was not sufficient to justify holding a trial.”¹

In one case the local paper wrote, “They proved that the two

men was sworn enemies; that they met on the prairie and it was a swap-out; and King won.”¹

In 1879 John King Fisher explained himself. “As for being a desperado, all I can say is that I have never killed a man unless it was in self-defense or in defense of my property, and I have very little respect for anyone who would not do the same.”

King Fisher became a legitimate businessman and eventually became Deputy Sheriff of Uvalde and was planning on running for sheriff in the fall of 1884.

On March 11 1884, at the Vaudeville Theater in San Antonio, King Fisher and Ben Thompson died in



Taken from John King Fisher's body in 1884, a “.45 Colt with a black gutta-percha handle and a blue-bronzed steel cylinder and barrel,” given to him by Mexican General Porfirio Diaz in the 1880s.

what was described as a gunfight in a room full of people. However, neither man fired his gun. King Fisher had 13 bullet holes and Thompson 9, most from Winchester .44-40 rifles, most from the back. No rifles were found. It was ruled self defense.

(Continued on page 36)

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(Continued from page 35)

Duplicating John King Fisher

I've been interested in King Fisher's outfit for several years and first had the chaps made about 12 years ago, with some recent improvements. There were some things I couldn't duplicate. John King Fisher was 22 when he was arrested and he was tall, handsome, and had a thick mustache. I'm not 22, not tall, not handsome, and The Redhead hated my mustache. Other parts I could work on.

Since the two rangers had different descriptions I had to pick and choose. I leaned toward Durham's details, which dictated a brownish beaver hat. The hat was made by D Bar J and arrived in time for END OF TRAIL. It is brown and based on one pictured in

[Cowboys & the Trappings of the Old West](#) down to the leather hatband. There's a story behind that. Several years ago I bought a hat of that description. It was getting old and no longer "fit for a bandit king." I sent it to David Johnson at [D Bar J Hat Co.](#) for restoration. When he took out the stitching on the



Three Rolled leather buttons about nine inches apart to enable putting the chaps on over boots.

sweatband the brim separated from the crown. So he made me a new hat and put the old hatband on it. David uses a blind stitch that can be pulled out without damaging the hat, so if this one ever needs refurbishing, he can do it. He mentioned that most modern Stetsons are not restorable. If you find a really old Stetson, he can restore it, but if it's a current one, he can't. Sadly, restoration is quite labor intensive and thus expensive. Quite likely he can make a new hat that looks just like it did when it was new for less money.

The scarf is silk, the shirt linen, and the vest is

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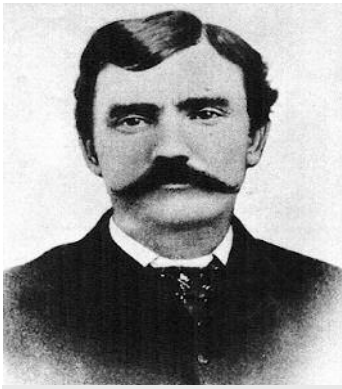
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*Bandit chieftain,
Texas gunfighter, and
Deputy Sheriff
John King Fisher.*

a floral patterned dress vest. In one pocket is an antique Bull Durham pouch. The watch in my pocket was a nineteenth century Elgin belonging to my great-grandfather.

I can't prove or disprove that cowboys wore cuffs in 1876. I wear cuffs because it's a SASS costume and judges like them.

Lindholm Brothers made the spurs several years ago from a pre-Civil War pattern. The leather rig I wore at Winter Range for the Saturday night Best Dressed Cowboy contest was made several years ago by Jack Houston based on the holster on the cover of [Packing Iron: Gunleather of the Frontier West](#) and featured Mexican Double Loop holsters and hand-tooled belt. The revolvers were nickel-plated, ivory handled '51 Navies. At END of TRAIL I shot in this costume and entered the best shooting costume category, going to the judges straight off the range, so the leather rig and guns were the ones I used in competition. Still, the rig by [Mernickle Holsters](#) fit the "hand tooled" description, and the pistols looked like nickel. A Randall Bowie knife in a Mexican double loop scabbard was on the belt.

But, of course, like John King Fisher's Fiesta rig, the eye catcher was the chaps. Jack Houston made


them several years ago, but they needed some work to make them more authentic and easier to wear. [Doc's Old West](#) (719-850-9029) refurbished them with period correct fringe, buckle and pockets. The pockets are set low for wearing guns. Shotgun chaps are normally laced or sewn together on the outer seams and you put them on like pants. This is not easy because you can't get them over your boots. You have to put them on and then put on boots. Doc put three wrapped leather buttons about nine inches apart on the lower part of the leg, enabling you to put them on over boots, which is much easier than putting boots on while wearing heavy hair-on chaps. This was one of the methods used by nineteenth century chaps makers.



*Texas Ranger Captain
Leander McNelly
succeeded in everything he
did in the Nueces Strip except
arresting King Fisher.*

NOTE: No cats were injured in the making of these chaps. A dyed cowhide was substituted.

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History

Part 1

A BOTCHED DECADE The Disastrous 1850s

By Big Dave, SASS #55632



Big Dave, SASS #55632



States and Territories of the United States of America
December 30 1853 to May 30 1854

Map of the United States, circa 1854.

One of the great things about studying history is no matter how bad things are during the present, you can always look back and find a time when things were a lot worse. At present, our political leadership seems to be at an all-time low. Many people voted for president with one hand holding their noses. Congress is a body of dysfunction—the two parties can't put their differences aside long enough to ensure the running of the government. There is a marked absence of compromise—the very thing that made the Constitution possible—and as a result almost nothing

gets done. But as bad as things are now, there was one period when things were definitely worse for the United States—the decade before the outbreak of the Civil War.

The issue that wrecked political discourse in the 1850s, slavery, had been around for a long time. It had been prevented from causing too much trouble because level heads had prevailed. After all, the preservation of the Union was far more important for most Americans than the resolution of the slavery question. Every time slavery had come up, a compromise was reached and



the whole thing was swept under the rug again. This was bad news for the millions of people who were enslaved, but ultimately it was good news for the country. However, by the late 1840s the issue wasn't going to go away. The late 1840s were a period of considerable national expansion and by that time the issue of expansion had become cemented to the issue of slavery.

The great majority of Americans who opposed slavery did not want it to be abolished. Abolition would simply cause too



This book is important for understanding the period in which it was written, but it isn't exactly a literary masterpiece.

A Botched Decade • The Disastrous 1850s . . .



Harriet Beecher Stowe's famous novel exacerbated tensions between the North and South at a critical time.

much trouble and abolitionists were viewed with disdain. That was one thing northerners and southerners tended to agree upon. Nevertheless, an increasing number of Americans were opposed to slavery's expansion. Southerners, of course, wanted slavery to expand so its survival would be ensured. It was all tied to representation in Congress.

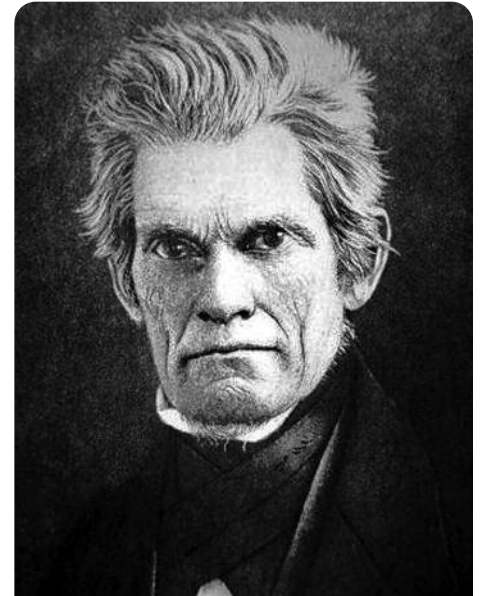
According to the Constitution, the number of Representatives a state can send to Washington is based upon that state's population. Despite the Three Fifths Compromise, whereby slaves were figured into the equation, the South had fallen behind in the House of Representatives. This was due to the fact that the majority of immigrants in the 1840s and '50s went to the northern states. If an anti-slavery bill came up for consideration, it was becoming increasingly difficult for southerners to block it in the House.

Fortunately for the South, each state sent two Senators to

Washington as well. In the Senate, an anti-slavery bill could be much more easily blocked, as long as there was an equal balance of free and slave states. However, if there came a time when the number of free states outnumbered the number of slave states, then that would no longer be the case. The crux of the conflict brewing between the North and South was linked to the issue of whether slavery would be allowed in the new territories that had been acquired as a result of the Mexican War. Ironically, as the United States grew, it became more divided at the same time.

California applied for statehood in October 1849. At its constitutional convention, all of its delegates had voted to outlaw slavery. Southerners were alarmed because this would upset the balance of free and slave states and an uproar ensued in Congress. Some southerners even talked about secession. Over the next several months, a series of bills were passed which eventually became known as the Compromise of 1850.

Some famous senators and congressmen were responsible for crafting the compromise. Senator Henry Clay (Kentucky), a Whig, put the compromise together with the help of Senator Stephen Douglas (Illinois), a Democrat. Another famous senator, Daniel Webster (Massachusetts) supported it. The Compromise of 1850 had something in it to satisfy everybody as well as something to offend everybody. In the end, it seems the discordant aspects of the compromise won



John C. Calhoun was so ill, his speech against the Compromise of 1850 had to be read to the Senate by a colleague. He died soon afterward.

out. However, it forestalled the Civil War for a decade and showed, at this point, there remained some willingness to find common ground.

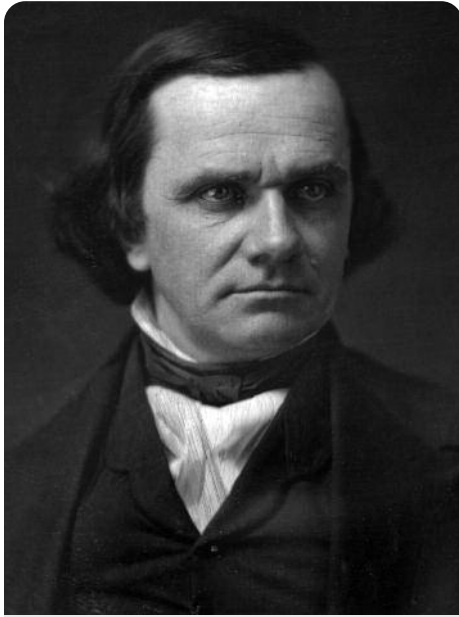
According to the Compromise of 1850, California would enter the Union as a free state. The other territories acquired from Mexico—Utah and New Mexico—would be allowed to choose slavery if their citizens desired it. This principle was called popular sovereignty. In addition, a tough new fugitive slave law was included. The slave trade, but not slavery itself would be banned in the District of Columbia and a border dispute was to be settled between Texas and New Mexico. Of the five pieces of the compromise the Fugitive Slave Act would cause the most controversy.

Not everybody supported compromise. President Zachary Taylor was against it—he felt California should enter the

(Continued on page 40)

A Botched Decade • The Disastrous 1850s . . .

(Continued from page 39)



Congressman Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois was one of the more skillful politicians of his day. He was surprised to learn the Kansas/Nebraska Act had opened up a veritable Pandora's Box.

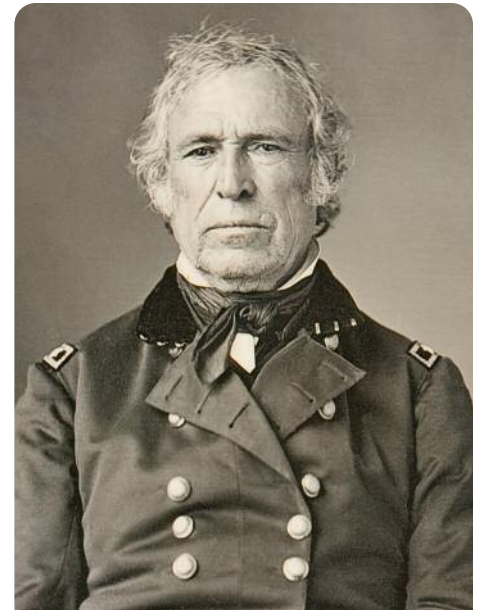
Union without the need for placating the southern states. As for those southerners who advocated secession, he would gladly lead the Army into their states and hang them if they tried. This was unexpected since Taylor was a slaveholder and a southerner. Senator John C. Calhoun (South Carolina) regarded the compromise as an abomination. He felt slavery should be expressly allowed anywhere. Abolitionists in the northern states detested the Fugitive Slave Act and thought the banning of the slave trade in Washington didn't go far enough. The Compromise of 1850 faced an uphill battle.

The debate raged on during the spring and summer of 1850. Calhoun, who was too ill to speak, had his speech against the compromise delivered by Senator James Mason of Virginia. A

few weeks later, Calhoun died. Senator Daniel Webster from Massachusetts delivered an excellent speech in favor of the compromise that greatly offended his constituency and destroyed his distinguished career. Henry Clay, who was also ill, exhausted himself trying to get the compromise to pass and would die later in the year. President Taylor, who wasn't going to budge on his opposition to the compromise, suddenly died in July and a chance to break the deadlock appeared.

Upon Taylor's death from cholera, his eminently forgettable vice president, Millard Fillmore, became president. Fillmore wanted this problem about California to end and supported the Compromise of 1850, which passed in September. It appears most Americans agreed with Fillmore.

About two years later, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was published. Written by Harriet Beecher Stowe, the novel became an instant best seller, especially among people who had opposed the Compromise of 1850. Stowe hated slavery and portrayed it in an extremely negative light. Modern readers might sneer at *Uncle Tom's Cabin* because of its sentimentality and melodrama, but it was an effective work. Its characters humanized the slavery issue in a way that had not been done before. Particularly memorable was Uncle Tom, the long-suffering slave. He was an almost Christ-like figure who forgave his evil master, Simon



President Taylor was another opponent of the Compromise of 1850.

Legree, even as Legree beat him to death.

Despite the fact that *Uncle Tom's Cabin* had serious shortcomings as a literary work, it caused a huge commotion. Southerners were outraged and argued that a woman who had only visited their region once had little understanding of its "peculiar institution." Northerners were equally agitated because the novel strengthened their worst preconceived notions about the South. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* managed to incense both sides of the slavery issue. It was like throwing gasoline on a smoldering fire. When Lincoln met Harriet Beecher Stowe years later during the Civil War, he allegedly addressed her as the "little woman who wrote the book that started this great war." Actually, there were still some more steps along the road to armed conflict—the war wasn't started by a book.

In the mid-1850s there was still an issue in American politics

A Botched Decade • The Disastrous 1850s . . .

which appeared to be unattached to slavery—the construction of a transcontinental railroad. There were two main options: a northern route that started in Chicago and ended in San Francisco or a southern route that started in New Orleans and ended in San Diego. Congress couldn't arrive at a decision. Moreover, if the northern route were going to be used, the territories which included Kansas, Nebraska, and the Dakotas had to be defined and organized. (At this point, they hadn't been.) Senator Stephen Douglas, from Illinois, who owned property near Chicago, was a proponent of the northern transcontinental railroad, but he knew it wasn't going to happen unless he found a way to get southerners to vote for it.

In January 1854, Douglas introduced a bill which would organize the territory of Kansas, Nebraska, and the Dakotas into a huge chunk of land called Nebraska. To get the southern votes, Douglas proposed that any state created from the Nebraska territory should be open to popular sovereignty, where the citizens could decide whether they wanted slavery or not. On the face of it, popular sovereignty seemed reasonable. However, it didn't fly with a number of northerners.

Part of what would be called Nebraska Territory had been included in the Louisiana Purchase. According to the Missouri Compromise of 1820, no part of that land above Longitude 36 degrees, 30 minutes would be open to slavery except Missouri. Douglas' bill would overturn the Missouri Compromise and allow slavery if the citizens chose it. Many northerners, including Douglas himself, felt that the slavery question would automatically resolve itself because tobacco and cotton weren't going to be major crops in that area. Slavery wouldn't spread because

it would be unprofitable. Southerners who voted for the Nebraska bill would be voting for a principle and nothing more. Meanwhile, the important thing was the transcontinental railroad would have its terminus in Chicago.

Douglas' bill narrowly passed in Congress and was signed into law on May 30, 1854. It became known as the Kansas-Nebraska Act. The debates that preceded it were bitter and tended to split both parties (Democrat and Whig) into northern and southern factions. In the end, enough northern Democrats voted in favor of the bill for it to pass. The northern route for the transcontinental railroad had been a powerful motivation.

Less than a year later, the chunk of "Nebraska" territory known as Kansas applied for statehood. This presented a huge problem because Kansas

(Continued on page 42)

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(Continued from page 41)

eventually had two territorial constitutions, one that permitted slavery and another that prohibited it. There was widespread voter fraud, especially in the southern part of the territory, which had voted to permit slavery. Thousands of pro-slavery Missourians had entered the territory to cast illegal votes—they were popularly known as “Border Ruffians.” Anti-slavery Kansans were just as determined to prohibit slavery. The stage was set for an armed conflict to decide Kansas’ fate.

By 1855, the question of slavery in the territories had effectively split both national parties into northern and southern factions. The Whig Party would soon cease to exist. A new party would soon be created from its northern elements. This would become the Republican Party. Southern Whigs would be reabsorbed into the southern faction of the Democratic Party.

What was even worse was the situation in Kansas. It would soon become a battlefield; a prologue to the Civil War known as “Bleeding Kansas.”

Nobody had foreseen this, least of all Stephen Douglas, who had wanted to get a northern route for the transcontinental railroad and saw the slavery argument as tangential. Unfortunately, by this time almost every aspect of American politics had become infected by the question of slavery in the territories. The remainder of the decade would see a continuing deterioration of the political process.

The second half of the decade, in addition to Kansas’ mini-Civil War, would see a southern Congressman beat a northern Senator senseless with a cane, a famous, or perhaps infamous Supreme Court Decision, the rise of a little-known Illinois politician named Abraham Lincoln, and the attempt by John Brown to foment a slave rebellion. The march toward war between the North and South would quicken its pace.



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Joe Fasthorse,
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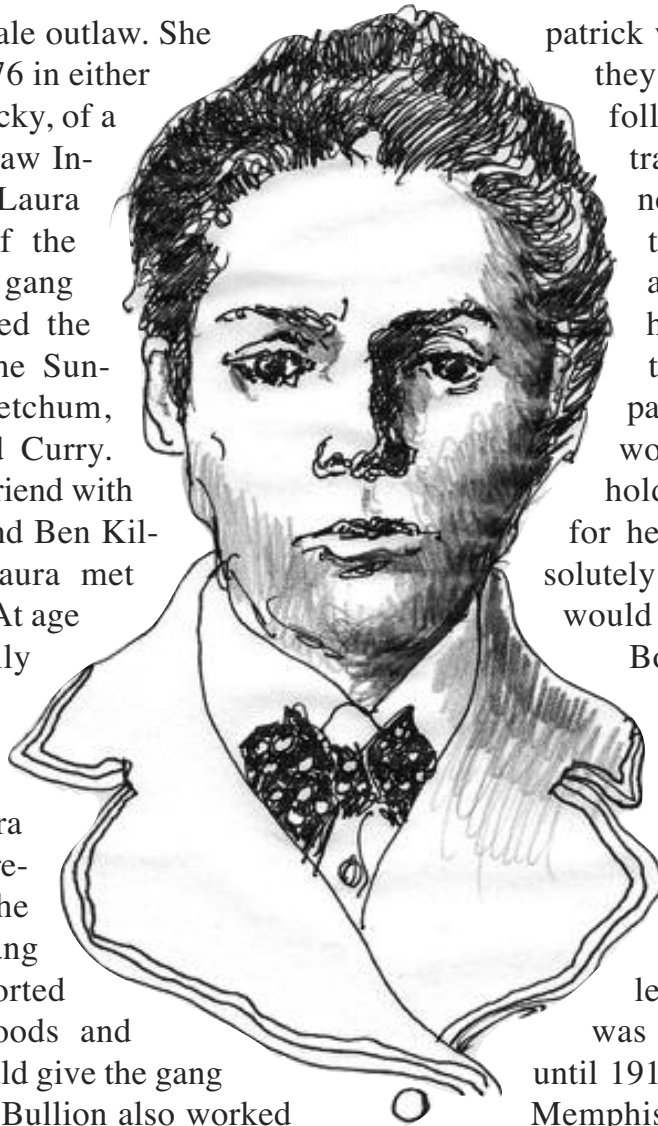
LITTLE KNOWN FAMOUS PEOPLE

- Way Out West -



By Joe Fasthorse, SASS #48769

Laura Bullion was a female outlaw. She was born in 1873 or 1876 in either Texas or Arkansas or Kentucky, of a German mother and an outlaw Indian father. By the 1890s Laura Bullion was a member of the Butch Cassidy Wild Bunch gang and her *compadres* included the likes of Ben Kilpatrick, the Sundance Kid, Black Jack Ketchum, Wild Bill Carver, and Kid Curry. Bullion's father had been a friend with outlaws Wild Bill Carver and Ben Kilpatrick, both of whom Laura met when she was 13 years old. At age 15 she became romantically involved with Carver and two years later with Kilpatrick. Members of the Wild Bunch nicknamed Laura "Della Rose." She was also referred to as the "Rose of the Wild Bunch." As the gang robbed trains, Laura supported them by selling stolen goods and making connections that could give the gang steady supplies and horses. Bullion also worked as a prostitute until reaching the age of 16 or 17. She returned to prostitution from time to time, working mostly in Madame Fannie Porter's brothel in San Antonio, Texas, a frequent hideaway for the Wild Bunch. Both Bullion and Kil-



patrick were arrested in 1901 after they fled east to avoid the law following the Great Northern train robbery. An eastern newspaper article mentions the suspicion that, disguised as a boy, Laura might also have taken part in a Montana train robbery. The paper cites a city detective: "I would not think helping to hold up a train was too much for her. She is cool, shows absolutely no fear, and in male attire would readily pass for a boy."

Both Bullion and Kilpatrick were convicted, with Bullion being sentenced to five years in prison and Kilpatrick receiving a 20-year sentence. She served three and a half years before being released in 1905. Kilpatrick was not released from prison until 1911. Laura Bullion moved to Memphis, Tennessee in 1918. She supported herself as a householder and seamstress, a drapery maker, dressmaker, and interior designer. She died of heart failure in 1961 and is buried at the Memorial Park Cemetery in Memphis. Kilpatrick was killed robbing a train on March 13, 1912. 🐾

Profiles

Scholarship Recipient 2016

Smoke N' Ash, SASS #86017

Edited & Adapted by Justice Lily Kate, SASS #1000



*Justice Lily Kate,
SASS #1000*



Ontario, Canada. Hello, my name is Ashley Blayne-Hofer, otherwise known as Smoke N' Ash. I am part of the Royal City Rangers from Guelph Rod and Gun Club in Ontario. There, I shoot with my father (Slow Don, SASS #66977) and numerous other fantastic and influential shooters. In the fall of 2016, I will be at the University of Waterloo majoring in Honors Kinesiology with co-op, and doing a double minor in psychology and rehabilitation sciences. After completing this five-year program I plan on going to graduate school for Occupational Therapy and eventually working or owning a pediatric occupational therapy clinic.

Cowboy Action Shooting™ has always been a love of mine since I was introduced to it at age ten. But, recently being part of Cowboy Action Shooting™ has made an even deeper impact. Earlier this year my dad got sick and the support from fellow shooters was phenomenal. At our home club's annual match they passed a hat around to collect donations to support things not covered by healthcare. We also received cards signed by people who have shot with my dad and me from all over North America. It is crazy to see how much the Cowboy community comes together to help each other out, and I can't thank them enough for all the support,

In addition to the wonderful cowboy family with which I am surrounded, I have also been blessed with an amazing community of cheerleaders. I have done cheerleading for the past ten years and have learned and grown so much. Through cheerleading I have been able to compete all over Ontario and the United States and then go on to win the World Championships. My team is also the focus of a new TV show called Cheer Squad, which is an incredible experience. I love that I have been able to excel at both cheerleading and shooting.

With Cowboy Action Shooting™ I have been able to travel all over Ontario for matches as well as going to numerous state championships and the Nor'eastern Regional. My greatest accomplishments are coming in the top 20 and second overall woman two years in a row at the Central Canadian Championship. I love being able to compete against my dad, and occasionally kick his butt, but what I love more is the relationship I have gained through SASS.

Scholarship Recipient 2016 • Smoke N' Ash, SASS #86017 . . .

I could not identify one or two people who have been influential in my life, because truthfully there have been so many people who have shaped me into the person I am today. A lot of wonderful people have contributed and invested in my life, many through cheerleading and Cowboy Action Shooting™. So, thank you to anyone who has ever shot with me and

given me a hand, given me advice, or simply been on my posse and acted as a role model; you have been more important in my development into the young woman I am today than you might realize. Thank you to SASS for providing me with this scholarship and for giving me such a vast amount of people who support and care for me. 🐾

The Need for Background Checks as Shown by Canada

By Smoke N' Ash, SASS #86017

Adapted & Edited by Justice Lily Kate, SASS #1000

Currently in Canada gun buyers must undergo a long process before bringing firearms home. In order to purchase and legally own a firearm one must be licensed. For one to obtain a license, they must undergo background checks as well as complete mandatory safety courses. Even with all these steps, gun ownership in Canada is increasing, while gun violence is decreasing. Thus, there should be a required background check before anyone is able to buy a firearm.

As a young person beginning the licensing process, it's not a burden, but a safety precaution just like "hammer down on an empty chamber." The guns required for shooting sports are still readily available, given buyers acquire a license prior to purchase.

Between 1991 and 1994, stricter gun laws were introduced in Canada. This new law required every gun owner to have a license. In order to obtain a license applicants had to submit reference letters, undergo thorough criminal mental health record checks, complete safety courses, and wait a minimum of 28 days before being approved. Since this law was introduced there has been 65 percent less long-gun related homicides. Also, as of 2012 the number of robberies committed with a firearm has dropped 27 percent; therefore, the extended background check required within licensing is reducing the numbers of guns legally in the hands of criminals and mentally ill and unfit buyers, in turn reducing gun crime in Canada.

If America were to take up Canada's licensing procedure, it wouldn't reduce one's ability to bear arms. Rather, by introducing a system in which buyers pro-

vide a license proving they've passed background checks, it would reduce gun crime. For example, in 2012 Canada gun related homicides were seven times less per capita than in the US. Furthermore, in states where background checks are required there is 48 percent less gun trafficking, and a 53 percent lower suicide rate. Thus, adding background screenings for both public and private sales is reducing violent crime.

Presently, if someone is aware they'd be denied by a background check in a store they have opportunities where they can legally obtain a firearm from private sellers. In many states going to private sellers is the way anyone can legally get a gun, even those who have a criminal past or history of mental illness. In the US, 40 percent of guns are sold through private sales; these types of sales do not require background checks, licenses, or records to be kept, meaning someone can buy a gun without a trace. The only way to prevent this is to force all privatized sellers to do background checks before transferring ownership of the gun. Forcing all gun buyers to be licensed and undergo a background check does not remove ones rights; it only prevents further issues.

In conclusion, imposing mandatory background checks for gun stores and private sales will reduce gun crime. Eighty-four percent of American gun owners already support universal background checks; therefore, the federal government would be wise to implement them.

Scholarship Essays represent the opinions of the writer and are not necessarily an accurate reflection of the opinions of SASS. 🐾

Profiles

Koocanusa Kid

A Cowboy with True Grit

By Fire Opal SASS Life #50730



Cowboy Action Shooting™ is all about speed and accuracy—or is it? In all walks of life there exist people who are admired and respected. Cowboy Action Shooters are typically valued for their speed and accuracy and are awarded with trophies, buckles, and acclaim. We also celebrate those who have worked to achieve brilliance with costuming. But, sometimes the Spirit of the Game is recognized for people who exhibit “the cowboy way,” and those awards are rare and treasured. Many shooters deserve acknowledgement for various achievements, but one Montana cowboy deserves recognition for his spirit and determination.

About seven years ago, Koocanusa Kid (SASS# 82311), known in his everyday life as Daryle Handy, fell in love with Cowboy Action Shooting™, and it changed his life. Koocanusa was born to two Kansas natives in Fort Riley during the early days of World War II and was raised in his mother’s western Kansas hometown of Beeler, located just seventy miles north of the infamous Dodge City, his father’s

birthplace. Even with his family roots going back to the homesteading and ranching days in Kansas, though, he had no special desire to re-live the past as a young man.

He joined the US Marine Corps in 1963 and served during the Vietnam era as a helicopter mechanic. During basic training, he recalls he shot so accurately he was encouraged to become a sniper, however he had his mind set on becoming a helicopter mechanic. Unfortunately, during the time of his service, he devel-

rigged to become a gun cart that his wife can push along during their shoots.

Over the years Koocanusa Kid graduated from a wheelchair to several scooters. His current modified heavy-duty scooter, a Golden Avenger model, has taken him to many matches. He designed a gun rack that fits over the front of the scooter, enabling him to carry his guns vertically to and from the loading table, the line, the unloading table, and back to his gun cart. This year Koocanusa received delivery of an Action Tracker, which is sturdier and even more versatile. As soon as he got his new “wheels” he started rigging it for shooting with horizontal gun racks for holding his unloaded guns. He has plans to further modify the Action Tracker in the future.

Koocanusa reloads all the ammunition for his .45 caliber Henry and New Ruger Vaqueros, as well as Sweetwater Lilly's .38 caliber revolvers and rifle. He also reloads 20 gauge shot shells for both of their Stoeger shotguns.

Cowboy Action Shooting™ has in many ways changed Koocanusa's life. He feels shooting has made him more active, improved his life, and given him a
(Continued on page 48)

Koocanusa Kid • A Cowboy with True Grit . . .

oped extensive back problems. He was honorably discharged from the military with a disability that has plagued him to this day. In 1985 he sustained even more injuries in a motor vehicle accident and became 100 percent disabled.

By the time Koocanusa was first introduced to Cowboy Action Shooting™ he was restricted to life in a wheelchair. He had owned guns since he was given a pellet gun and .22 rifle in childhood and had hunted throughout his life, so certainly he was no stranger to shooting. When a new neighbor who had moved to Eureka, Montana from Texas, wanted to start a Cowboy Action Shooting™ club, Koocanusa was invited and encouraged to participate. He assumed his new alias, and his wife Kay assumed the name Sweetwater Lilly (SASS #82312).

The first few matches he shot were from a wheelchair. Other shooters wheeled him through the stages as he shot. Koocanusa became instantly hooked and looked for ways to modify his equipment so he could shoot more independently.

One of the first adaptations he made was to create leg holsters he could wear from a seated position. These holsters strap around his legs and he added a shotgun slide to his right holster. Koocanusa has restricted range of motion with his right arm and he is not able to bend the arm normally at the elbow. He modified his Henry rifle by adding a thumb rest to the receiver. This enables him to hold the gun more easily. He also installed the stock upside down as it made for a better fit to his shoulder and modified the lever stroke of the Henry as well. One of his old wheelchairs was

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Koocanusa Kid • A Cowboy with True Grit . . .

(Continued from page 47)

challenging interest to pursue. Even though shooting is physically difficult for him, it is very rewarding. It has given him a recreational activity that he and his wife love to do together. He enjoys the competition and the chance to be competitive. He also enjoys the fellowship with the other shooters, who he says are very gracious people. The assistance from Cowboy Action Shooters™ has been amazing. Everywhere he has shot, he has been very grateful for the patience, tolerance, and kindness of the other shooters.

Sweetwater Lilly adds that shooting has been both good physical and mental therapy for her husband. When Koocanusa Kid first started shooting, he could barely stand or walk for any length of time. Although mobility is a continued issue, he is stronger

and able to do more than he was before becoming involved with CAS™. Besides the shooting itself and the adaptations he has designed, he also has been inspired to drive a fifth wheel toy hauler to various shoots. Sweetwater too is very thankful for the assistance of their fellow shooters. But in exchange, Sweetwater adds, Koocanusa Kid has been an inspiration to shooters from all over. His can-do attitude and willingness to overcome the limiting factors of his disability has impressed and inspired many other shooters as well.

Koocanusa Kid, soon to be a Cattle Baron, recommends others with disabilities to discover what they would like to do and then find a way to accomplish it. "You've got to keep going and you can't sit in a chair all your life," he advises. He goes on to say people

around you will help you and let you do things that help you reach your goals.

His favorite things about Cowboy Action Shooting™ are the people and the competition. Although he will never be known for his speed, Koocanusa occasionally shoots clean and he is excited to win a clean match award from time to time. And at least twice he has been awarded a Spirit of the Game Award, one from the Montana State Match and one from an annual event at Craig, Colorado. He has also received special shooting awards from other Montana clubs, but the best award for Koocanusa Kid is the chance to participate as a Cowboy Action Shooter. This cowboy certainly has "True Grit."

Koocanusa Kid, Sweetwater Lilly, and Fire Opal are all members of the Rocky Mountain Rangers. 🤠





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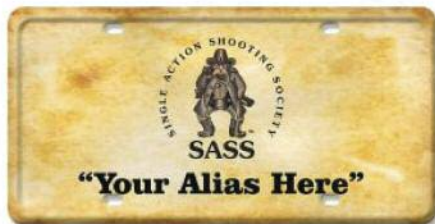


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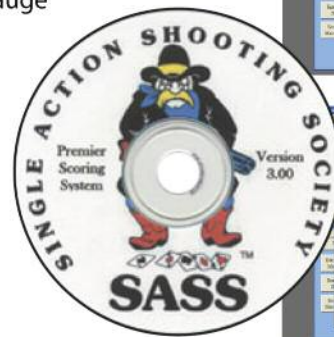
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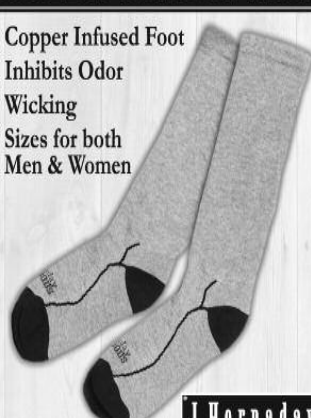
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From the Hanging Tree of Roxy West...



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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.

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My First Shoot

By Tom Kedrick, SASS# 104564

Cowboy Action Shooting™! What is that?

Little did I know that approximately six months after asking that question, I would be enjoying my first shoot. Having never encountered anyone associated with Cowboy Action Shooting™, I found the thought of engaging metal targets instead of paper ones and moving between stages rather than holding the Weaver stance shot after shot intriguing.

Responding to a friend's invitation resulted in a visit to Coyote Creek where I stepped back into the 1800s, conversed with townsfolk in period dress, and heard the unmistakable sound of lead plinking on freshly painted metal targets. Could this be real? I had to rub my eyes and repeatedly excuse myself for staring at the wide variety of costumes and weapons, all the while listening as posse members called to one another with names such as Dakota Steele and Dead Eye Debra.



That was it. I hadn't even fired a single shot, but I knew this sport was for me. A SASS member at work was so glad I enjoyed my visit to the range he loaned me all the weapons and gear I needed to get started. My first shoot would have to wait, though, as an August flood left the range in such a state of disrepair that months of effort were needed to make it usable again.

Excitement and nervousness filled the morning of the match, so much so that I left my leather at home. When I finally stepped to the line, my mind worked feverishly to remember the

safety instructions from orientation, remember the stage instructions, and remember ALL the words of advice received while waiting to shoot. Yeah, right!

The range safety officer and spotters did everything they could to help make me comfortable and encourage me as I made my way from stage to stage. Fellow shooters picked up my forgotten weapons, helped me at the loading table, and with broad smiles, kept saying, "Isn't this fun!"

Four hours later, the shooting stopped. I could not believe the match was complete. As we traveled back through time to our modern-day horses, I found myself grinning widely as I asked multiple shooters when the next shoot would take place.

Cowboy Action Shooting™! What is that? It is the best people having a great time doing something they enjoy immensely. Fun? Oh Yeah!

Articles

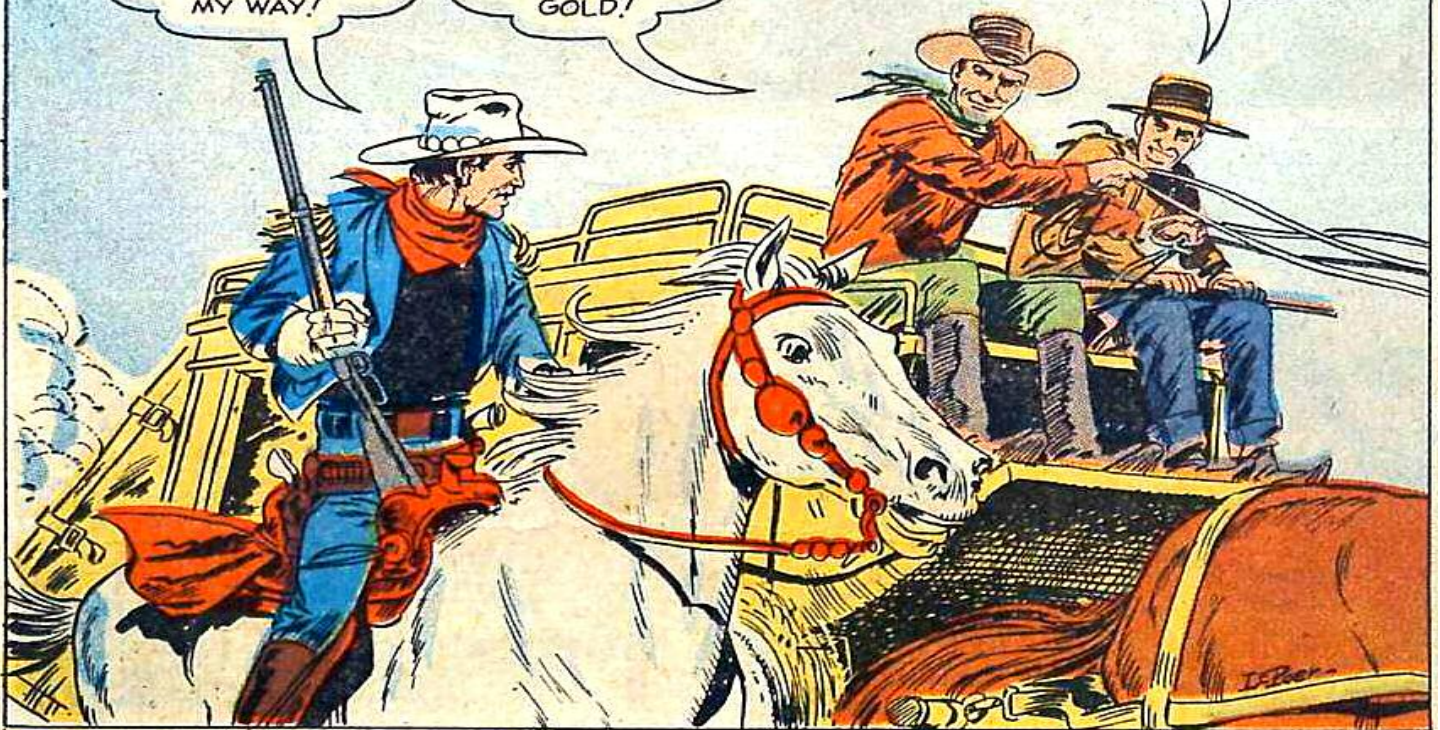
DURING THE RUSH INTO THE DAKOTA TERRITORY, MEN OF ALL SORTS CAME... DREAMERS, ADVENTURERS MARAUDERS. ALL SUFFERED FROM THE SAME MADNESS — THE LUST FOR GOLD. EVEN THE FARGO KID, FOUND HIMSELF CAUGHT IN THE TURMOIL OF...

GOLD FEVER

YOU'LL BE AT THE DEPOT SOON, DAVE. THEN, I'LL BE ON MY WAY!

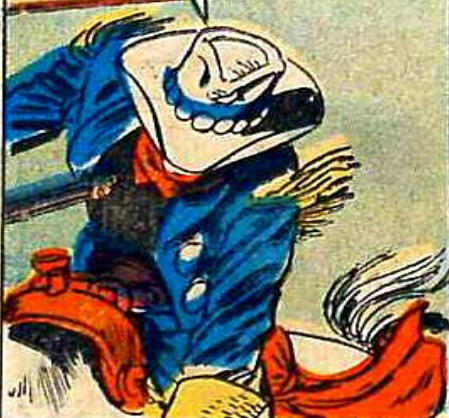
THANKS, FARGO. CHARLEY AND I GET A BIT NERVOUS WHEN WE'RE HAULING GOLD!

WE SURE DO. THESE HILLS ARE FULL OF GOLD-CRAZY GUN-SLINGERS!



THIS STRAP'S LOOSE AGAIN. I'LL HAVE TO...

ZING!



GO ON, DAVE! RIDE! WAIT FOR ME AROUND THE BEND.

GEEEE YAP!

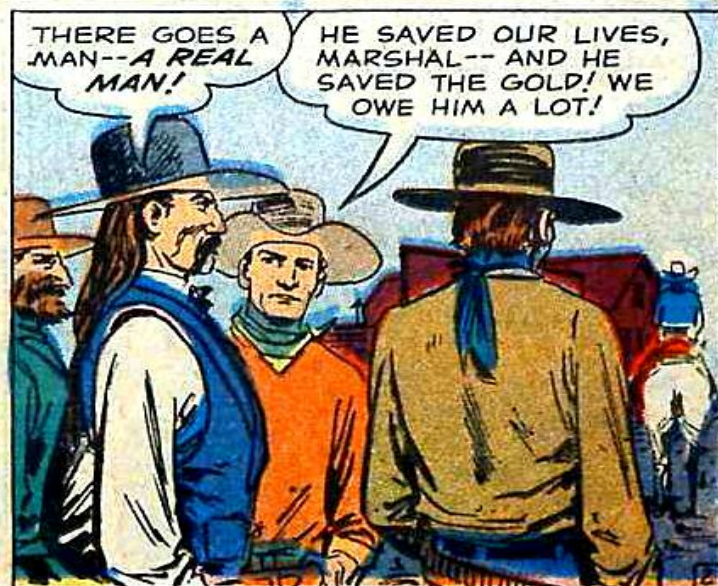
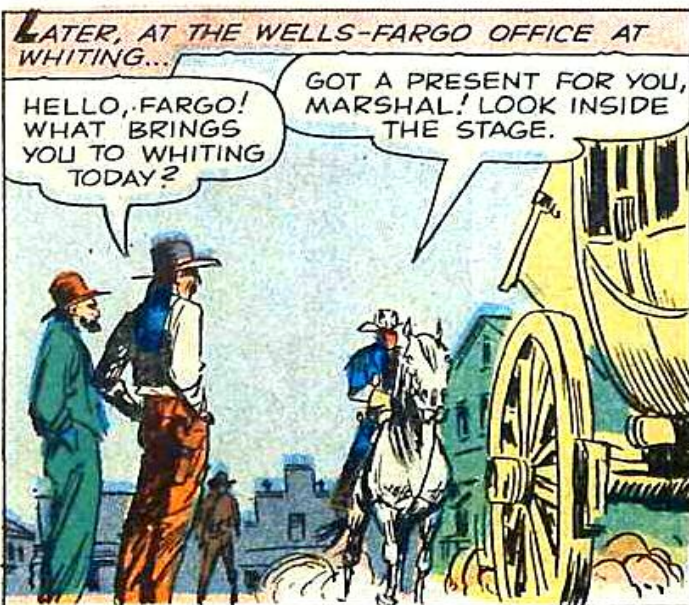
POW! POW!

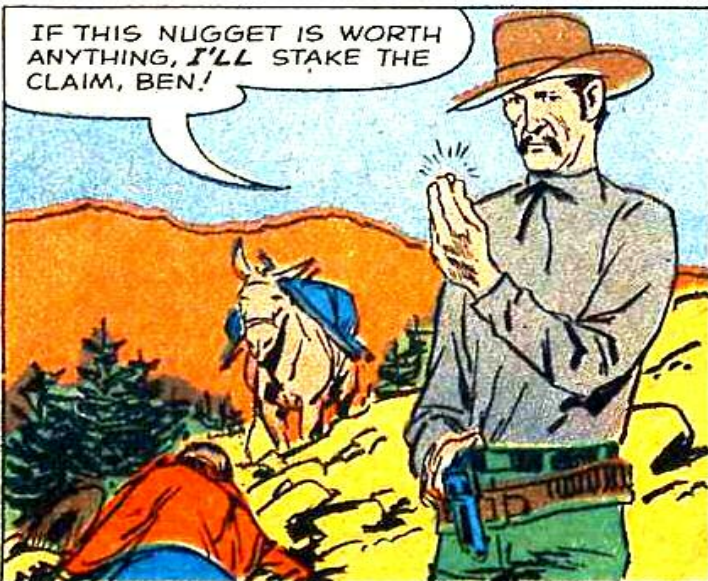


THEY'RE BEHIND THE ROCKS. IF I MOVE FAST, I CAN SURPRISE THEM.

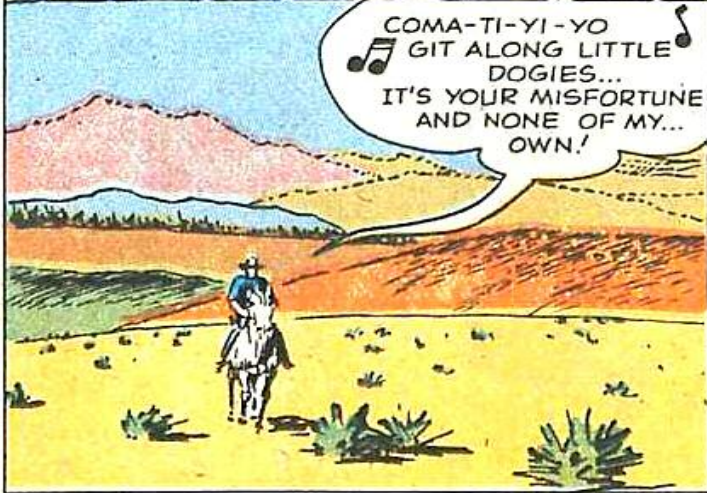
ZING!








DESPITE HIS WOUNDS, THE OLD PROSPECTOR GOT A FIRE STARTED. SMOKE SOON SWIRLED OVER THE RUGGED HILLS.

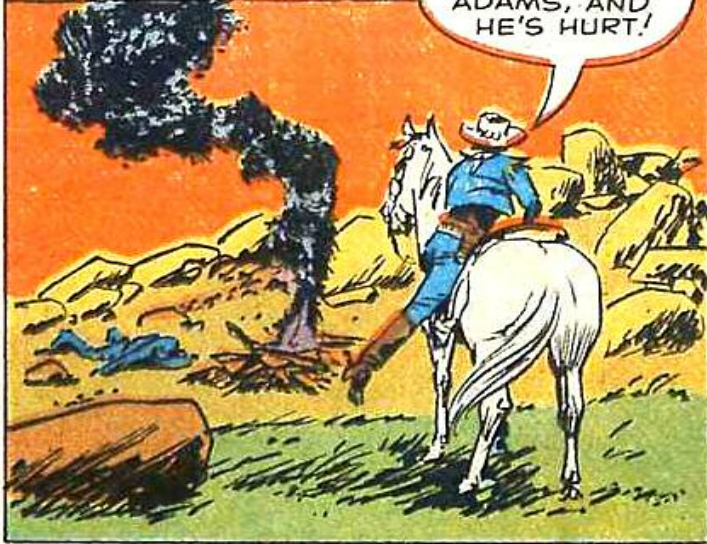


COMA-TI-YI-YO
GIT ALONG LITTLE
DOGIES...
IT'S YOUR MISFORTUNE
AND NONE OF MY...
OWN!

A CAMPFIRE! THAT MEANS COFFEE. I'LL MOSEY OVER



SHORTLY AFTERWARDS...



IT'S OLD BEN ADAMS, AND HE'S HURT!

FARGO... LISTEN... WES HARMIN... STOLE... NUGGET... MAKING CLAIM... MY GOLD... MY STRIKE... STOP HIM, FARGO... PROMISE...

I PROMISE, BEN!



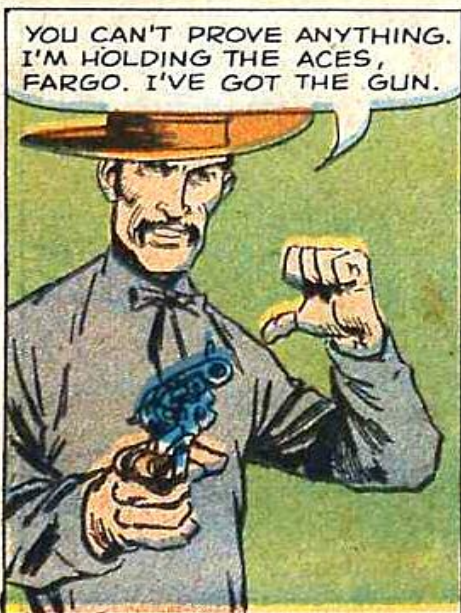
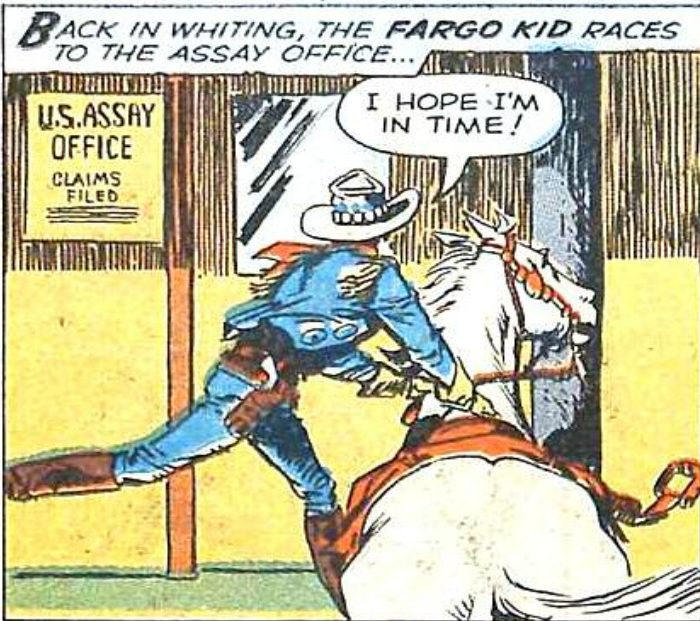
LATER...



GOODBYE, OLD BEN. TAKE IT EASY AND REST! I'LL SEND SOMEONE BACK TO GET YOU!

I'LL FIND WES HARMIN-- AND I'LL GET YOUR CLAIM BACK!





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- 105,178.....Whiplash

ON

- 105,061.....Canadian Whiskey

VIC

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- 105,103.....Lone Wanderer



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