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MARCH | 2017



# Cowboy CHRONICLE

**FALL FANDANGO 2016**  
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*Inside...*

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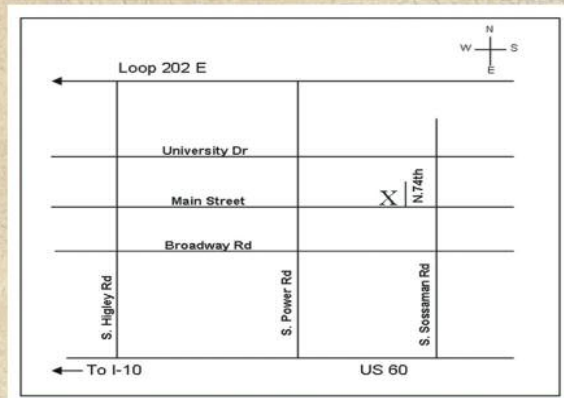
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## Editorial Staff

**Skinny**

*Editor-in-Chief*

**Misty Moonshine**

*Managing Editor*

**Tex and Cat Ballou**

*Editors Emeritus*

**Adobe Illustrator**

*Layout & Design*

**Mac Daddy**

*Graphic Design*

**Square Deal Jim**

*Advertising Manager*

(410) 531-5456 • Cell: (703) 728-0404  
chronicleads@sassnet.com

**Staff Writers**

*Big Dave, Capgun Kid*

*Capt. George Baylor*

*Joe Fasthorse*

*Larsen E. Pettifogger,*

*Tennessee Tall and Rio Drifter,*

*Texas Flower, Yuma Jack*

The Cowboy Chronicle is published by The Wild Bunch, Board of Directors of The Single Action Shooting Society. For advertising information and rates, administrative, and editorial offices contact:

Chronicle Administrator

215 Cowboy Way • Edgewood, NM 87015

(505) 843-1320 • FAX (505) 843-1333

email: SASSCHRON@sassnet.com

http://www.sassnet.com

The Cowboy Chronicle (ISSN 15399877) is published monthly by the Single Action Shooting Society, 215 Cowboy Way, Edgewood, NM 87015. Periodicals Postage is paid at Plattsburgh, NY and additional mailing offices (USPS #032 Permit #20591).

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to The Cowboy Chronicle, 215 Cowboy Way, Edgewood, NM 87015.

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## What the heck is it?

Inventor Sage Creek Gus (SASS #64320), affectionately nicknamed the "Contraption Master," poses with the "Whirling Dervish," one of his renowned interactive targets at Bigfork Gun Club's annual "Contraption Match" in Western Montana.



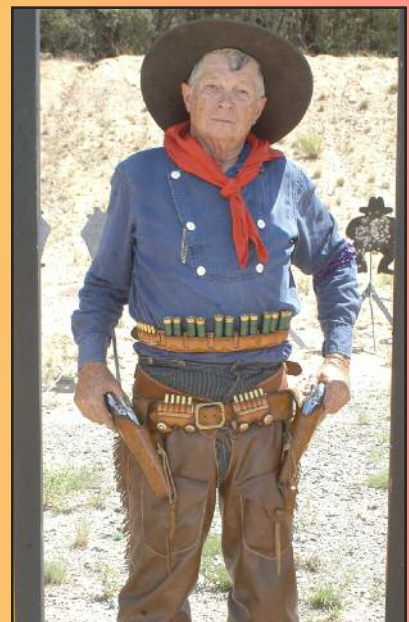
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# FALL FANDANGO

## 2016 SASS New Mexico State Championship

By Capt. George Baylor, SASS #, SASS #24287 Life Regulator  
Photos Katie Lee Photography, [katielee5688@gmail.com](mailto:katielee5688@gmail.com) unless noted



Captain George Baylor, SASS Life / Regulator #24287



Clean Match winners



Cat Ballou with one of her birthday presents (photo by Ether Dreams Photography).

**Albuquerque, New Mexico, October 13-16, 2016.** Rio Grande Renegades, founded in 1993, hosts three to five SASS® matches a month. That is not a misprint. They have a match every second Wednesday, third Saturday, fourth Sunday, and fifth Saturday and Sunday. Their home is “Hayes City,” which is two bays at the Albuquerque Shooting Range Park. Those of you in some of the anti-gun states should note that. The city of Albuquerque owns and runs a

huge shooting complex. Police have a large training area. The public range has everything from shotgun to long range, multiple classrooms/meeting rooms, and a bunch of bays suitable for CCW classes, USPSA matches, *etcetera*, with RV parking for several hundred RVs and of course, SASS matches.

The Renegades have built permanent sets, storage buildings, and registration rooms on each bay. The bays are wide enough that, at monthly matches, two

posses can shoot six stages without using the same shooting position or targets for more than one stage. The city has made several improvements to aid the Renegades, such as sturdy, well-constructed shade over the loading and unloading tables.

They have put on an annual event for three years, the Fall Fandango. This year it was also the New Mexico State Championship. For the Fall Fandango they got to use four additional bays for the

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— **BEST DRESSED LADY** —  
 Shirley Shooter (SASS #33848)  
 wearing a fabulous handmade B-Western ensemble embellished with embroidered Buffalo Bill Show motif, long white fringes on shirt and skirt, and more than 2,000 rhinestones, which were placed one at a time. Her outfit is offset by a beautiful handmade blue leather rig and matching boots. One could see the buffalo that once roamed the plains and prairies in the exquisite stitching. A one-of-a-kind creation made by the mistress of sewing and crafts, Shirley Shooter! (Costume descriptions by EzGz.)



— **BEST DRESSED COUPLE** —  
 Crazy Clara Bell (SASS #67518)  
 and Dawson Dugan (SASS #6751)  
 as 1880s stock Cowboy and Cowgirl Ranchers riding off into the sunset, hand in hand, hell bent for (and in) leather.



— **BEST DRESSED GENTLEMAN** —  
 JW Calendar (SASS #54524)  
 as a savvy business opportunist in gray wool suit and town hat, burgundy cravat, diamond scarf, tie and grandmother's picture in watch locket.

## Fall Fandango . . .

main match and the long range and shotgun venues for side matches, including a night skeet match!

The planning team, Rooster B. McCabe, Mrs. McCabe, Sweet Becky Sue, Peg O' My Heart, Prairie Mary, Pepper Jack, and Sweet Lorelei worked long and hard to get things arranged, and it showed.

Things started off with a RO1

Class on Thursday that attracted 12 students, including buckaroo CaTazTrophy. Instructors were Jack Diamond and Capt. George Baylor.

### Side Matches

Side matches started Friday morning with a four-stage Wild Bunch mini-match, run by Texas Tiger and Jim Miller. It was notable for "unusual" starting positions, such as one foot in a tub with six inches of water in it and walls that were about 2-3 feet high.

Long Range Rifle included Single Shot, Lever Action, Pistol Caliber Lever Action, Bolt Action Military, Quigley, Gatling Gun,

and Revolver, run by Lawless Lori Sue. (Okay, just kidding about the Gatling Gun). Fastest Revolver, Rifle, and Shotguns were run by Arkansas Hatchet, Speed Deringer by Deputy Dangit and Whiplash Whitey, and a three-stage Plainsman mini-match by Capt. George Baylor, followed with Evening under the lights Cowboy Skeet Field Shoot that evening, run by Mica McGuire.

### Painting Every Target After Every Shooter!

Saturday morning the main match started. With six bays and

*(Continued on page 6)*





— BEST MILITARY CAPTAIN—  
George Baylor in an 1872 formal dress uniform with horsehair tassel helmet and 1860 Cavalry sword.



— FIRST PLACE BUCKAROO —  
CaTazTrophy (SASS #97878), accompanied by EzGz— a whirling dervish in red, with cuffs, vest, and bowler hat.



FOUR-TIME  
NEW MEXICO LADIES' CHAMPION  
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Mica McGuire.

## Fall Fandango . . .

*(Continued from page 5)*

five posses, the committee tried something I had not seen in 17 years of SASS in several states. Targets were painted after each shooter. "OH, NO! THAT'LL TAKE ALL DAY!" Not really. Each of the three spotters had a paint can and as soon as the range

was declared cold, they went down and sprayed the 20 cartridge hits and they were done. Not once did they take as long as the thorough and efficient brass pickers took picking up brass (NM Scout Venture Crew). It went so well I wondered why I had never seen it done before at matches with individual bays. On one stage, I was taking pictures and it sounded like the shooter missed one pistol shot. All three counters held up one finger. Then someone pointed at the clear edger and the score changed to clean. There were no arguments among spotters and every shooter could see how many misses he had before they were called out. If your range has individual bays so it's safe to go down range, con-

sider doing this at your next match. Really. It works. Your paying customers will love it. *[I've seen this done at a couple other annual matches around the country. My experience was similar. It was efficient and everyone loved it—Skinny]*

The stages, written by Tango Tom and Lawless Lil, were straightforward and the targets were fairly close. To have close targets, the target stands must be angled forward. Then lead goes down instead of up range. At the end of a match there will be a trough in front of the targets. This required some bending and welding to get the stands up to par. Yes, having six stages simultaneously also requires a lot of targets. In re-



## Fall Fandango . . .

ality it needed more because the permanent bays were used for one stage each day, using different targets. The planning and execution were excellent.

The match went off without a hitch. As one of the range masters (the other being McCabe), I had an easy job. No disputes got to my level. This is always a good sign.

Saturday night featured a banquet at one of the City Range's well-equipped buildings, with the best-dressed costume contest in one room and the banquet in a different, big room. Excellent New Mexico food was served by Gar-



cia's Catering. Awards were given out for the two costume contests, shooting and best dressed. Mistress of Ceremonies was EzGz



(SASS #83885), and Judges were Cat Ballou (SASS #55), Sunshine Belle (SASS #91375), and Whiskey Lil (SASS #25803).

Additionally Saturday was Cat Ballou's birthday, which was celebrated with a slide show presentation. *(Continued on page 8)*

### Thank you!

Heartfelt Thanks to our Volunteers, Donors, Sponsors, and Vendors

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 Tex  
 Texas Tiger  
 Tony & Wilma Purley, Indian Arts & Crafts  
 Whiskey Lil

... and Cowboys & Cowgirls coming from near & far to participate in the 2016 SASS NM State Action Shooting Championship Match & RGR Fall Fandango.







## Fall Fandango . . .

*(Continued from page 7)*

tation of her life and presents from the club. Birthday cupcakes were enjoyed by all.

Of 80 shooters, seven shot clean. This is close enough to round up to 10 percent. I've always thought if a match doesn't have at least close to 10 percent clean, it's too hard for the paying customers. Not every match agrees with this philosophy. There are matches that are designed to challenge the top shooters and the committees feel if anyone shoots clean the course of fire wasn't hard enough. Generally these matches are not growing. Matches with high percentages of clean



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## Fall Fandango . . .

shooters generally are growing.

Eighty shooters doesn't sound like a lot for a state championship, but traditionally it has been hard to get big fields in New Mexico. The next Fall Fandango should attract more entrants, once they hear how good this match was. It's best summed up by saying it was put on to entertain and be enjoyable for the paying customers, and it did.

Please visit the [Rio Grande Renegades](#) website for a complete list of winners. Since this is going into an electronic issue, and thus not limited by paper costs, I'm reprinting the "Thank You" page to make sure all of the workers, helpers, and vendors get recognized. 🍷

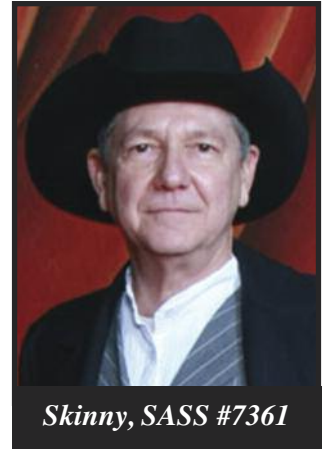




# From The Editor

# SKINNY'S SOAPBOX

*By Skinny, SASS #7361*



*Skinny, SASS #7361*

## A Further Correction to January's Champions of SASS Listings

As I mentioned at the beginning of last month's editorial, we discovered after the release of our January issue there were a number of incorrect entries in our lists of Champions in that edition. I thought we'd identified them all and published corrections, but one more has surfaced since. Georgia Dew (SASS #98477) has pointed out that Prestidigitator (SASS #52251) was not the Tennessee State Men's Champion as reported, as he is a resident of Florida. The correct Champion is Cumberland Drifter (SASS #69559). Once again, our apologies for this and other mix-ups. If there are any others that need to be called to our attention, please email me at [editor@sassnet.com](mailto:editor@sassnet.com).

Obviously, we stumbled a bit in composing our Champions Lists this time around. However, despite this, I feel publishing the list once a year has merits and serves to call attention to our SASS® Champions and their hard-earned accomplishments. We'll do our utmost to prevent similar gremlins from creeping in next time, but for now we will plan to make the list a standard thing for January.

## How I Got My Alias

Speaking of features I'd like to see continued (or in this case, revived), let me take this opportunity to make a pitch for getting all readers to consider sending me a short write-up about themselves and how they came to adopt their alias. We started publishing these mini-biographies a year or so ago and at first it seemed the concept was taking off, but then the submissions just dried up and I was remiss at the time for not calling for more.

My thoughts returned to the desirability of a regular "How I Got My Alias" feature when I saw we have three Trailmarkers in this issue of our Cowboy buddies who have been called home by the Lord. It saddened me to think these obituaries may be the only time many SASS members ever get a mention in *The Cowboy Chronicle*. Let's face it, most of us (myself included) don't get a mention because of our shooting prowess, so a regular feature, written by each of you, explaining the origins of our aliases, would go a long way toward giving everyone who would like it their chance to receive recognition in *The Cowboy Chronicle*. For those of you interested,



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## Skinny's Soapbox . . .

please email a short (300 words or less) essay about your alias along with a photo of yourself in Cowboy attire to me at [editor@sassnet.com](mailto:editor@sassnet.com). Let's make this a regular feature again.

### Indoor Practice

Several months ago, I mentioned the feasibility of utilizing high-tech modern airgun replicas of Colt SAAs and Winchester 1894s (available from [PyramidAir](#) and other sources) for indoor practice at home or during Winter months, but it has been brought to my attention that another reasonable avenue to indoor practice—and one with which you could utilize your existing firearms—is wax bullets. There are several sources for these, including one of our most recent SASS supporters, [Spitfire Wax Bullets](#). Their bullets are available in .357 or .45 caliber and are intended to be fired using special cases that accept shotgun primers. As a word of warning, even wax bullets driven by a primer can be dangerous (I've seen them go through one-quarter inch plywood) so, as with any firearm, be careful and never point them at anything you don't intend to shoot.

### Comic Book Corner

For one last time, we're featuring an adventure of the Fargo Kid from the late 1940s. Since this one is a six-and-two-thirds-page story, I thought I'd include the original one-third-page ad at the bottom of page seven, just for fun. Obviously, this is not a product you can order. Next time around (the May issue), we'll explore the adventures of a different Western hero. As always, material for Comic Book Corner comes to us through Comic Book Plus. Visit their website at [www.comicbookplus.com](http://www.comicbookplus.com) to enjoy more vintage Western and other genre comic books.

—Skinny *A*

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# News

# Uberti Adopts New Name Introduces New Firearms



*Winchester 1886 replicas in Sporting Rifle (top) and Hunter Lite Rifle configurations.*



*Uberti USA's new Short Stroke SASS Pro revolver in nickel finish.*

**A**CCOKEEK, Md. Uberti, the importer of Italian-made A. Uberti firearms, announced the changing of its name to Uberti USA this past January. The name change is to clarify for American gun buyers the distinction between Uberti products sold by the company from other Uberti-made firearms marketed in the United States by competing brands. Logos on gun boxes and promotional materials will also be changed to reflect the new Uberti USA name.

The thrill and romance of shooting Old West firearms might not be possible today were it not for famed gun maker Aldo Uberti. Most of the original firearms of the Old West are housed in museums and private collections, unobtainable and impractical to use. For this reason, Uberti began making replicas of Civil War-era cap-and-ball revolvers in 1959. He founded A. Uberti S.R.L. in the village of Gardone Val Trompia in the Italian Alps, slowly

adding more iconic Old West firearms to his company's product offerings as the expertise of his craftsmen expanded. Today, Uberti USA offers a wealth of Old West replica firearms, including black powder and cartridge revolvers, as well as cartridge rifles.

Uberti USA has expanded its acclaimed line of Short Stroke SASS® Pro revolvers to include four different configurations with a mirror nickel finish and simulated ivory grips. Designed for serious cowboy-action shooters and collectors for whom style and appearance are as important as substance and function, these new-for-2017 revolvers are variants of Uberti USA's replicas of the Colt 1873.

The SASS Pro Nickel comes in two calibers: the venerable .45 Colt and the versatile .357 Magnum. Both chamberings are available in 4.75- and 5.50-inch-barrel configurations, the most popular among SASS shooters. Uberti USA's family of Short Stroke SASS Pro revolvers offers competition-grade firearms



*The Buffalo Bill commemorative 1858 Remington is available in a limited edition of only 500 revolvers.*



## Uberti Adopts New Name Introduces New Firearms . . .

that reduce hammer travel by approximately 20 percent compared to conventional single-action six-shooters. This shortened hammer travel means precious time saved in events where victories are measured in fractions of a second.

For big-bore and long-range enthusiasts, Uberti USA is proud to introduce, as part of the 2017 new-product lineup, replicas of the legendary Winchester 1886 big-bore lever-action repeater. The 1886 will be available in two versions: the full-length 1886 Sporting Rifle and the compact 1886 Hunter Lite Rifle, the latter weighing only slightly more than a common semi-auto shotgun. Both models feature A-Grade walnut stocks and deep, rich color case finishes. The Sporting Rifle version is equipped with a full-size 26-inch octagon barrel with adjustable sights and has a capacity of 8+1. The more petite Hunter Lite configuration features adjustable sights atop a 22-inch round barrel along with a shorter magazine with a 3+1 capacity. The rifles are capable of handling Level 2 .45/70 loads (29,000 CUP/PSI max, rated for both smokeless and black powder), delivering enough knock-down power for any competition or to take any game up to 200 yards.

Finally, for collectors of commemorative firearms, Uberti USA is also introducing a limited-edition, fully engraved version of William Frederick "Buffalo Bill" Cody's 1858 Remington black powder revolver to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the famed Western

icon. Exclusively available for 2017, a maximum of 500 of the 1858 Buffalo Bill Limited Edition revolvers will be produced.

Uberti USA's exclusive edition of this legendary firearm has been lavishly engraved by the atelier of Master Cesare Giovanelli, a renowned name in the world of premium firearms. The engraving is hand-chased, making each revolver unique; the floral design comes from an original nineteenth century pattern and covers the entire metal surface of the revolver, from the hammer to the backstrap and trigger guard, from the cylinder to the barrel and loading lever.

The Buffalo Bill Limited Edition is chambered in the original .44 caliber cap-and-ball round and features a deep blue finish, color-case hammer, brass trigger guard and textured, simulated ivory grips. As a final touch, both sides of the octagonal barrel bear gold inscriptions, with the years of Buffalo Bill's birth and death (1846-1917) on one side and, on the other, the name of this legendary figure of the American West.

\*\*\*\*\*

For more information on the full line of A. Uberti products go to [www.uberti.com](http://www.uberti.com).

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## Letters & Opinions

# My Cowboy Action Shooting Family



*Mad Dog McCoy with his newly acquired Ford Super Crew.*

Most of us take for granted the fact we have so many friends and family members. Maybe some of you don't have a lot of family members, but if you are a Cowboy Action Shooter™, you definitely have friends!

The first weekend in November I was on my way home from a CAS match at Plum Creek, near Lockhart, Texas. I was involved in an automobile accident that totaled my truck and travel trailer. Fortunately, I was unhurt other than a few bruised ribs and a VERY bad attitude. I was 125 miles from home and had no way to get there. The first one to my rescue was the Three Fingered Dutchman (SASS #45779). After a brief phone call, he drove 125 miles to pick me up at 9:00 p.m. and then drove me home.

The second one to help out immensely was the Tascosa Kid (SASS #90830). He drove me 125 miles back to where my truck and trailer had been towed so I could pick up my personal belongings. The truck and trailer never left the wrecking yard. These two Cowboys came to my rescue without batting an eye and I can't begin to thank them enough!

Normally this would have been the end of the story, but wait... there's more! A few days later, unbeknownst to me, another very good friend, Incorrigible (SASS #92073) posted on her Facebook page that I had been in an accident and she had opened a donation site (similar to Go Fund Me) on my behalf. Due to her effort and the gracious donations from friends and family, she was able to raise \$5000 towards a replacement vehicle for me. To say I was flabbergasted would be a complete understatement. I was stunned to the point of speechlessness. When I quit blub-

bering and was able to speak, all I could say was thank you so very much! I was touched beyond belief!

That people, some whom I don't even know, would be willing to donate hard cash to help me get out of a tight situation was just unbelievable. But then, I stopped to consider who these people really were. Yes, some of them were family—and you would expect that from family—but 95 percent of them were from another group entirely... they were Cowboy Action Shooters™. Most of them are SASS® members, but some of them aren't and that's the distinction I hope to make with this lengthy story.

Over the past 20 years as a SASS member and multiple term Sheriff of my home club back in California, it's been my experience to witness many such acts of giving and support for fellow shooters in need. Most often it was nothing more than a box of shotgun shells or the loan of a firearm at a match, but many times it was something like lending a competitor (in your category) your spare rifle or pistol at a major match because theirs broke and they couldn't get it fixed in time to finish shooting. And sometimes it was donations of cash... large amounts of cash. Just think of the SASS Scholarship fund, for one! At our Annual John Wayne Shootout several years ago, during Saturday night's dinner, I challenged all comers to match my posse's donation to help send gift boxes to the troops. Before the end of dinner, 250 shooters had donated more than \$4000 in cash to the fund. Then another shooter and his wife MATCHED the total amount! You couldn't hear in the tent for 10 minutes! We've all seen similar acts of kindness and help from shooters over the years, my experiences are nothing new. But they ARE typical!

I have said publicly on many occasions, "the generosity of Cowboy Action Shooters™ NEVER ceases to amaze me!" Whether SASS member or not I've never known a more generous or giving group of people involved in a shooting sport. I am truly proud to call all of you my friends and truth be known, you ARE all my family!

Thank you to Incorrigible, Three Fingers, Tascosa, and to the many people who donated and supported me in MY time of need. I am truly grateful!

Mad Dog McCoy, SASS #17292

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*July 20-23*



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Stage Main Match Fri. and Sat., July 21-22  
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# Costuming Corner

# Mail Order Brides— and Grooms— of the Frontier

By Texas Flower, SASS Life Regulator #43753



Texas Flower, SASS Life/Regulator #43753



Hopeful brides.

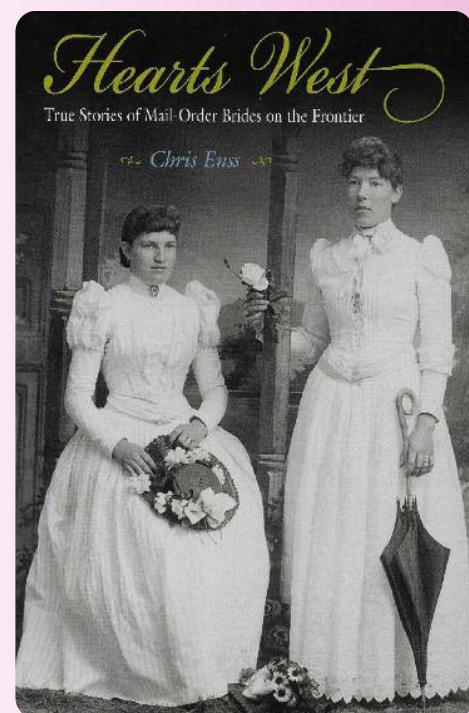
Mail Order Brides... was that the Nineteenth Century version of present day Internet dating? I have wondered—why would a Nineteenth Century lady living in the East would dress up in her Sunday best, take a picture, and pay to have her information pub-

lished in a newspaper or magazine in order to find a husband way out West?

Because of my curiosity with this concept, I snapped up a book titled *Hearts West, True Stories of Mail Order Brides on the Frontier*, by Chris Enss at the 2015 SASS Convention. Maybe it

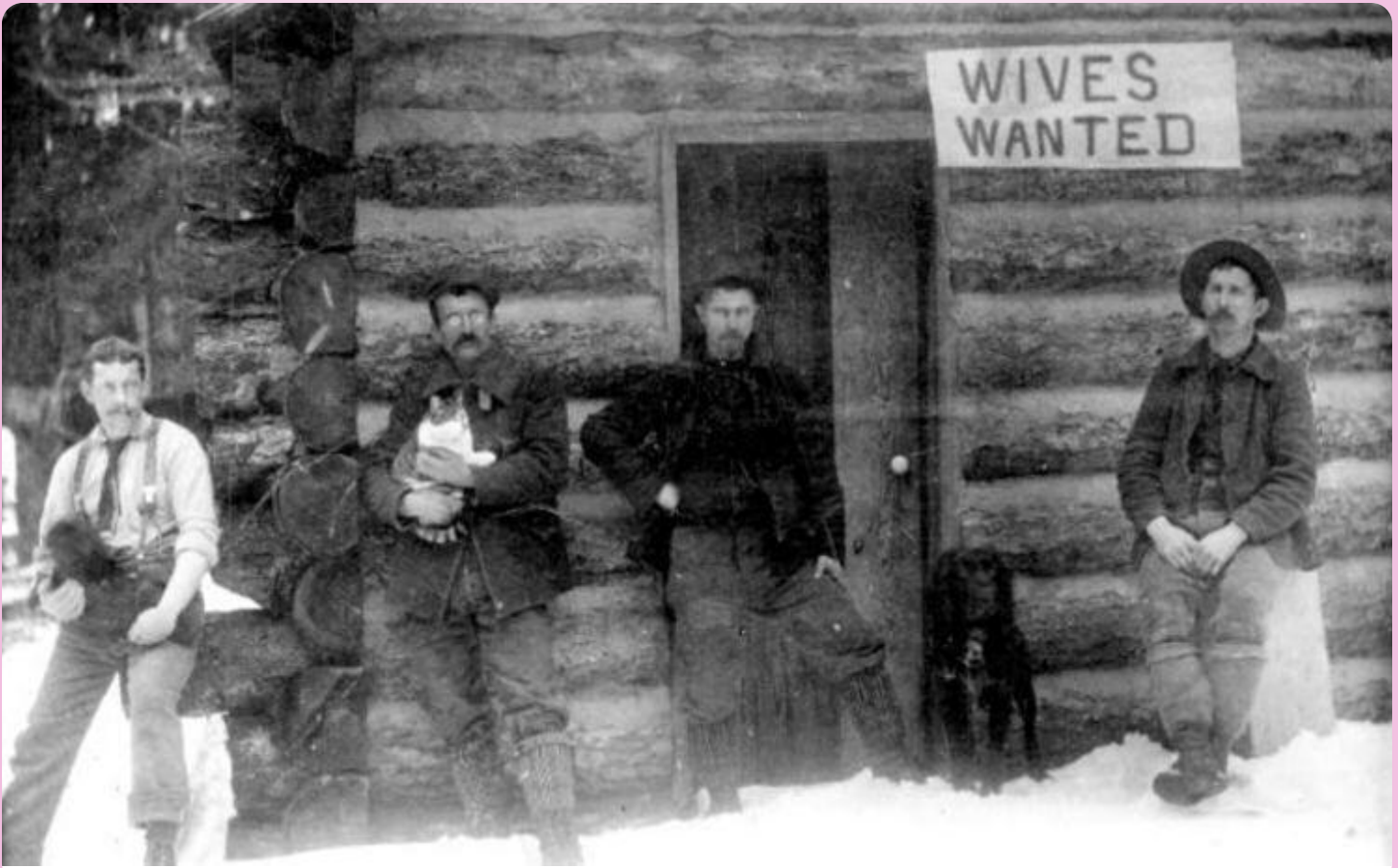
would help me understand why a lady would become a “Mail Order Bride.”

As I read some of the true stories in the book, I realized there were many different reasons a lady would advertise herself to find a husband. After the Civil



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*Hopeful grooms.*

## Mail Order Brides – and Grooms – of the Frontier . . .

War, there were many widows and orphans who wanted to avoid spinsterhood. Some ladies had no future other than working as a servant and hoped for a better life out West. Some ladies longed for the adventure of going west and the promise of happiness in a land rich with opportunity.

According to the book, by the 1850s, so enticing was the call to riches, there were more eligible bachelors in the West than there were in the East, and the men of the West realized one vital element was missing from the bountiful western territories—women! The only option was to attract women from the East. They sought prospective brides through churches back home, letters to available schoolteachers, and advertisements in newspapers and magazines. In Arizona, shootouts over the few eligible females led to the establishment of clubs devoted to arranging marriages.

To answer the need, newspapers and magazines began to advertise for men and women to purchase ads for finding the perfect gentlemen or lady. One magazine, *The Matrimonial News* pub-

lished in San Francisco, California, and Kansas City, Missouri during the 1870s, 80s, and 90s, became a popular mode of advertising for a hopeful bride or groom. A code of rules and regulations were posted in each edition of the paper. All adver-

*(Continued on page 18)*

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Typical classified ads from ladies.

282 - A few lady correspondents wanted by a bashful man of 36, of fair complexion. 5 feet 5 inches tall, weight 130 pounds. Would prefer a brunette of fair form about five feet, between 18 and 25 years of age. Object, improvement, and if suited, matrimony.

287 - An intelligent young fellow of 22 years, 6 feet height, weight 170 pounds. Would like to correspond with a lady from 18 to 22. Will exchange photos: object, fun and amusement, and perhaps when acquainted, if suitable, matrimony.

Typical classified ads from gentlemen.

## Mail Order Brides – and Grooms – of the Frontier . . .

(Continued from page 17)

tisers were required to provide information on their personal appearance, financial and social position, and a general description of the kind of persons with whom they desired correspondence. Gentlemen's ads of forty words or less were published once for twenty-five cents. Ladies ads of forty words or less were published free. The personal ads were numbered to avoid publishing names and addresses. Replies were to be sent to *The Matrimonial*

*News* office sealed in an envelope with the number of the ad on the outside. Another magazine, *The New Plan*, published in Kansas City, Missouri and in circulation from 1911 to 1917, was also dedicated to helping eligible men and women find one another, correspond, and marry. Ladies whose ads were published signed a statement in which they agreed to answer every letter received from interested gentlemen readers who enclosed postage, either accepting or declining correspondence. The cost for each advertisement was \$1.00. If any of the advertisements resulted in matrimony, the author of the ad agreed to pay a \$5.00 service fee to the magazine. (I was quite amused reading some of the ads!)

Also, there were individuals who looked for ladies interested in traveling west. One of these was a lady reformist, Eliza Farnham. Recognizing she was no beauty, but astonished to be the target of admiring eyes when she went to the gold country, she decided in order to bring civilization to the West she would publish an ad in the New York papers petitioning single women to move to California. More than 200 ladies responded, but in April of 1849 only a few went with her. The Benton Brothers also promoted the wonders of the West at meetings in Maryland, inviting single ladies to sign up to go to Oregon, and in 1865 about one hundred ladies set sail.

Not all matrimonial bureaus and agencies were legitimate and many brides and grooms were left with empty pockets after contracting for a mail order mate. Some married well; some lost everything.

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## Mail Order Brides – and Grooms – of the Frontier . . .

In spite of the occasional mismatch or short-lived union, it is believed that mail-order brides



*Eliza Farnham.*

produced a high percentage of permanent marriages. The reason cited is the ads were candid and direct in their explanations of exactly what was wanted and expected from a prospective spouse. Often, when the pair met, the groom-to-be signed an agreement, witnessed by three upstanding members of the territory, to not abuse or mistreat the bride-to-be. The prospective bride then signed a paper (also witnessed) to not nag or try to change the intended!

So it seems there was and still is a way for men and women to “connect” before meeting each other face to face! ♀



*The Kansas City edition of the Matrimonial News published photographs of prospective brides like this young woman.*



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# Annual Reports

# THE Shootout at Pawnee Station

## 2016 SASS Colorado State Championship



By Grizzly Dave, SASS #85224



By Grizzly Dave,  
SASS #85224



The theme for this year's costume contest was Saloon Girls and Barflies.

### Prologue

**N**unn, Colorado. During the summer of 2015 it was announced Pawnee Station would host the SASS 2016 Colorado State Championship match. Almost immediately, the Pawnee Station Vindicators and ranch hands went to work. Plans were made and revised, vendors were contacted in hopes of securing a spot on their busy schedules, and promotion of the match got underway.

Around the beginning of 2016 planning started to heat up. Vendors were re-contacted, door prizes secured, and plans were fine-tuned for the many details needed to put on a first-class match. By the middle to end of Spring things shifted into high gear. Awards were ordered, caterers finalized, schedules reviewed and fine-tuned, and to-do lists were created, revised, and worked. Sometimes it seemed two things were added for each task we were able to cross off. About six weeks before the

match, many of the Vindicators started in earnest on the work at the range, spending long hours in the hot sun repairing and painting props. Each shooting bay was surveyed and graded to ensure drainage should the weather rear its ugly head, signs were painted, and temporary façades and props were staged at the ready to be put up the weekend prior to the match. The week right before the match, all the temporary façades were put up and decorations were hauled from storage and delivered to the stages for the beautification committee to place in the days just before the match.

### Thursday, June 30, 2016

The beautification committee put its final touches on the stages and ranch hands set the steel for side match day. Campers were rolling in and folks were checking in to bunkhouses in town. Tents and water stations were set up on the range, a big tent put up at the camping area for registration, lunches, and socializing, and a few last minute additions were made to



Calico Mary handcrafted this beautiful quilt, which was raffled to benefit the SASS Scholarship fund.



## The Shootout at Pawnee Station . . .



**OVERALL MATCH WINNERS**

*Hey You and Cobra Cat*

the posse lists, it was almost time!

### Friday, July 1, 2016

As the sun rose over the plains, the camp was already bustling with activity and folks were rolling in from all over the country. It was finally time to shoot! Side match day was here! At about 8:00 a.m. the sounds of gunfire



*Costume Judges Kathouse Kelli and Capt George Baylor*

and ringing steel filled the range. Some were shooting a four-stage Wild Bunch Mini-Match and others were shooting the four Warm Up Stages to knock the dust and cobwebs off and hopefully work the kinks out before the main match the following day. Side Matches started up at 10:00 a.m. and ran until 4:00 p.m. Many thanks to those who gave up part of their day to help run side matches. It gave others a chance to play or maybe grab some rest and some lunch. Hoots and hollers could be heard all over the range as groups worked through the side matches. All side matches were hotly contested and when the dust settled, our friends from Texas, Hey You (SASS #64946) and Waterloo (SASS #46072) each won four of the speed side matches, and Trego Kid (SASS #45143) out of Kansas won three out of the five long range events.

### Saturday, July 2, 2016

Excitement was in the air long before the sun rose over the eastern plains. Many of us had trouble sleeping, like kids the night before Christmas Day, knowing the fun was about to begin. At the appointed hour, Match Director G W Ryder (SASS #50690) and assistant Match Director Trigger Happy Ted (SASS #88160) conducted a brief welcome and safety meeting and then we were all off on the trail for six Main Match stages. Pawnee Station had each of the 12 Main Match stages on its own bay with full side berms and different props, which allowed both side-to-side and down-range movement, making for some really fun stages. Stages were written to offer lots of shooter choice



*Match Director GW Ryder*

as to sweep direction and movement direction, which was much appreciated by the left handed cowfolks and those seeking to fine tune transitions for the best possible times. For those who started on Stage 1, the day saw them navigating through LJ's Pleasure Palace, the Mercantile, Fort Defi-

*(Continued on page 22)*



**COLORADO STATE CHAMPIONS**

*Lefty Jo and Cobra Cat*



# THE STAGES



## The Shootout at Pawnee Station . . .

*(Continued from page 21)*

ance, the Marshal's Office, the Livery, and the Boot Hill Cemetery stages. Each stage was dressed up with lots of little touches that added to the visual experience.

After the six main match stages for the day were done, it was time for a delicious catered lunch that was included with the entry fee. After that, some headed off to shoot Cowboy Clays, some to take part in the Quail Flush, and others took part in the swap and sell at the main tent. The swap and sell was a fairly late addition to the schedule, but it was well attended and there was a





# THE EVENT



## The Shootout at Pawnee Station . . .

wide variety of things on which to spend your gold dust.

The evening's festivities got underway about 4:30 p.m. with side match awards, major door prize drawings, and then a pot luck feast. There was so much good food it was hard to choose. Judging for the Soiled Dove and Bar Fly costume contest was done and side match awards presented. Once the food was put away, it was time for Cowboy Casino night. Folks took part in Faro, Blackjack, and Texas Hold 'Em

*(Continued on page 24)*





# The Shootout at Pawnee Station . . .

(Continued from page 23)



games and had a great time. Music was provided by Ric-a-D-Split singing and playing the guitar. Ric always does an awesome job. Win or lose at the table games, at the end of the night everyone got tickets to put in buckets for the prize drawings of their choice. Prizes were drawn for and handed out, and then we all headed for our campers or bunkhouses in town to rest up for the fun Sunday was sure to bring us.

### Sunday, July 3, 2016

The day again dawned bright and clear and full of promise for what lay before us. Fort Hays

Preacher (SASS #33995) presided over Cowboy Church and then it was off for our remaining six stages. For those starting on stage 7, that meant facing the Rail Cars, Depot, Midnight Star Saloon, Barber Shop, Buffalo Stampede, and Matte Blaylock Mine stages. As with the first six stages, there was lots of shooter choice and there was even a swinging target on the Mine stage to add some excitement. All the stages in the match were awesome.

After the Main Match it was time for another delicious catered lunch and time to visit with

friends in the shade of the main tent. Stories were told of our triumphs and pitfalls from the match and I think some of them were even true! After lunch, the Shootout got underway. Man on Man, Woman on Woman, open to all comers, just drop your badge in the bucket for random pairings. Always one of the most exciting events to watch, this one was no exception. As the luck of the draw would have it, one of the most anticipated match-ups came about in the first round... Cobra Cat (SASS #19275) vs. Waterloo. In the blink of an eye it was over, both competitors sending lead downrange faster than most of us mere mortals can even think, and in the end Waterloo was victorious. Round after round Waterloo triumphed before beating out local favorite Avery Wade (SASS #97444) in the final for the men. In the ladies brackets it was Mesa Belle (SASS #9560) who claimed the title after defeating Hey You in the final. So the last match-up of the day was set—it would be Mesa Belle vs. Waterloo. Waterloo, shooting all four guns from the hip, finished ever so slightly ahead of Mesa Belle... But WAIT! He had a miss! Mesa Belle claimed the top overall Shootoff win! The video of all of the match-ups is on my YouTube channel, GrizzlyDave-Cowboy (along with other videos from the match), for those who wish to view it.

As the dust and smoke was still clearing from the Shootoff, folks scurried off to their campers and bunkhouses to get gussied up for the evening awards and ban-

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## The Shootout at Pawnee Station . . .

quet at the nearby VFW hall in Ault, CO. The VFW opened its doors at 4:00 p.m. for social hour and, as it's connected to the Bison Breath Saloon, beverages were flowing for those who wished to imbibe. Awards started just after 5:00 and were handed out quickly, State Champions were crowned, and both the Main Match awards and the evening's Costume Contest awards were presented. Following the last award, full results were posted for all to see and those who paid for the optional banquet started lining up for a wonderful meal of BBQ meats, assorted salads, and breads. Ric-a-D-Split again entertained us, playing the guitar and singing.

### Epilogue

For me, the end of the match was bittersweet. After months of being involved in planning, preparation, and promotion, I was tired, and from that standpoint I was glad it was over (well, all but tearing down the range the next day anyway). On the other hand, *dang it, it was over!* I was ready to go again! I voiced those thoughts to several of the Pawnee Station board members and was told, I think jokingly, that I might want to watch my back for awhile.

Since the match, I have heard overwhelmingly positive comments, including "best match EVER" from a Cowgirl who has traveled to all the major matches around the country. As most often happens, there were a few bumps along the road, but all were handled as best they could at the time, and lessons were learned to be applied when preparing for next year's Shootout at Pawnee Station, which is scheduled for August 18-20th, 2017! Entry forms, as well as a complete listing of 2016 results, are available now on the [Pawnee Station](#) website.


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## Annual Reports

# Battle *at* Black Horse

## 2016 Montana State Championship

*By Ranger Six, SASS #94237*

The Black Horse Shootists (BHS), located in Great Falls, Montana, hosted the 2016 Montana State Cowboy Action Shooting™ Championship during the third weekend of July. This relatively new club was formed in October of 2012 by eleven shooters who believed there was room for one more CAS™ club in Montana. BHS is one of five shooting disciplines, which operates under the Great Falls Shooting Sports Complex (GFSSC), located just a few miles north of town on ninety acres.

Friday morning saw the festivities start with a three stage Wild Bunch Mini-Match written by MT Jughead. Following lunch, the Rocky Mountain Rangers, a Cowboy Action Shooting™ club from Noxon, Montana, hosted the Warm Up Match, which consisted of three posses with approximately twenty shooters per posse. Once the Warm Up Match was completed it was time for Long Range and Side Matches, which included Speed Shotgun, Rifle and Revolver, as well as Twin Texas Stars/Dueling Stars. The Side Matches were interrupted and

put on hold for the remainder of the day, as a lightning storm passed close by during the late afternoon. Prior to the beginning of the Main Match on Saturday and Sunday, a complementary breakfast was generously provided and served by members of the Missouri River Shooters—not a CAS™ club, but one of the other clubs under the GFSSC. Many of its members turned out to help make the shoot a success. Besides serving breakfast, they helped out with Long Range and Side Matches. Many lady members also helped out in the role of administrative assistants. The theme of Battle At Black Horse was “with a little help from Clint Eastwood.” A dozen of Clint’s movies were the basis for the stages written by BHS Range Master, Smoke Jensen. He wrote the introduction and the scenarios for all twelve stages and many participants commented on what a fine job he did. Following the Saturday morning welcoming address by Match Directors JEB Stuart and Jeb’s Lady, the eighty-five registered shooters engaged the first seven stages. Some participants had traveled to Great Falls from as far away as Wisconsin,



*The top ten shooters*





*The clean shooters*

## Battle at Black Horse . . .

Tennessee, and Ontario. Ten states, as well as three Canadian Provinces were represented. Many of these travelers took advantage of the large parking area with electrical hook-ups to park their RVs at the range. During Saturday afternoon, the side matches that were interrupted during the storm were resumed. Other events scheduled were Cowboy Clays and *Schuetzen*. The *Schuetzen* consisted of a single rifle shot taken at a target placed at an unknown distance. It was later rumored the target had been placed at about one hundred twenty yards up the side of a hill. The target itself was approximately thirty inches tall and twenty inches wide with a painting of the SASS Cowboy/Marshal on it. The marshal's badge was the aim point with the winner being the one whose bullet hole came closest to the badge. A spotter watched for bullet impact placement and recorded where each shooter's round struck. Many rounds were fired down range, but not all found the target. Once everyone had finished shooting, those who had hit the target were invited to autograph the target next to their bullet hole. A catered BBQ dinner along with the Side Match Awards brought everyone together in the evening. Social time afterwards was enhanced by singing, accompanied by accordion music provided by Idaho Muleskinner, a shooter from Washington. Five

stages remained to be shot on Sunday morning. Poses were formed up and lead was sent down range. The range is set on five acres with nine shooting bays.

*(Continued on page 28)*

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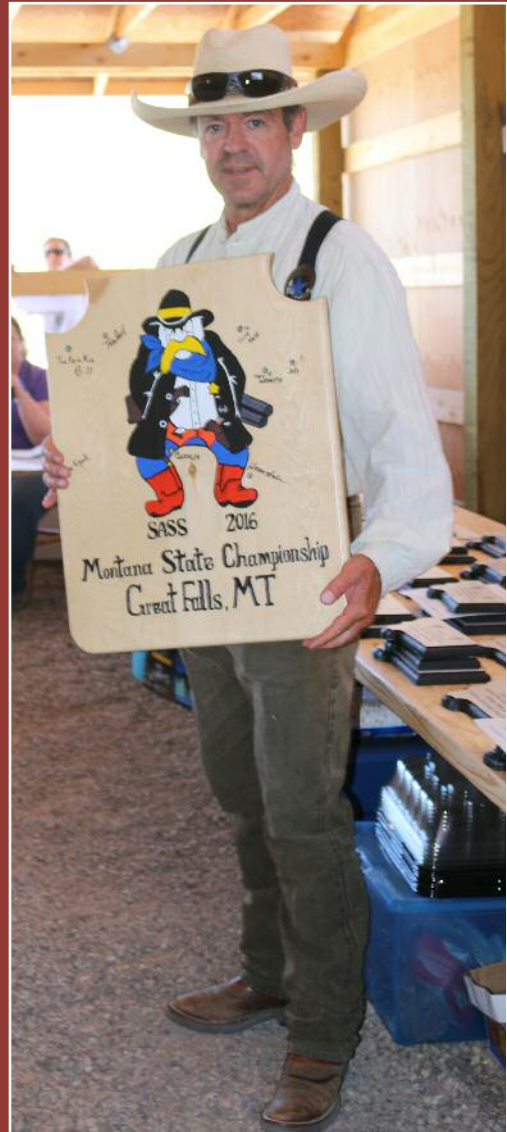
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### Battle at Black Horse . . .

*(Continued from page 27)*

Black Horse Shootists goal is to eventually provide one of the best Cowboy Action Shooting™ ranges possible and they are currently in the process of constructing more stage fronts, a larger parking lot, and buildings for all the things required to host a large match.

Once the last shot was fired, participants enjoyed lunch while the final scores were tallied up. Then it was time for the Awards Ceremony, which was conducted





Big Sky Country

## Battle at Black Horse . . .

in the recently constructed Community Hall. Besides the Wild Bunch, Warm Up, and Main Match, the recipient of the “Top Montana Club Traveling Trophy” was announced. Any SASS affiliated Montana club may submit the names of five of their members who are registered to shoot the main match at the Montana State Championship to be their “team” for the competition. The final main match times of the five members of the team are added together and the team with the lowest score determines which club takes home the Traveling Trophy to display at their range for the year. When the winning club returns the trophy to the SASS Montana State Championship the next year, a plaque will be added to the trophy indicating the

name of the club that held it the previous year. The Traveling Trophy this year was taken home by the Black Horse Shootists club. At this gathering, door prize drawings were passed out with many fine gifts and gift certificates, which included a Henry “Evil Roy” .22 rifle. The 2015 Men’s and Ladies’ Montana State Champions returned to defend their titles and did so successfully. A 2016 State Champion SASS Belt Buckle was awarded to Doc Tombstone (SASS #49630) and May B. Shecann (SASS #58075). Top overall male and lady shooters were not Montana residents, but to recognize their shooting achievements, Lunger (SASS #78045) and Tillie Dyes (SASS #79511), both from Washington, were presented with a complimentary shoot for next year’s Championship. The *Schuetzen* target, with signatures of all those hitting the target, was presented to the winner, Hamley (SASS #84401), a shooter from Wyoming. Please visit the [Black Horse Shootists](http://BlackHorseShootists.com) website for complete scores.

As the smoke settled and folks prepared to get on their way, one Montana shooter, Missouri River Kid, summed it up well by saying “If you weren’t here, you missed a great shoot.”

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## Guns & Gear

# DISPATCHES FROM CAMP BAYLOR

## Things You Didn't Get for Christmas

By Captain George Baylor, SASS #24287 Life Regulator



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

You're reading this in March, but I'm writing it in January. In January, if you realize you didn't get something you wanted for Christmas, you probably don't have the money because you spent it on Christmas presents. By March, hopefully you have the money to get some of those things. Here are a few to think about. Coincidentally, they're products that are new or have not reviewed in *The Cowboy Chronicle*.

### D Bar J Veteran's Hat

When I started getting medical care from the VA I noticed many vets were wearing veteran hats denoting their branch of service and where they served. Some were covered in pins and mini-medals, their entire military history. I started wearing a Vietnam veteran cap and I soon realized it enabled me to meet other vets, but I like to wear cowboy hats. It took a while to find a company that sold the hat patches for the hats by themselves, [vetfriends.com](http://vetfriends.com). So, working with

David Johnson at [D Bar J Hats](http://DBarJHats), we came up with one that fit my service record.

If you're a vet, David can make a unique hat for you. Mine is just an example. It's black, based on the 1872-1880 Army campaign hat. I chose the cattleman crease. Campaign hats were also used in tan starting in 1881, but you're not limited to those. If, for example, you want your First Marine Division patch on a Roy Rogers crease silverbelly hat, David could do it.

David has made a lot of hats for veterans. Whatever military memento you want can probably be put on it. This one has a Vietnam patch with a Combat Infantry Badge and a gold and black hat braid. Inside, where a SASS® hat would have my alias and SASS number, this hat has my (real, non-SASS) name and rank, my Vietnam unit, and the dates.

I get stopped all of the time by other veterans who want one. They're custom made and not inexpensive, but you will only need one. Unless you lose it, it will last longer than you will.



**D Bar J veteran's hat**

*They're custom made to reflect your history.*

*This one is 100% Beaver, cattleman crease, Combat Infantry Badge Vietnam patch, gold and black acorn tip braid, small CIB, and "Vietnam Vet" pins on left side.*



## Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

### 1873 “No Bite” Trigger System

Slick McClade at [slickmagicguns.com](http://slickmagicguns.com) sells the “No Bite” trigger system for Uberti ’73 rifles. It consists of a match grade upper sear and lower trigger that is custom tuned for a crisp trigger pull, Each trigger system has a small rebound



*Slick Magic “No Bite Trigger.”*



*Slick Magic “No Bite Trigger” components—  
a match grade sear, a rebound spring, and a dehorned trigger.*

trigger spring built in to keep the trigger from moving when being fired rapidly. This along with the dehorned corners will help eliminate the dreaded 1873 trigger bite

I had The Brisco Kid of Cowboy Shooters Sup-

*(Continued on page 32)*



## Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

*(Continued from page 31)*

ply install it. At that time, the cross pin holding everything together for packaging purposes stuck out both sides and had to be removed to slide the three pieces into place, keeping everything aligned, a neat magician's trick if you can do it. His solution was to replace that pin with a pin the width of the Uberti mechanism so it slid into place, and he punched the pin out with the factory pin for installation. It took him less than 10 minutes.

Later Slick told me he had changed packaging so it comes with a roll pin of the correct width to allow sliding it into place for easy installation. The photos show the current roll pin. If I had had that, I could have installed it, but if in doubt, get a SASS gunsmith to install it.

After it was installed, it worked as advertised and, so far, I haven't had it bite my finger. It is a crisp, comfortable trigger. The lever safety still works. This is a good thing.

### Not Just for Pole Dancers Anymore

(There's a headline you don't see in a Cowboy Action Shooting™ article often.) I had been using Pistol Pro Grip from [Cowboy Shooters Supply](#) on my hands to keep the (big, slippery) Ruger Old Army from slipping around. It's a little plastic bottle of a goopy liquid that dries on your hands to remove and keep moisture off your hands. I'd been getting it from Cowboy Shooters Supply for years, buying enough at END of TRAIL or Winter Range to last until the next big

*Pro Grip and Gold Dust, grip enhancers used by Cowboy Action Shooters™, and Grrrip Plus used by pole dancers.*



match. But I ran out. Several people had told me I could get it from sporting goods stores in the tennis department. After driving to a few and dealing with quizzical looks from sales personnel, I came to the conclusion that I was looking for goop in all the wrong places. So I went to Amazon Prime and finding it or an equivalent proved difficult. Finally, I found one called Grrrip Plus (not to be confused with Grrrip Plus or Grrrip Plus). I read the reviews and learned why I'd been looking in the wrong stores. All of the reviewers were pole dancers.

Then I found [Slick McClade's Gold Dust Liquid Chalk](#).

### Gold Dust Liquid Chalk

“Gold Dust gives you that extra grip needed to prevent gun slippage, without being sticky. Gold Dust offers the competitive edge you have needed for keeping the moisture off your hands. Apply a small dime size amount into your palm then rub both hands together. Gold Dust will dry completely in about 15 seconds, leaving a white chalky film

on your hands. This liquid chalk technology will give you a better grip on your gun surfaces, keeping them in place. The product will not stain nor damage the finish on the firearm. It simply washes off your hands and wipes off your firearm with a dry or damp rag. Don't fall victim to another target miss because of gun slippage.”

I figured it had to be superior for our usage because it had a World Champion's picture on it. I considered getting some pole dancers to do a blind comparison test, but then I realized I didn't know any pole dancers and at my age I don't strike up conversations with women younger than my Rolex. Anyway, they would probably want money. So I just tried all three alternately at matches.

Conclusion: Buy Gold Dust from Slick McClade or Pro Grip from Cowboy Shooters Supply. Both work very well for shooters. If you're a pole dancer who is also a Cowboy Action Shooter™, use what you want.



## Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

### SliX-Driver with Nipple Wrench

TK4B Enterprises, makers of the SliXpring, SliX-Pin, SliX-Hand and SliX-Main has for some time offered a neat gun cart screwdriver. "Not a 'set' with different disposable tips that get lost and a short small grip, but a tool expressly designed for a quick and positive fit for screw slots on most all of the firearms found on, and around, the line at a SASS match."

Some time back I had suggested to Big Iron Buster (SASS #9361) and Ol' #4 (SASS #41004) we need a really high quality nipple wrench for percussion pistols. I had broken two when trying to free stuck nipples, which started a search for a high quality nipple wrench. The best available commercially was a ratcheting wrench from [The Possible Shop](#). I



Close-up of the high quality nipple wrench.

wound up using a 3/16" Craftsman deep socket wrench with a slot machined by Larsen E. Pettifogger to fit pistol nipples and a ratchet handle. But Larsen only made a batch for his friends, and no one sells one.

*(Continued on page 34)*



New SliX-Driver with nipple wrench.

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## Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

*(Continued from page 33)*

Fast forward to January 2017. Big Iron Buster showed me one of their newest four-way screwdrivers with a high quality nipple wrench on one end, replacing one of the screwdriver tips. The unit is heat treated and blued. The nipple wrench fits pistol nipples perfectly, and the cross-handle allows you to apply torque to get a stuck screw or nipple out. The blades are hollow ground like gunsmith screwdrivers. I like it.

From SliXprings, "The... ***hollow ground*** tips have been designed to fit all of the most

common screw slots found on Colt's clones, Ruger Vaqueros and Blackhawks, Marlin Rifles, and Uberti 1873 and 1866 rifles. You will have to select the tip best suited for your applications and may have to trim them for a more perfect fit. The SliX-Driver is not intended to be used as a complete overhaul tool for disassembling new firearms that have traditionally been assembled by 'Guido' and his handy over powered air wrench, although it is very handy for removing the soft headed screws after the initial



*One of the hollow ground screwdriver tips on the SliX-Driver.*



*Screwdrivers from my gun cart, left to right: a Lyman handle with tips from a Magna-Tip thin bit set (Brownells 080-120-000WB) for Uberti '73; Ruger® Screwdriver Set (Brownells 080-000-020WB); Redwing Frontiersman Screwknife©; SliX-Driver with nipple wrench, Cowboy screwdriver for gun belt.*



## Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

torque-lock has been broken.”

I pulled out some of the screwdrivers from my gun cart to put things into perspective. I have two screwdrivers with replaceable magnetic tips. One is for Rugers, with tips color coded for specific screws. The other is

for Uberti ‘73s. I have a [Cowboy Screwdriver](#) from [Unique Tek](#) on my gun belt specifically for the ejector housing screw on Ruger Vaqueros. I only use it at the loading table if I forget to check them pre-match. I also have a Frontiersman Screwknife, with a screwdriver blade not designed for maximum torque, but it will turn the loading lever lock screw on Ruger Old Armies. It’s used for several things when charging cylinders. The SliXdriver joins the set and has already proven useful. It’ll be easily accessible in my gun cart.

### Mernickle Magnetic Screwknife sheath

For some time [Mernickle Custom Holsters](#) has made a holster-mount sheath for [Redwing Screwknives](#) with a tensioning screw so they don’t fall out. They work very well. But not all holsters are compatible with them. Redwing has been using magnetic scabbards. The magnet keeps the knife from falling out. Recently, Redwing talked Bob Mernickle



*New Mernickle Custom Holsters magnetic Screwknife© belt sheath (left-handed shown) on the gun belt, and the older holster-mounted model with a tensioning screw.*



*Close-up of the belt mounted magnetic Screwknife© sheath.*

into trying the magnet concept. Now he is using it in belt-mounted scabbards that will match the color, stitch, and quality of Mernickle holster rigs. They work very well and look great.

Merry Christmas. 🎄

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# History

Part 2

# A BOTCHED DECADE Marching Toward War

By Big Dave, SASS #55632



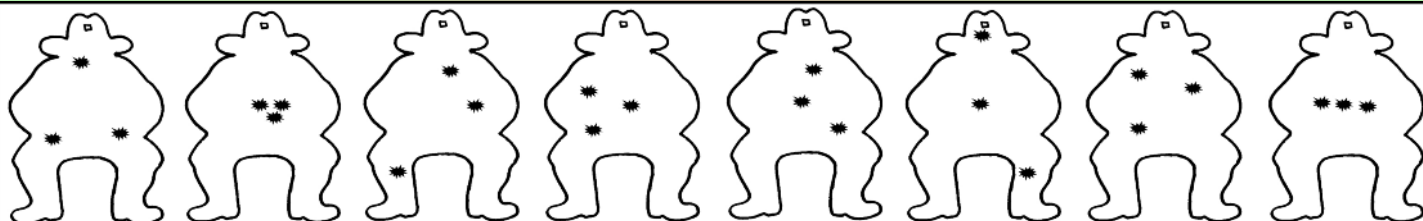
Big Dave, SASS #55632



The "Sack of Lawrence" and the caning of Sumner put John Brown in the mood "for a little confrontation."

By January 1856, the territory of Kansas was ideologically split into two parts. It had a southern section, which desired slavery and a northern section, which abhorred it. It was not in the cards for the two sections to coexist peacefully. In May, about 800 pro-slavery Kansans attacked the town of Lawrence, the center of anti-slavery agitation. Some newspaper offices were wrecked, a few buildings were burned and soon northerners were decrying the "Sack of Lawrence" and "Bleeding Kansas." Not much blood had been spilled yet, but that was about to change.

Meanwhile, in Washington, a Massachusetts Senator named Charles Sumner delivered a two-day speech entitled "The Crime Against Kansas." During this speech he lambasted the situation in Kansas, Illinois Congressman Stephen Douglas, Southerners in



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## A Botched Decade (pt 2) • Marching Toward War . . .



*Preston Brooks caned Charles Sumner after his speech, "The Crime Against Kansas." This wasn't one of our country's finer moments.*

general, and South Carolina Senator Andrew Butler in particular. Butler had uttered some intemperate words in favor of the pro-slavery Kansans and Sumner responded by saying something to the effect that Butler was wedded to "the harlot, slavery."

Butler wasn't the only person Sumner had insulted personally—he'd referred to Douglas as "a noisome, squat, and nameless animal." However, Butler's nephew, Preston Brooks became enraged at what he considered an attack on his family's honor. Brooks, a Congressman from South Carolina, was by all accounts a rather nice person, but he was a Southerner, and in his opinion Sumner had gone too far. (Arguably, Sumner had; you didn't want to publicly insult people in those days unless you were ready for a physical confrontation.) Two days after Sumner made his speech, Brooks walked into the Senate chamber where Sumner was sitting and beat Sumner with a walking stick. Brooks didn't just give Sumner a whack or two, he beat him to a pulp. Sumner was seriously injured and Brooks in the upcoming weeks received dozens of new walking sticks, some inscribed with, "Hit him again!"

Then the violence shifted back to Kansas. A fanatical abolitionist named John Brown had moved to Kansas and between the attack on Lawrence and the bludgeoning of Sumner, had worked himself into the "mood for a little confrontation." "Something must be done to show

these barbarians that we, too, have rights," Brown thundered. Brown's solution was to gather up some men, drag five pro-slavery Kansans out of their homes in the middle of the night and hack them to death with swords. The incident occurred at a place called Pottawatomie Creek and needless to say, encouraged both bitterness and violence on both sides. Brown was never arrested for the murders.

What a setting for a presidential election year! You could say with some conviction that the issues facing us now are rather tame in comparison. Kansas was a literal battleground and a literal "whipping" had occurred in the Senate. Democrat Franklin Pierce, the incumbent president, did not win his own party's nomination. The Democrats' slogan, interestingly enough, was "Anybody but Pierce!" Instead, the Democrats nominated James Buchanan of Pennsylvania. The newly formed Republican Party nominated explorer John C. Fremont. A third party, the so-called American or "Know Nothing" Party dragged the forgettable for-

*(Continued on page 38)*

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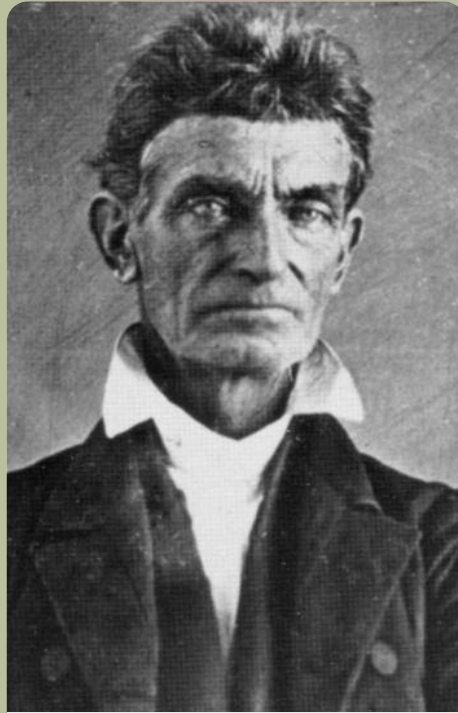


## A Botched Decade (pt 2) • Marching Toward War . . .

*(Continued from page 37)*

mer President Millard Fillmore out of the mothballs as their nominee. By this time, the Whig Party had imploded and was out of the picture.

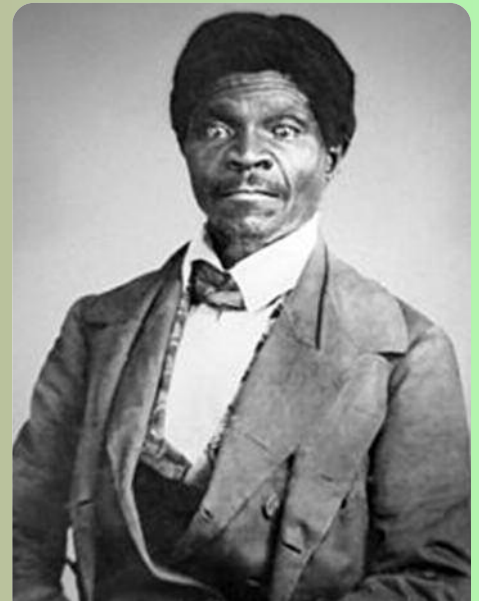
Southern and Northern Democrats agreed on enough at this point to elect Buchanan. However, he barely won, and the election would have been much closer if Fillmore had stayed out of the election altogether. Fillmore tended to split anti-slavery votes although he avoided the topic of slavery altogether. His platform was anti-immigrant. Though it is not an unfamiliar issue in American history, it primarily affected the northern states at that time.



*John Brown played a huge role in the Botched Decade.*

Fremont captured a large number of popular votes and did remarkably well, especially if you consider the fact that the Republican Party was only two years old. In any case, Buchanan won because he, like Pierce, was a northern candidate with southern sympathies. The popular term for a person of his ilk was “doughface.” To be called a “doughface” meant you were easily malleable. That couldn’t have been a better description of Buchanan as president. Most historians consider him to be the worst president to serve a full term in America’s history. It is difficult to argue otherwise. At a time when America needed strong, principled leadership, Buchanan provided neither. The best that could be said of Buchanan is he wanted to do the right thing, but didn’t have the stomach for it.

Buchanan dearly hoped the differences between North and South could be swept under the rug for yet another time. As it happened, the Supreme Court announced its decision on the Dred Scott case a mere two days after Buchanan was sworn in. Dred Scott, a slave, had been brought into a free state by his master and had sued for his freedom on the grounds that he was a resident of Illinois and therefore free. The Supreme Court denied Scott his freedom on the grounds that he was a slave and therefore not a citizen and that to free him would forfeit his owner’s Fourth Amendment rights. Southerners



*The Dred Scott decision further alienated the North from the South.*

were thrilled because the decision meant that slaves could be brought into any territory or state and that any efforts to prohibit slavery in the territories were unconstitutional. Northerners were furious and saw the decision as a “slave state conspiracy.” Chief Justice Roger Taney was a south-

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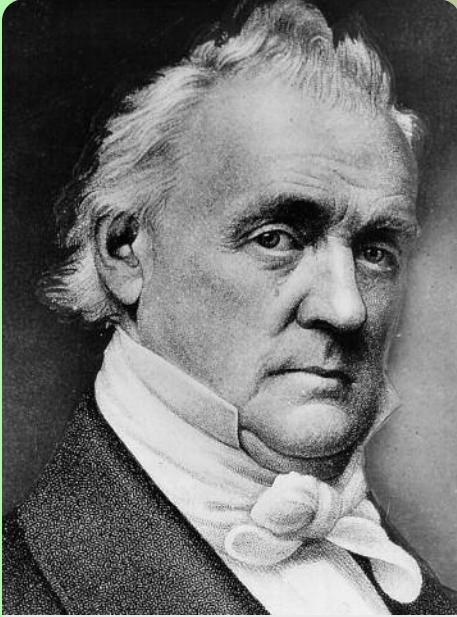



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**A Botched Decade (pt 2) • Marching Toward War**



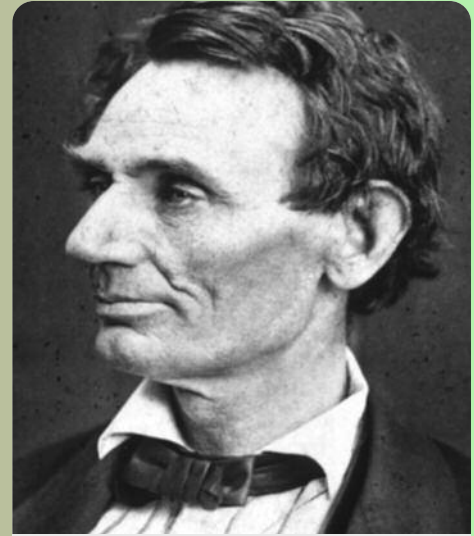
*James Buchanan is considered to be one of the worst presidents in our history.*

erner and the decision was split along sectional lines. The Dred Scott decision brought the sectional differences out into the open yet again. Buchanan's hopes were dashed.

Have you ever been in a situation where you thought, "Well, it can't get worse than this?" Of course, the answer is it sure as heck can. If Buchanan weren't such a worm, it would be easy to pity him. In the autumn of 1857, Kansas applied for statehood. A constitutional convention was held at Lecompton, Kansas, which would have had the territory enter the Union as a slave state. The problem was, there was obvious voter fraud and the delegates were mostly pro-slavery. In other words, the whole thing was rigged. The majority of people who lived in Kansas were opposed to slavery. Buchanan supported the pro-slavery constitution because it would appease the southerners. The fact that it was a travesty didn't seem

to bother him. Senator Stephen Douglas openly split with the president over this, despite the fact they were both Democrats. The following year, the "Lecompton Constitution" was rejected in the House of Representatives. Republicans and most northern Democrats voted it down. Buchanan faced an open rebellion within his own party. Kansas remained in a kind of limbo until 1861, when it was admitted into the Union as a free state.

There was no good news on the economic front, either. In 1857, there occurred one of Wall Street's periodic panics. It mostly affected the banking firms and economic interests of the northern states. The southern



*Lincoln emerged as a national figure during the 1850s.*

states weathered it comparatively well, since they tended to trade cotton abroad and cotton was in high demand. This led a number of southerners to think, "Who needs the Union, anyway?"

*(Continued on page 40)*

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## A Botched Decade (pt 2) • Marching Toward War . . .

(Continued from page 39)

In 1858 an obscure Illinois lawyer ran for a seat in the U.S. Senate. By this time, he was a member of the newly formed Republican Party. Needless to say, the lawyer isn't obscure any longer—he was Abraham Lincoln. The much more famous Stephen Douglas ran as an incumbent. Never were two candidates more opposite in appearance—Lincoln was tall and lanky while Douglas was short and stubby. It was almost a foregone conclusion that Lincoln would lose the election against Douglas, aka the “Little Giant.” However, Lincoln made a very good showing.

Prior to the election, there was a series of debates between the two candidates. Unsurprisingly, they were called the Lincoln/Douglas debates. Since both participants were highly articulate and the focus of the debates was the pressing issue of the period—slavery in the territories—the debates were highly publicized. Neither candidate was an abolitionist; the difference between them was whether Congress should decide if slavery was to

be permitted or prohibited in a territory or whether the question was to be settled by the people residing in that territory. Lincoln wanted Congress to decide while Douglas wanted the question decided by the citizens of the territories.

Although Lincoln lost the election for the Senate, he made a name for himself in the Republican Party. Also, he maneuvered Douglas into more or less admitting slavery wasn't a very desirable thing. Both Lincoln and Douglas made statements that would qualify them today as racists, but given the standards of the time, that is unsurprising. The bottom line was, by the time the debates were over, the vast majority of southerners were convinced that neither Lincoln nor Douglas would further their interests. This would eventually cause a *de facto* split in the Democratic Party into northern and southern wings. In other words, it would make it easier for Lincoln to win the Presidential Election of 1860. Conversely, it would make it impossible for Douglas.

During the last year of the “Botched Decade,” an event occurred that made the Civil War almost inevitable. John Brown, who had prudently lain low after murdering the pro-slavery Kansans at Pottawatomie Creek, stepped back into the national scene. He'd cooked up a scheme to end slavery by starting a slave rebellion in the southern states. In October 1859, Brown and a small group of followers seized a federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia.

John Brown's “raid” at Harper's Ferry was really a pitiful thing. The first person killed in the exchange of fire was a freed slave who was accidentally shot by Brown's men. This set the tone for the whole event, which was essentially a botched raid intended to start a rebellion that never happened. The raid was ended quickly by a detachment of US Marines under the command of Colonel Robert E. Lee. However, in the wider scheme, the incident helped touch off a war that would once and for all achieve Brown's purpose of ending slavery. Brown wouldn't live to see it, but he would have been pleased with

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## A Botched Decade (pt 2) • Marching Toward War . . .

the ultimate outcome.

The Harper's Ferry incident did not spill a whole lot of blood. Only eleven people were killed—eight of them were Browns followers; two of them were Brown's sons. One of the great tragedies was John Brown himself survived. At his subsequent trial, he was resolute, courageous, and eloquent in his condemnation of slavery. It was a foregone conclusion he would be found guilty; he had engaged in what amounted to domestic terrorism. The problem was, his courtroom demeanor turned his own trial into an indictment against slavery, at least in the minds of a few loudmouthed northerners. To make matters worse, some of the aforementioned loudmouths were pretty famous.

Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau were ardent abolitionists and two of America's most acclaimed authors. Emerson wrote Brown was a "Saint" and his hanging "would make the gallows as glorious as the cross." Thoreau considered Brown to be "an

angel of light." Though the great majority of northerners disagreed with these sentiments, they were inflammatory and heavily publicized.

Brown's raid touched on the South's greatest fear, which was that of a massive slave uprising. In the 1830s, Nat Turner had led an uprising that cost the lives of 60 whites in Southampton County, Virginia. The memory was still relatively fresh. Moreover, there had been an uprising in Haiti at the turn of the nineteenth century that was so brutal, it was probably in the back of every white's mind who lived south of the Mason-Dixon Line. Not only did Brown try to foment such an uprising, he was being compared to a Christian martyr. The South became enraged.

John Brown was found guilty and was hanged on December 2, 1859. He died without fear, like martyrs are supposed to. Though the vast majority of northern newspapers approved of the execution, the damage had been done. The radical abolitionists' reaction to Brown's raid convinced many southerners that the people who lived up north wanted them dead.

*(Continued on page 42)*

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#### **Buckle Information** \*Please provide proof of placement\*

Hosting Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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 State  Regional  National  World  Territorial Shoot Out  State Shoot Out  
 Year of Match: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_  
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## A Botched Decade (pt 2) • Marching Toward War . . .

(Continued from page 41)

Nobody said it better than Reverend Robert Lewis Dabney, who later became a member of “Stonewall” Jackson’s staff:

“This mad attempt by a handful of vulgar cutthroats, and its condign punishment, would have been a very trivial affair but for the manner in which it was regarded by the people of the North. Their presses, pulpits, public meetings and conversations, disclosed such a hatred of the South and its institutions, as to lead them to justify the crime, involving though it did the most the aggravated robbery, treason and murder; [and] to exalt the bloodthirsty fanatic who led the party to a public apotheosis.”

Dabney was wrong when he implied the whole population of the northern states approved of Brown, but it’s hard to blame him. Thoreau, Emerson, and a number of leading abolitionists got a lot of press. A number of southern newspapers helped make matters worse; the Charleston (South Carolina) Mercury stated Brown’s raid was “a warning profoundly symptomatic of the Union with our sectional enemies.” As we know today, it isn’t always the most reasonable people who leave the most lasting impressions. The voices of reason were being shouted down by the end of the 1850s.

When he was running against Stephen Douglas, Lincoln said, “A house divided against itself cannot stand.” What he meant was, somehow or other the question of slavery in the territories and slav-

ery itself had to be settled. Southerners decided he was an abolitionist, but he was nothing of the kind. Lincoln was only opposed to the spread of slavery. By then it didn’t matter. Then, as now, people hear what they want to hear.

By the end of the calamitous decade of the 1850s the United States was indeed a house divided against itself, rather like the United States is at the present time. Although things are pretty tense, we can be comforted by the fact that there is no mini-Civil War going on in the nation’s heartland, nobody has (yet) beaten anybody senseless in the Senate chamber, we do not have a serious secessionist movement going on, and although we’ve had some instances of domestic terrorism, there has been nothing like John Brown’s raid and its aftermath. There is nothing going on today that is nearly as divisive as the slavery issue of the 1850s. Despite what some people are saying, our issues at present are comparatively repairable. It’s up to us to put our divided house in order, and I’m hopeful we can do a better job of it than we did before the Civil War.

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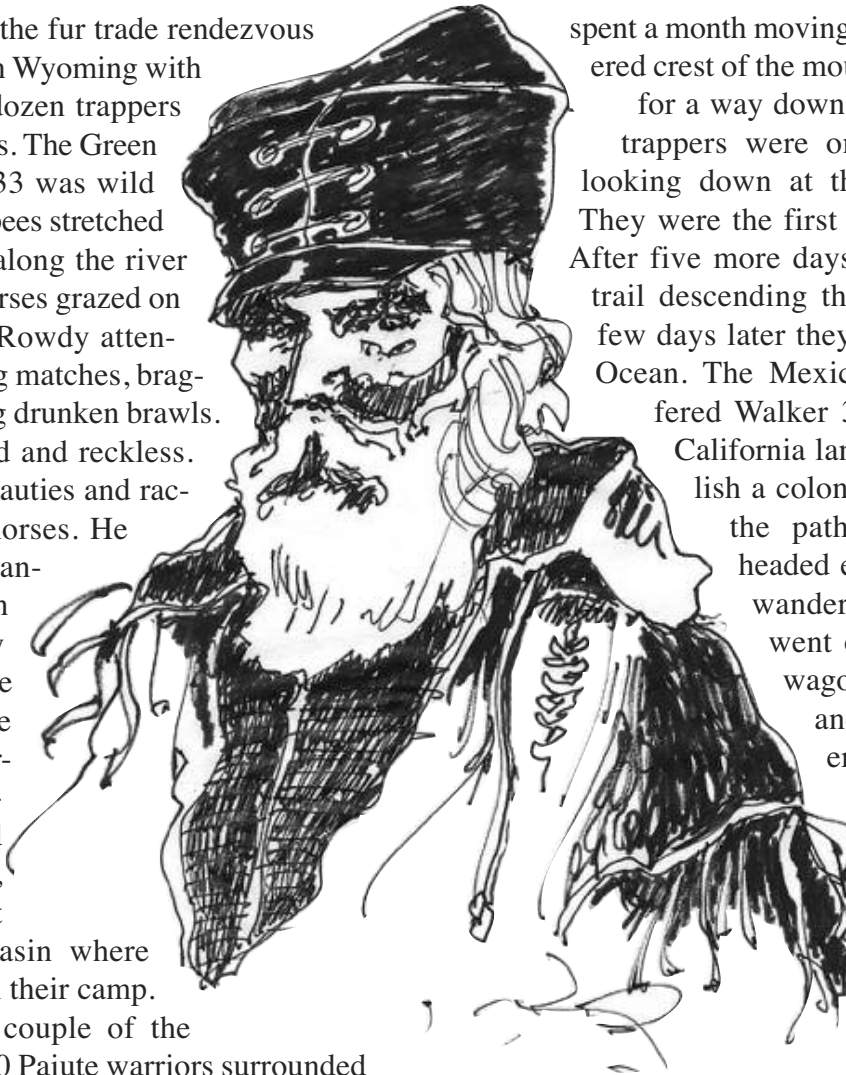
*Joe Fasthorse,  
SASS #48769*

# LITTLE KNOWN FAMOUS PEOPLE

## - Way Out West -

*By Joe Fasthorse, SASS #48769*

Joe Walker rode into the fur trade rendezvous on the Green River in Wyoming with an escort of half a dozen trappers and 370 Shoshone Indians. The Green River rendezvous of 1833 was wild and wooly. Tents and teepees stretched for more than 10 miles along the river and immense herds of horses grazed on the surrounding plains. Rowdy attendees engaged in wrestling matches, bragging contests, and roaring drunken brawls. But Walker was not wild and reckless. He enjoyed Shoshone beauties and racing for money on fast horses. He spent the rendezvous planning and assembling an expedition. The Army had asked him to explore the region west from the Great Salt Lake to California. Walker left the rendezvous with 50 men and 140 horses. Riding west, they entered the vast deserts of the Great Basin where Paiute Indians stole from their camp. Walker's men killed a couple of the thieves. The next day, 200 Paiute warriors surrounded the trappers. Using signs, Walker warned the Indians to disperse or be shot. The Paiutes laughed because they had never seen guns. The order was given to shoot and 39 Paiutes fell dead. When the party reached the Sierra Nevada Range the snow was halfway down the mountains. The food rations were exhausted and the men were reduced to eating roots and insects. They



spent a month moving along the snow-covered crest of the mountain range, looking for a way down. On October 20, the trappers were on a mile-high cliff, looking down at the Yosemite Valley. They were the first white men to see it. After five more days they found a steep trail descending the western slopes. A few days later they reached the Pacific Ocean. The Mexican Government offered Walker 30,000 acres of free California land if he would establish a colony of Americans. But the pathfinder refused and headed east to revive his old wandering ways. Walker went on to guide the first wagon trains to California and the first gold miners to Arizona. He bought Spanish horses from Mexican ranches at Los Angeles and sold them in Colorado, Wyoming, and Missouri. The trailblazer retired at a

cousin's ranch in California and died peacefully at the age of 77. The inscription on his tombstone reads, "Camped at Yosemite Nov. 13, 1833." Mountain men like Jim Bridges, Kit Carson, and Jedediah Smith are better known to us today, but in his day, Joe Walker was considered by his contemporaries to be the most famous mountain man of all. 🐾



# Profiles

# THE Contraption Master



*By Fire Opal, SASS #50730 Life,  
with Sage Creek Gus, SASS #64320*



*Fire Opal,  
SASS #50730 Life*



*It takes a village to reset the Whirling Dervish.*

Deep in the Montana Rockies nestled on the northern shores of Flathead Lake sits the quaint town of Bigfork, and there resides a Cowboy Action Shooter™ who has been called diabolical, devious, and clever. Most Western Montana Cowboy Action Shooters™ know his name, and many of them know his game. And for those who have played his game, they have a working knowledge of the terms “Gophers,” “Polish Pickle,” and “Whirling Dervish.”

Sage Creek Gus, Mr. Diabolical himself, has dreamt up, designed, and devised some of the most un-

usual targets known to Cowboy Action Shooters™. For Sage Creek Gus, Cowboy Action Shooting™ is not just about speed and up close and personal targets. He enjoys a different kind of Cowboy Action Shooting™ and it has been his goal to test himself as well as others with interactive, moving, and unpredictable targets. If you ask shooters who attend his annual “Contraption Shoot,” he has succeeded.

Growing up on a farm in northwest Iowa influenced Sage Creek Gus to become the shooter and inventor he is today. According to Gus, farming involves problem

solving and during much of his younger years he and his father would devise and build items to solve problems that occurred on a regular basis. They would come up with an idea to solve a problem or



*Sage Creek Gus,  
inventor of the contraptions.*





*Bodie Camp (SASS #19061) has upset the balance of the Polish Plate Rack. The Pickles (in red) have been freed!*

## The Contraption Master . . .

fulfill a need and try to build a device to accomplish a task. At last resort, they would buy something. But half the fun was to come up with a solution. Also influencing Gus from his early days was the time they spent hunting and target shooting on the farm as well as the surrounding Iowa countryside.

With his love of inventions, it is no surprise Gus majored in Mathematics and Physics while in college. In addition to his coursework, he took some additional physics classes that were part of the requirements for a degree in Mechanical Engineering. His first job was as a high school mathematics teacher in Iowa and during this time he experimented with sculpting—first with wood, then eventually marble and bronze. He left teaching, moved to Montana, pursued a career as an artist, and also became, along with his wife, an owner of an art gallery in Bigfork.

Sage Creek Gus started Cowboy Action Shooting™ in 2005 and at the time he found he enjoyed shooting targets that moved. He also enjoyed shooting stages that required strategy and thinking—stages that could be shot in more than one way. He liked seeing how other shooters would choose to shoot stages of this type. Gus was partial to targets like the Texas Star, which changed the way it moved when a target was removed, however he also recognized it was possible to shoot these targets in such a way that made the target predictable.

This brought forth Gus's quest to create an array of interactive and unusual targets. And, this array of targets gave birth to what is known as the Contraption Match, held by the Bigfork Buscaderos Cowboy Ac-

tion Shooting™ Club. At this match, Gus's targets take center stage. This is not your typical Cowboy Match, but it attracts some of the best shooters in Western Montana who seek to master the Contraptions. Limited to twenty shooters due to the reset time involved with the shoot, this match requires accuracy, strategy, and determination. Speed, although always important, may or may not be a shooter's friend while trying to tame the Contraption Master's diabolical designs. Laughter, cheers, and groans are always present at this match.

One of the featured targets for this shoot is, for want of a better name, called the Rolling Target. This target, Gus's first real interactive design, features a target that rolls down a pipe when released by shooting a knock down target. A weight hangs from the rolling target, and when the target is shot the weight is dropped. According to Gus, the challenge with that target was to insure the weight would be dropped regard-

*(Continued on page 46)*

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*May B. Shecann (SASS #58075, Montana's Lady State Champ from 2013-2016) attempts to tame the "Whirling Dervish."*

## The Contraption Master . . .

*(Continued from page 45)*



less of where the target was hit by the bullet. An added challenge was to locate all the critical mechanisms behind the target so a bullet would not hit them. Over the years, he has been able to use that target in an array of scenarios, including knocking down bowling pins, dropping horseshoes near a stake, and dropping a weight in a box as the target passes overhead.

Another Gus design (based on a similar target he saw

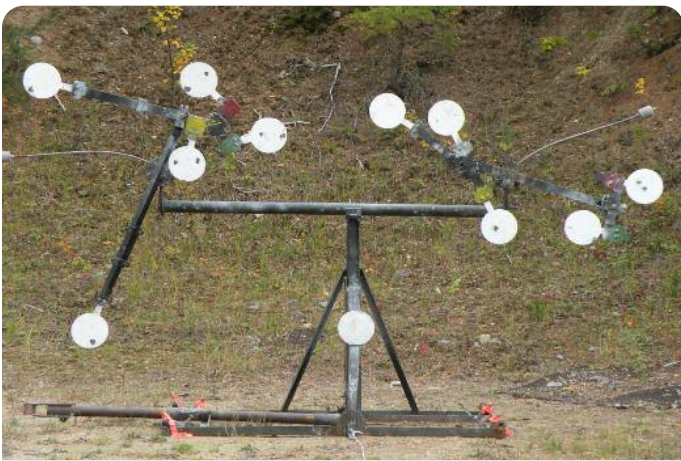


*The "Polish Pickle" waits for an unsuspecting shooter.*

displayed in a YouTube video), is one lovingly referred to as the Polish Pickle Rack (or Polish Plate Rack). This target, like the Texas Star, has only one bearing, but from one who has shot it, it can be a bear! Gus kindly gave a toned down technical description of how both work. "At first they are stationary and they have no angular momentum because the center of mass of all the targets is an equal distance from the bearing. When a target is removed, the location of that center of mass is changed and is no longer located at the bearing. This causes the center of mass of all the targets to cause the mechanism to begin rotating. So now the mechanism has some angular momentum." He goes on to say the angular momentum changes each time a target is removed. However, like the Texas Star, the way this target functions can become easily predictable. (I think if you talked to a majority of the shooters who have sparred with this target you would find they are less certain of the Polish Pickle's predictability!) In laymen's terms, this target has four round targets to knock down from the top of a bar and six on the bottom. If you can shoot the targets off before upsetting the balance, the "pickles," which are solid steel cylinders (often painted green), remain in their sheaths. For the very skillful who can conquer the Polish Pickle Rack, there is a cute pewter pickle pin which attests to their proficiency.

If the Polish Pickle wasn't enough to challenge shooters and drive them crazy, Gus decided to design a target that had an unpredictable reaction to each target being removed. After musing this problem he ultimately came up with a target that is known as the





Many shooters have been surprised by the complexity of the "Whirling Dervish."

### The Contraption Master . . .

Whirling Dervish. Gus explained his thinking when designing this target. (Warning... the next paragraph is full of physics and not for the faint of heart!)

"I realized if the arms from the central bearing were of different lengths, and if the bearings on the end of these arms had different numbers of arms on them, and if some of these arms had bearings on the end of them with more arms on them, the overall angular momentum of the overall mechanism would be very difficult to predict when a target was removed. Also, the overall angular momentum would be changed in a different manner when a target was removed depending upon where that target was removed and depending upon where that target was in relation to the other targets when it was removed. Because there are bearings that are moving and spinning, there is angular momentum around that bearing, but that angular momentum system is itself involved in the angular momentum around the second bearing. Because of all this, it's possible for angular momentum to be transferred from one bearing to another."

So with all that said, suffice it to say this target is as confusing to shoot as it is to read about. However, once you've shot the Whirling Dervish you are hooked and most want to shoot the target until they can shoot it clean, which is no easy task. A Whirling Dervish pin is given to those who have managed to clean the target. Out of the approximately 350 times the target has been shot in competition, only four times has the target been cleaned. Many have come close with only one target remaining, but Gus certainly achieved his goal of creating a totally unpredictable interactive target. And if Gus is called diabolical in relation to this target, he considers that the finest of compliments.



Much coveted Pickle pins and Whirling Dervish pins are awarded to those who conquer these targets.

Gus has created other unusual contraptions, including a stage called "Gophers in the Garden," which is comprised of 26 pieces of heavy pipe that are eight to ten inches in length. These pipes are placed randomly from seven to fifteen yards. Also placed amongst the "gophers" are the "vegetables," for which penalties are given if they are shot. Since the stage is designed for ten revolver, ten rifle, and four shotgun rounds (24 shots), a couple of those shots must knock over more

*(Continued on page 48)*

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*The “Rolling Target” is activated by the knockdown on the right and the shooter attempts to drop the weight in the section of the box with the greatest point value for a bonus.*

## The Contraption Master . . .

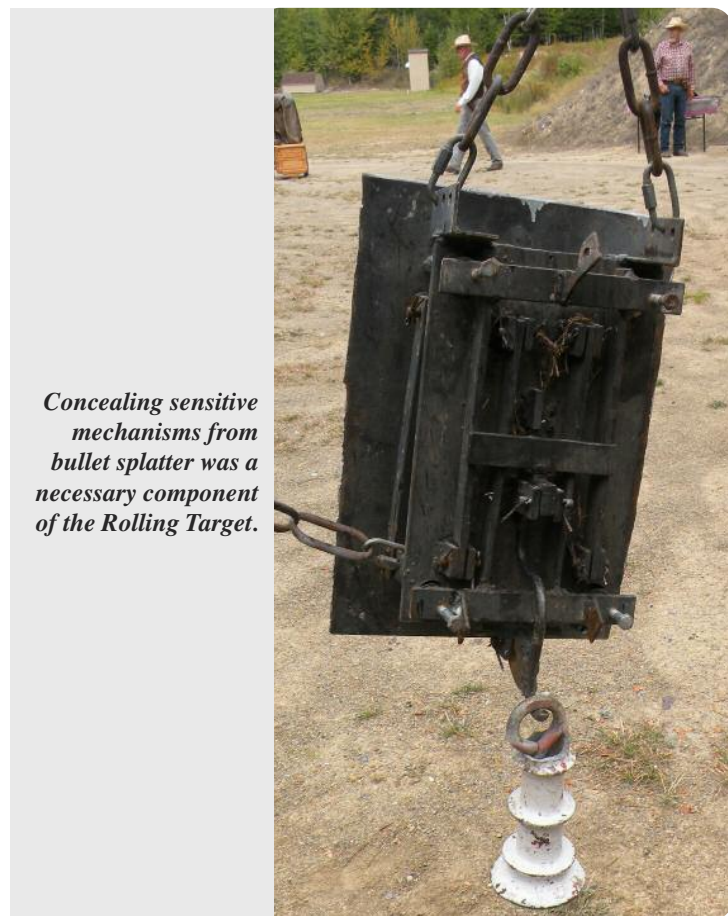
*(Continued from page 47)*

than one target. This was Gus’s first endeavor to design a stage without typical banks of targets. This stage has traveled throughout Montana to various events, including the Montana State Match when it was held at Sun River Rangers range near Simms, MT. Because it requires a lot of resetting, the Gophers have typically been used as a side match at larger shoots.

At the 2016 Contraption Shoot on the third Saturday in September, eighteen brave shooters gathered at the Bigfork Gun Club to take on the Contraption Master’s challenge. Unlike most of today’s CAS™ matches, these shooters were prepared to reset multiple targets on every stage. When each shooter took their turn, targets were spinning, rolling, and whirling. As with any Contraption Shoot, there were trials and misses, but there were also celebrations for a stage well shot. This shoot was not about speed; it was more about accuracy, strategy, and learning by watching and doing. Shooters of all capabilities now tested themselves in a different way—Sage Creek Gus’s way. Everyone who attended came away with new stories about their trials and tribulations with the contraptions. Was the Contraption Shoot diabolical and a bit devious? Definitely, but it sure was a lot of fun!

*For more information about the targets discussed in this article, you may contact Sage Creek Gus by email at [griecke@aboutmontana.net](mailto:griecke@aboutmontana.net). Although Sage*

*Creek Gus is not currently building any new targets he is working on a series of articles for the American Single Shot Rifle Association Journal on the mathematics and physics of long range black powder shooting. He also is participating in Schuetzen shooting, long range black powder cartridge, and muzzle loading shooting, for which he is building a muzzleloader. 🏹*



*Concealing sensitive mechanisms from bullet splatter was a necessary component of the Rolling Target.*





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# Profiles

## Scholarship Recipient 2016

### SASS Kicker, SASS #91899

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



*Justice Lily Kate,  
SASS #1000*

**Sedona, AZ.** I have lived my life with the attitude of never having regrets and learning from the choices that have shaped me as a person. Every decision, such as moving away for a better education or deciding to run cross country my senior year, has given me valuable insights and life lessons. One lesson I learned was the importance of taking the road less traveled, as it can lead to many new risks and positive

experiences that might otherwise go undiscovered.

One choice I made was to join the Single Action Shooting Society® at age 13. At the time, my father, Kirk James (SASS #90539) and my brother, Cody James (SASS #90540) had recently joined the Yavapai Rangers, which is our local club. Once I started shooting, what initially seemed to be a great father-son activity, quickly evolved into a great way to travel and stay connected with family. Prior to this, my only experience with Cowboy Action Shooting™ was watching my brother collect brass for our uncle, Tom Elder (SASS #76631) and cousin, Tom Younger (SASS #76632) at our local matches. Eventually more of my family members became involved. My mother and grandparents are now active supporters. Although they do not shoot in matches, they attend local shoots, such as Cowtown and the Arizona Cowboy Shooting Association. They also travel to other states to watch us compete. One of the highlights—and one of my proudest moments—in Cowboy Action Shooting™ was sharing the Overall National Championship with my brother at Winter Range 2016. I will never forget my grandfather expressing how grateful he was to witness that achievement in his lifetime.

I am so thankful to SASS for giving me a second family in the shooting world. This organization has allowed me to meet many incredible individuals from all walks of life. I have befriended many whom I love and trust like parents and have gained numerous friends who are nothing short of genuine. I am grateful for everyone's continued support and I want to thank each of you for impacting my life in a positive and caring way.

Although my parents have been the most influential in my life, my grandparents have played a significant role the past two years. In order to pursue my dream of becoming a doctor, they agreed to become my legal guardians so I could attend school two hours from my hometown in Sedona. It was this decision that brought a thorough understanding of how unconditional love is





## Scholarship Recipient 2016 • SASS Kicker, SASS #91899 . . .

gained. It was a family sacrifice that impacted six lives and three generations. Despite the hardships of being away, I developed a deeper love and appreciation for my grandparents and I will be forever grateful for their generosity, love and support.

As I attend the University of Arizona, I will take the valuable experiences I gained the past five years. As I

begin my career in medicine, I realize there will be challenges and hardships along the way, but I can say with confidence that the relationships and experiences I have built in Cowboy Action Shooting™ have prepared me well. With faith, love, and trust in God, all things are possible. I am humbled to represent you as part of the SASS community and as a UofA Wildcat this fall. 🐾

# Controlling Firearms Equals Controlling Freedom

*By SASS Kicker, SASS #91899*

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

**W**ith recent attacks on public schools and universities, along with increased acts of violence by terrorists on American soil, gun rights and laws are being heavily scrutinized more than ever. These are just a few reasons why there has been public and political outcry to restrict private ownership of firearms. However, those who deal with gun violence on a daily basis seriously question the effectiveness of gun control legislation. In fact 91.5% of law enforcement respondents said additional gun control or weapons bans would have no effect on reducing violent crimes, or may increase them.

One of the main arguments against banning firearms is the infringement of rights upon law-abiding citizens. If existing gun laws were enforced, there would be a reduction in crime. Convicted felons and those suffering from mental illness would not have legal access to firearms. Restrictions on types of firearms that can be purchased, or on ammunition sold, only negatively impacts citizens who follow the law. Criminals will never go through the correct protocol to acquire guns or ammunition, so tougher laws only impinge upon those who comply.

More stringent gun control and limitations erode the Second Amendment right to bear arms. This amendment “provides for the security of a free State against outside forces as well as also to prevent governmental rule from within.” If our second Amendments Rights are tampered with, what’s to stop the

government from limiting other rights?

Once government gets control and passes laws, historically it has been proven that it does not easily relinquish these laws. This then becomes a danger to personal freedom and to the right to protect oneself. A survey from the Journal of Quantitative Criminology states civilians use guns to defend themselves and others from crime at least 989,883 times per year. Without full protection of the Second Amendment, almost one million Americans would be in jeopardy and unable to protect themselves during a crime. This is one reason our forefathers created this amendment.

A final argument to restricting gun owner’s rights is to reduce the numbers of violent crimes and murders in the United States. Contrary to this belief, it has actually been shown a negative correlation exists between gun ownership and violent crime. As gun ownership increases, the incidences of murder and suicide actually decreases. Although some will argue it is a public safety issue to control firearms and provide restrictions, evidence contradicts this.

Limiting Second Amendment Rights prevents Americans from protecting their life and liberties. Creating strict gun control laws not only jeopardizes lives, but impedes personal freedoms. These laws were not only created to protect individuals from violent crimes, they were designed to protect them from the dangers of government interference and control. 🐾



# Profiles

## Scholarship Recipient 2016

### Apache Wolf, SASS #65272

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



*Justice Lily Kate,  
SASS #1000*



**C**larkson, MI. My name is Creed Blankenship on Monday through Friday), but on the weekends I am known better around these parts as Apache Wolf. My shooting partners are my dad, Nevada Gambler (SASS #10225); my younger brother, Soaring Red Hawk (SASS #93843); and my mom, Chiricahua Mama (SASS #40623). I earned my SASS RO1 and RO2 certificates and pins when I first began shooting (around ten years ago). I'm a proud NRA Life Member and I earned my Distinguished Expert Marksman certification through the NRA Junior Rifle program when I was eighteen. This past summer I received my NRA RSO certificate. Of all these achievements, I am very humbled and grateful to have received the SASS Scholarship this year.

This August, I will be entering my senior year at Central Michigan University, and I'll tell you what—I can barely believe I'm even typing that! It seems like just yesterday I was enrolling for the first time. I still have some time to go, as a Special Education degree usually takes five years plus one year of student teaching. My full major is in Special Education of Students with Cognitive Impairments and also secondary Spanish. I plan on graduating in May of 2019, which includes a whole year of student teaching, one semester in a general education setting, and one in a special education setting. I will then pursue a career as a high school special education teacher, as well as assist as a high school baseball coach.

I was an Assistant Coach for my younger brother's special needs baseball team again this past summer. I also was an Assistant Counselor for special needs summer camp. The people with whom we have shot know this, but for those that don't, my younger brother has autism. He's the reason I aspire to be a special education teacher—to put what I have learned with him to use, helping other young adults with disabilities. I learned what ways of instruction helped each person understand



## Scholarship Recipient 2016 • Apache Wolf, SASS #65272 . . .

how to perform a task, which is a valuable skill both for a special education teacher and a coach.

I'd like to thank the Cowboys who were very kind to recommend me for the SASS Scholarship this year: Black River Bill (SASS#39338), Cactus Kay (SASS#15157), and Riverview Rattler (SASS #67025). I've known all these Cowboys (and Cowgirl) for many years. Riverview Rattler is a very good shooter, but an even better person. He has shown our family a lot of kindness with the needs my brother has. I've known Cactus Kay since I was very young, before I started shooting. She and her husband, Dakota Doc (SASS #9695) have been very kind to my father and the rest of us over the years. They are the people we have to thank for bringing our sport to the state of Michigan. Black River Bill is a very good man whom I've known since I started shooting. As a matter of fact, his son, Duelin' Dylan (SASS #68052) and I started shooting the same year, and I consider him to be the best friend I've made in the sport. Bill also recommended my name for entry into the Jedi Gunfighters three years ago. I'd like to also give thanks to my brother's baseball coach whom I work with, Roger Yoder, who also recommended me for the Scholarship this year, as well as Joseph Rivard, my Educational Psychology professor last fall. I learned a lot from him in the time I knew him and we had many good conversations. He was also a competitive shooter at one point and he told me he had been out to the American Handgunner match years ago. He just retired after this past spring and this year I am going to very much miss stopping by his office.

This past year, I discovered the organization, Students for Concealed Carry had a chapter on my campus. Unfortunately, all of last semester I had class at the same time they met, but I plan to be more active with them this year. I also applied for my CPL this summer, as I turned 21 in July. This is something I believe we should all consider doing, if you haven't already, especially given some of the things happening in the world today. It's another way to exercise our fundamental right to bear arms and if a right is not exercised then the possibility we could lose it is very real. I want to do my part to make sure that never happens and I hope I might educate other people so they might follow suit. See y'all out on the range! 🤠



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# Trail Markers

## Bad Hand

July 1, 1945 – January 16, 2017

By Tombstone Mary, SASS #19524, Regulator/Life

John Michael Fifield (Bad Hand, SASS #24260) of Salisbury NC passed away on Monday, January 16, 2017 at Forsyth Medical Center, surrounded by family. John was born in Oakland, California and proudly served his country in the United States Navy for more than 20 years. He traveled the world and it is a better place for his service.

He served as an Onslow County Deputy Sheriff then moved on to serve the Jacksonville, NC Police Department. He was an avid member of SASS and enjoyed gunsmithing and black powder shooting. He was also a “Hoodlum” and spent many an hour learning survival techniques. His “handles” were “90 North” and “Bad Hand.” He taught classes at Coastal Community College, preparing officers for service, and training officers. He worked for several years in the

Alaska Tour business. He was preceded in death by his wife, Glenda Murphy Fifield.

He is survived by his wife of eleven years, Lee Strong Fifield of Salisbury; a brother-in-law, Craig Murphy and wife Mary of River Falls, WI; nephews Colin Murphy and Stewart Murphy; and niece Hannah Murphy. He maintained close friendships in the military, SASS, law enforcement community, civic leaders, and the press. John never hesitated to assist other agencies throughout the great state of North Carolina. 🐾



## Nueces Drifter

November 21, 1941 – January 22, 2017

By Dutch Van Horn, SASS #51153



James; grandson Cody; sister Jo Anne Larivee; six nieces and three nephews. He was preceded in death by his brother, James. Drifter loved life, always telling stories and jokes. He enjoyed Cowboy Action Shooting™, coastal fishing, finding treasures at the flea market, restoring old cars, camping, and deer hunting.

Drifter used to say, “The first liar never stands a chance” and, “Why let truth interfere with a good story.” A few years ago, he let friends and family know when he died he wanted to have all Cowgirls as his Pall Bearers. Drifter referred to them as his “Paula Bearers.” He wanted them to wear white shirts, jeans, and boots. Well, I am happy to say he got his wish. 🐾

Carl Hardy Raborn (Nueces Drifter, SASS #52830) passed away on January 22, 2017. Drifter served proudly served in the U.S. Navy for four years before returning to San Antonio, where he worked as a railroad engineer for twenty years. He is survived by Mary Etta, his wife of 56 years; sons Kenneth and

## Coyote Rose

July 14, 1955 – September 26, 2016

By Hurricane, SASS #19283 Life and Knifemaker, SASS #13194, Life

Photo courtesy Major Photography



Coyote Rose was one of the founders and secretary of the Texas Troublemakers Shooting Club. She started shooting in 1999 and Cowboy Action Shooting™ became a large part of her life. She always had a smile on her face and was always available to lend a helping hand at a moment’s notice. She put her heart into everything she did and was a true friend. She loved Cowboy Action Shooting™ and went traveled to many matches.

The Lord has called a special angel home. Wanda Louise McClune (Coyote Rose, SASS # 25595, Life), went to be with our Heavenly Father last September, when she was killed in a fatal car accident. She is survived by her husband, Michael (Lefty Tex LaRue, SASS #25594, Life).

For those of us who knew and loved her, she is greatly missed and will always have a special place in our hearts. Our prayers are with her family and especially Lefty Tex, who was the love of her life as she was to him. 🐾





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# Articles

# HE DIED FROM LEAD POISONING

By Roger Rapid, SASS #96080



Roger Rapid,  
SASS #96080



Lefty very well may have died from lead poisoning, but in his case it was the damage caused by the projectile and not the introduction of lead into his blood.

Lead was discovered around 7000 BC and has seen a wide array of early uses including coins, vases, food utensils, and sculpture. Because it is so easily formed and extremely durable, lead was a popular material for making pipes and fittings in water systems (until its dangers were discovered). In fact, the chemical symbol for lead—Pb—was derived from “plumbum,” the Latin word for waterworks.

As Cowboy Action Shooters™, we’re well aware of the gross residual effects of lead. We’re often showered with ricochet fragments and there are obvious lead pieces of all shapes and kinds at our feet and at the base of our targets. Often, we go back to our trailers—parked hundreds of feet

from the range—only to find pieces of lead falling upon us as we roll up our awnings. The presence of lead pieces at a range is daunting. The unseen residual of lead is much less obvious, but the effects of aspiration, ingestion, and absorption of lead particulate into our body are a very serious matter.

Lead is the ideal material for bullets because it casts well and can be easily deformed (a major consideration when bullets are pressed into cases). It can be driven down a tightly fitted barrel at high rates of speed while at the same time being forced into the barrel’s rifling. And, when it arrives at the point of impact, lead deforms and disintegrates easily where it can cause fatal results.

When a gun is fired, the primer

causes the powder to explode creating enormous pressure between the case and the bullet. Following the path of least resistance, the bullet is forced to separate from the case and travel down the barrel (the case is held in place by the gun’s breech). As the bullet leaves the case, three things happen to the lead bullet: 1) the crimped end of the case strips away small particles of lead; 2) the friction between the bullet and the barrel causes minute particles of lead to be stripped from the bullet and cling to the walls of the barrel; and 3) the bullet comes in contact with the rifling where, because of the laws of physics, inertia prevents the bullet from spinning immediately into the rifling’s “twist.” For a very short distance, the bullet travels down the barrel without twisting at the rate demanded by the rifling, and as it begins to spin, some of the lead from the bullet is stripped away by the rifling.

Although the pressure—referred to as copper units of pressure or CUP—created by the powder’s explosion is omni-directional, the steel barrel contains the pressure and the force becomes bi-directional; the case is being forced back against the breech and the bullet is being forced out of



**Fig. 1**—A lead-test kit was used to determine if the darkened area of the brim of my hat contained any lead residue. When the test kit's swab turned red, it proved positive for the presence of lead particulate.



## He Died From Lead Poisoning . . .

the barrel. Even though we clearly recognize that the resultant force and lead exits the front of the barrel, only some portion of the lead particulate follows with it. During the explosion, the lead particulate that is stripped away when the bullet is pulled from the case's crimp, and the lead particulate that is stripped away as the bullet enters the chamber and rifling, is driven back toward the case and typically *past* the case, in the direction of the shooter. On revolvers, much of the particulate exits laterally through the cylinder gap (the space between the cylinder and the barrel) and presents itself in a large envelope of air surrounding the revolver.

Evidence of the residue is obvious. I'm sure some of you have wiped your face after a match and wondered why your cheeks and forehead are so sooty. The photo of one of my hats (Fig. 1) shows a darkened area at the front end of the brim where the hat was just 8" from the breech of my Lightning rifle and 12" from my shotgun. This residual lead particulate is not just dirty, it can be lethal!

Lead is toxic and can be poisonous if there is enough build up over time. Lead can cause serious permanent neurological and physiological damage that is bad for adults but even worse for children. It can enter the blood stream either through aspiration

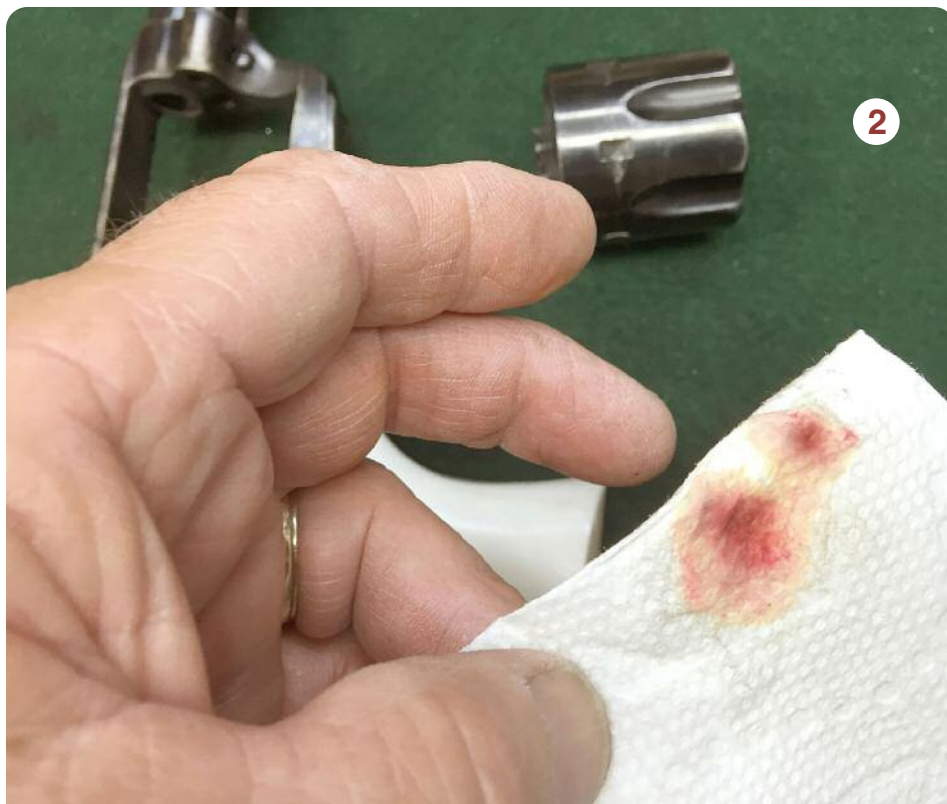
(breathing lead particulate) or ingestion (particulate entering our mouth). While absorption through the skin is possible, it does not appear that the absorption of heavy metals through the skin, especially through the very small-pore skin of our fingers, poses a great risk for shooters. Dr. Francis Testoni suggests, "while absorption of lead through the skin is minimal to none, the amount of absorption through the skin of the fingers is far less potent than the introduction of lead through the nose and mouth."

### Introduction of lead through the nose

Envisioning the transfer of lead to our system through aspiration is simple. When a gun is fired, the lead particulate is immediately present in the air around us, and some of it is driven back towards our face. The same debris you saw on my hat in Fig. 1 easily found its way to my nose and lungs. As long as we are breathing in that space, we are taking in lead particulate. Our nose has a pretty good means of filtering foreign particles and germs, but in overwhelming situations, like breathing in a cloud of lead particulate, some of the lead finds its way to our lungs and some to our stomach via the nasal passage to our throat. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) suggests, "larger particles that are too large to get into your lungs can be coughed up and swallowed."

*(Continued on page 58)*





**Fig. 2—***The lead-test solution on this paper towel turned red after merely holding this pistol five days after it was shot (hands were clean before picking up the pistol).*

Fig. 2 shows a lead test taken from my washed right hand from simply *holding* a SAA after only 20 .45LC rounds were fired. Using the test kit’s solution, the red stain on the cloth indicates the presence of lead on my fingers. *Of great importance is, my hands were carefully washed after the gun was fired and before this test was done.* The transfer of lead to my clean hands came only from holding and touching the gun near the cylinder and barrel five days *after* it was fired. Obviously, the presence of lead on my hands would have been greater if the test had been done immediately after the gun was fired. Unfortunately, the test kits do not show the quantitative level of the lead, just that it is present.

**Testing for blood-lead levels**

In the same way doctors say a large percentage of men die with some level of prostate problems, it would seem that an equally large percentage of Cowboy Action Shooters™ have elevated levels of lead in their blood. The concern is, most shooters don’t know their blood lead levels (BLL) are elevated, and many don’t know a test for “blood lead level” even exists.

Your doctor can order a “Pb” blood test for you. It will reveal how many parts-per-volume of lead is in your blood. In many states, the lab is required to notify the Department of Public Health when elevated blood lead levels are detected. Since my blood lead level exceeded the norm, I received a notice from the California Department of Public Health within two weeks of my first blood lead test. So, don’t be alarmed if someone is watching— they just want to know where and how you were exposed to lead, and they typically advise

**He Died From Lead Poisoning . . .**

*(Continued from page 57)*

According to the CDC, “many factors will determine whether you will be harmed, including the dose (how much), the duration (how long), and how you come in contact with lead. You must also consider any other chemicals to which you are exposed and your age, sex, diet, family traits, lifestyle, and state of health.”

**Introduction of lead to the mouth**

Ingestion of lead particulate when shooting can be equally as potent as breathing lead particulate. In the case of ingestion, lead on our hands and fingers gets transferred to our mouth where it finds its way to our stomach. Once the lead particulate is on hands, transfer to the mouth can happen in several ways if the hands are not first carefully washed:

**At the Range**

- Opening a bottle of water
- Eating food
- Blowing nose
- Wiping mouth
- Pulling gum, candy, protein bar, etc., from a wrapper and eating it
- Removing a cigarette from a pack and putting it in mouth

**At home**

- When cleaning guns (especially when brushing a chamber or barrel)
- When reloading (more so on non-coated bullets)
- Handling empty cases, readying them for cleaning
- Breathing dust when opening a case tumbler too soon after it stops running
- Eating while cleaning or reloading



## He Died From Lead Poisoning . . .

what you can do about it. Each time I have had a Pb test, I received a notice from the Department of Public Health.

My first BLL test (12/2/2015) indicated my levels were 12.1 mcg/dl, and I have spoken to other shooters who report that their BLL has been as high as 25 mcg/dl, with a few shooters commenting theirs were “way more than that!”

Lead in blood is measured in micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood (mcg/dl). (1mcg/dl equals 0.01 ppm which equates to 100<sup>th</sup> of a part per million). In children, a BLL higher than 5 micrograms per deciliter (5 mcg/dl) is considered dangerous. For adults, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers anything above 10 mcg/dl to be dangerous. The Health and Human Services Agency of the State of California states, “an adult in the United States who does not work with lead typically has a blood lead level of less than 2 mcg/dl.” By contrast the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) allows workers who have been removed from lead exposure to return to work when their BLL falls below 40 mcg/dl. Lead levels can also be tested in urine with acceptable levels being less than 0.08 mcg/dl.



**Fig. 4—The side of the barrel above the ejector on this SAA proved positive for the presence of lead after only 30 rounds were fired.**

### Indications of lead exposure

Initially, chronic exposure to lead may show no immediate signs or disorders, but lead exposure is cumulative, and a raised BLL decreases blood supply to the central nervous system by damaging small blood vessels. Clinical signs of acute toxicity can affect the gastro-intestinal tract resulting in problems such as diarrhea, nausea, constipation, and abdominal pain. Signs of lead toxicity to the central nervous system can include varying levels of blindness, hearing loss, impaired concentration, fatigue, irritability, hysteria, seizures, and dementia. Reproductive effects can include miscarriages, reduced sperm count and motility, and abnormal sperm.

### Testing for the presence of lead on surfaces

Test kits are available to detect the presence of lead on surfaces (Fig. 3). Typically, these kits include a liquid and a swab or an all-in-one liquid/swab device. Most kits only allow for a few tests. But, rather than buying several test kits to evaluate your guns and clothes, this article should provide sufficient data that lead particulate exists on everything in the proximity of guns that have been fired.

Fig. 4 shows a swab from a 3M® test kit that was wiped along the middle of the barrel of a .45LC 7-1/2" SAA after having been fired at a match (30 rounds) and put away for five days before cleaning. The swab turned red, indicating lead was present. Fig. 5 is a swab taken from the side frame of a .45LC Lightning

*(Continued on page 60)*



**Fig. 3—Lead test kits are available at your local hardware store for about \$12.00. Depending on the kit, the swabs will allow about four to six tests.**



# He Died From Lead Poisoning . . .

(Continued from page 59)

rifle after firing 60 rounds at a match and put away for five days before cleaning.

### First steps

My doctor's first recommendation regarding prevention of breathing lead particles was for me to wear a surgical mask when shooting. When I explained to him that a surgical mask violated the cowboy wardrobe guidelines, he gave me a look of "are you kidding?" But the idea of filtering the air made sense, and the thought of wearing a bandana certainly was well within our dress code so that was my first step. In order to not fuss with keeping the bandana

tight, I sewed an elastic strap into the bandana, near the knot (Fig. 6). That way I could just pull the bandana over my nose, and it would stay in place without constantly tightening or adjusting a knot. After four months of shooting with a bandana, my second BLL test was 1.5 mcg/dl lower than my first test (10.6 mcg/dl). Not all lead in blood is eliminated without some form of treatment, so it is important to control exposure.

Unfortunately, a bandana is not the perfect solution. The open bottom of the bandana still allows surrounding air to enter the mouth

and nose and the semi-loose weave of the typical cotton bandana doesn't do a great filtering job. I'm now attempting to use a bandana that is a 24" square (typical bandanas are 18") and has a layer of very finely woven fabric behind the two layers of the bandana. The larger bandana will allow a better seal against my shirt and vest. Unfortunately, I won't have the results of its effectiveness for several months after this article is published and I get the results of my next BLL test.

### What you can do to prevent breathing lead particulate

Here are some suggestions on how to keep lead out of your nose:

- 1) Wear a bandana that comfortably fits over your nose—the better it fits, the safer you will be. Wash bandana after each use.
- 2) If you are a TO, spotter or shell picker, be aware that your proximity to the firing line puts you at greater risk than shooters who are on the firing line for less than a minute.
- 3) Wear a dust mask when cleaning guns, especially when wire-brushing the barrels and cylinders.
- 4) Wait for your tumbler to sit for at least ten minutes to avoid being exposed to media dust and lead particulate. Wear a dust mask when separating media from shells. (Better yet, use a wet tumbler.)
- 5) If you cast your own bullets, be sure to keep your pot in a well-ventilated area. (There's a lot of scattered information about this on the chat sites. Since lead starts to vaporize at about 1600°F, the

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## He Died From Lead Poisoning . . .

casting temperatures for lead in the range of 675°F to 700°F should not produce hazardous fumes. But why take a chance.)

### What you can do to prevent ingestion of lead

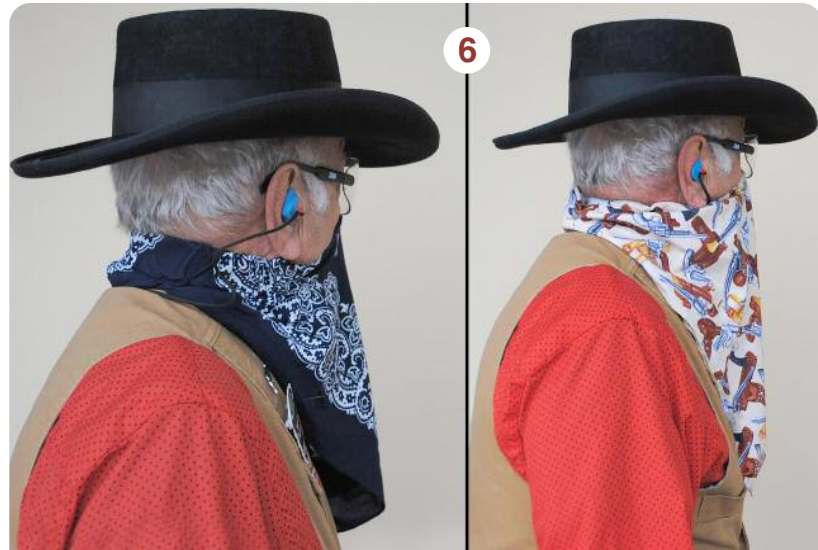
Here are some pointers to keep lead out of your mouth:

1) When eating at the range, ensure that your hands do not come in contact with food or drink. If opening a stick of gum, a candy bar, a nutrition bar, a bottle of water, a bag of cookies or crackers, touch only the wrapper or cap—not the food.

2) If you smoke at the range don't touch either the filter or the mouth-end of your cigarette.

3) Be sure to wash your hands thoroughly before lunch. (D-Lead is the ideal soap for lead and heavy-metal removal from the hands. D-Lead also has wipes in a pull-out container that are handy at your workbench.) When eating a sandwich, hold it by the wrapper. Minimize direct contact with your food or snacks however you can. Do not lick your fingers.

4) If you pop open a can of soda, do not wipe the lid of the can with your fingers.



**Fig. 6—**The conventional 18" square bandana (left) was fitted with elastic to help keep it in place and facilitate easy on and off during a match. Also fitted with elastic, the bandana on the right is 24" square to provide greater filter area and a better fit against the chest.

5) When done with reloading or cleaning, wash hands thoroughly—then wash them again. Better yet, wear rubber (nitrile) gloves when cleaning guns.

6) Be aware when handling cowboy clothes, lead  
*(Continued on page 62)*



**Fig. 5—**Testing the side frame of this Lightning proved positive for the presence of lead after 60 rounds were fired. The area swabbed was 28" from the muzzle.



## He Died From Lead Poisoning

*(Continued from page 61)*

particulate is present and can easily be transferred to your hands. Wash your cowboy clothes often, and keep them separate from other clothing, if possible.

### How to treat high BLL

The process of removing heavy metals from the blood is called chelation (pronounced “key-lation”). Medical treatment involving pharmaceuticals may be necessary if your blood lead level is excessive and your doctor recommends immediate medical treatment. However, there are some natural chelating options to help detox heavy metals from your system. Chelating agents bind to heavy metal ions and are removed from the body through normal excretory means. These readily available food agents include spirulina, chlorella, and cilantro, and all of these can be obtained locally. You may want to consider including the recommended dosages of one of these in your diet. (Note: Always check with your health care provider before using any dietary supplement and check for contraindications.)



*There is a high risk of transferring lead particulate to the crackers this shooter is eating during a match. (This photo was not staged.)*

### Can you manage to avoid all exposure to lead?

Probably not, but if you follow as many of these suggestions as you can, you will be one step further away.

### Give up Cowboy Action Shooting™?

In doing research for this article, I’ve had some shooters say, “The heck with lead in my blood, I’d rather die than give up Cowboy Action Shooting™!” I certainly share their love for our sport, but an understanding of the pitfalls of lead, making informed decisions, and taking a few proactive steps will go a long way to keeping those six guns in your hands.

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# THE Cowboy CHRONICLE

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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.

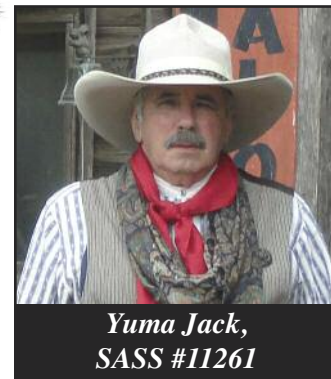
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# Articles

## Hill Country Western Showcase

### at Pine-Moore, Texas



Yuma Jack,  
SASS #11261



Buggy Barn owner Dennis Moore.

By Yuma Jack, SASS #11261 Patron Life

So one day Skinny said to me, “Have you ever been to the Buggy Barn Museum in Blanco?” My answer was that I hadn’t, of course. I had passed by it many times just north of the Blanco town square on US Route 281 on my way to Tejas Caballeros matches at Johnson City and Green Mountain Regulators matches at Marble Falls, but I just never seemed to have the time to stop. That all changed on November 4, 2016, when as the Buggy Barn Museum hosted their Fifth Annual Hill Country Western Showcase. I love museums of all kinds, so I decided that would be a good day to make the trip from San Antonio

to Blanco to see for myself.

I was looking forward to this outing, as my interest in the history of the old west has given me a deep appreciation for the influence of transportation technology on the direction and rapid progress of the development of the once wide open prairie. From ox carts used by Spanish priests through the breeding and training of the vaquero and cowboy horses to the Conestoga wagons and stagecoaches, transportation technology was at the root of making the spread of civilization over vast distances possible. Eventually, railroads crisscrossed the plains and mountains, enabling the movement of







*Jail Wagon used in Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman.*



*Hansom Cab built in 1896.*



*Hotel Bus once owned by Jack Palance.*

## Hill Country Western Showcase *at Pine-Moore, Texas . . .*

people and goods at even faster speeds. But railroads didn't connect every town and city, so transportation to and from railroad centers was still dependent upon horses, wagons, buggies, carriages, and coaches well up into the first decades of the Twentieth Century. Here I was going to have a chance to actually see a wide variety of those vehicles upon which people of the

old west so greatly depended.

The Buggy Barn Museum complex is a collection of wagons and buggies of all types, scattered around the property and two buildings. It is also the site of a fictitious old west town called Pine-Moore and on the day I dropped in the entire property was alive with visitors of all ages attending the annual

*(Continued on page 66)*



*Victoria Coach used in Gone With The Wind.*



*Very rare Spindle Seat Buggy with turning rear axle.*





*A real Wells Fargo Stagecoach.*



*Unique Cozy Cab.*

## Hill Country Western Showcase at Pine-Moore, Texas . . .

*(Continued from page 65)*

Hill Country Showcase as well as a few movie types, which I will explain a little later. As one enters the front gate the first building encountered is the gift shop. Then, across the bridge there is the large bank building and a little further, around a corner to the left, you enter Pine-Moore. The Museum buildings are nestled in

behind the bank and the buildings of Main Street Pine-More proper. Entertainment for the Showcase event was being provided by a variety of musicians, a cowboy poet, a trick-roper/knife thrower, and a gang of old west re-enactors.

The first person I met after crossing the bridge was "Sundown," aka Geoff Shaffer, who was billed as the Cowboy Poet of Pine-Moore. He showed me



*Beautiful one-seat Runabout Buggy used in Legend of Hell's Gate.*



*Brougham with original lamps used in Abraham Lincoln, Vampire Slayer.*





*Hercules Buggy used in There Will Be Blood.*



*Medicine Show Wagon.*

## Hill Country Western Showcase at Pine-Moore, Texas . . .

around and eventually introduced me to owner Dennis Moore. In our conversation, Dennis related that he actually first purchased the property to operate an equipment rental business, but became frustrated when equipment did not come back in same condition as when rented out. So he closed that business and rented out the buildings to a welding company. But then the collecting

bug bit him... *hard*.

Dennis said he owned his first horse-drawn buggy with his brother when he was a mere six-year-old, but that was a long time ago. Then, about 18 years ago, he purchased a "vis-à-vis" to take his

*(Continued on page 68)*



*A 1903 six-passenger Studebaker Rockaway Carriage.*



— The Haunted Hearse —  
*such a fancy setup would have been used for the rich or for royalty.*





And this Bud...



Horse-drawn trolley.

## Hill Country Western Showcase at Pine-Moore, Texas . . .

*(Continued from page 67)*

daughter to her high school prom. When other buggies started to follow him home he decided he needed an appropriate venue. That was when he began building Pine-Moore. Now the

town has, in addition to the Museum, a dining hall and a church that regularly holds worship group meetings on Sunday mornings.

While the town is the site of wedding receptions and such, it

is also now going to be a location in an upcoming movie. The film, focused on Country Western music and NASCAR, is tentatively entitled *Texas Honky-Tonk Nights*. The film's producer, members of the film crew and supporting cast were on hand most of the afternoon.

While eating some delicious authentic chuck wagon chili, I listened to a humorous story spun by Geoff Shaffer and then music by songstress Mikki Daniel and singer/songwriter/musician and historian KR Wood. Mikki plays multiple instruments, writes her own songs, trains horses, yodels and writes fiction. She has won numerous awards for singing and yodeling. She has released two CDs and recently just published a fiction novel. KR is a native Texan who recorded an album called *Davy Crockett's Fiddle Plays On*. It was recorded live at the Alamo, where he played an actual fiddle once owned by Davy Crockett (presently housed



A hearse for common folks.





### Hill Country Western Showcase at Pine-Moore, Texas . . .

at the Witte Museum). His “Fathers of Texas Music Series” was recognized by the State legislature in 2011.

After lunch I took in the Rhinestone Roper Show, where Dan Mink entertained a large audience with his fancy rope work, bullwhip cracking, and gun spinning. You may have seen him at

END of TRAIL over the years because he was the 2007 SASS® World Champion Gun Spinner and 2009 SASS World Champion Whip, Knife, and All-Around Wild West Performer. His wife Yvonne and daughter Emilee joined him and his trained horses and the act finished with a very trusting Emilee

*(Continued on page 70)*







## Hill Country Western Showcase at Pine-Moore, Texas . . .

*(Continued from page 69)*

...serving as a target while fastened to a spinning wheel at which her loving father threw knives. I am sure she had every confidence in her father's 20 years of practiced skill. He did after all finish in the quarter finals on TV's *America's Got Talent*. But that's still plenty of reason for her to mind her parents. Just saying...

Finally I got to watch a hilarious skit put on by the Bandera Cattle Company Gunfighters. The show-stealing act was provided by none other than Charlie Slade, whom I know better as just "Bross." He was for many years a member of the Texican Rangers who diligently attended every workday held by the club but rarely showed up for a match. Reason being his commitment to this small group of old west thespians who perform regularly in Bandera, Texas and who were usually contracted to put on a show somewhere on the Saturday of our matches. After their show everyone in the audience wanted to have their picture taken with "Ole Bross."

In between the fancy roping show and the gun-fighter skit, I managed to corral a gentleman by the name of Jack Rogers who showed me around the museum buildings and provided some detailed

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## Hill Country Western Showcase at Pine-Moore, Texas . . .

information on many of the vehicles. Of some special interest to him and many who visit the museum is the hearse with its own ghost. Jack had participated in the restoration of the hearse and was familiar with its legend. The hearse is decorated with hand-carved wood and has a “belly” in the bottom for ice to keep the cadaver cool. Jack said the carriage was shipped from California in bubble wrap and restored on site in Blanco.

Many of the buggies have been used in movies, such as the Victoria Coach used in *Gone with the Wind*, *Virginia City* and *The Matchmaker*. The coach still has the prop company tag on the front axle. Other buggies of interest were a Hotel Bus once owned by actor Jack Palance (the bad guy in *Shane*) and a Hansom Cab like those used by Sherlock

*(Continued on page 72)*



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## Hill Country Western Showcase at Pine-Moore, Texas . . .

*(Continued from page 71)*

Holmes. The Cab was built in 1896 and is unrestored in its original condition and paint. Dennis even has the original work order for building the cab. There is also a coach that was custom built for John D. Rockefeller at Bar Harbor, Maine. It has a leather top with patent leather arms and dash and wool seats and wool carpets. The black lacquered coach has red-painted wheel rims and white rubber tires.

Inside the museum buildings, along with many of the fancier buggies, is an impressive collection of old saddles, including a large variety of McClellan saddles once used by the Army in

the old west. There are also a few firearms on display, including an 1883 Colt shotgun once issued to the Department of Indian Affairs and a double coach gun marked "Wells Fargo."

If you are in the neighborhood of Blanco, Texas and looking for a fun way to spend at least half a day, or you are looking for that Nineteenth Century carriage for a special occasion or movie, you will enjoy visiting the Buggy Museum Complex. For more information, you should also check out their website at <http://www.buggybarnpinemooretown.com/>.

As the afternoon light started to fade I decided to mount my own little four-cylinder buggy with even more appreciation for the air conditioned, music festooned, technical marvel drawn by the equivalent of 207 horses for the 45-mile trip back home. I got to thinking if I was back in the old west, that trip in one of the fastest vehicles I had seen at the Buggy Museum would have taken almost all night. But as it was I would now make it just in time for dinner. 🐾



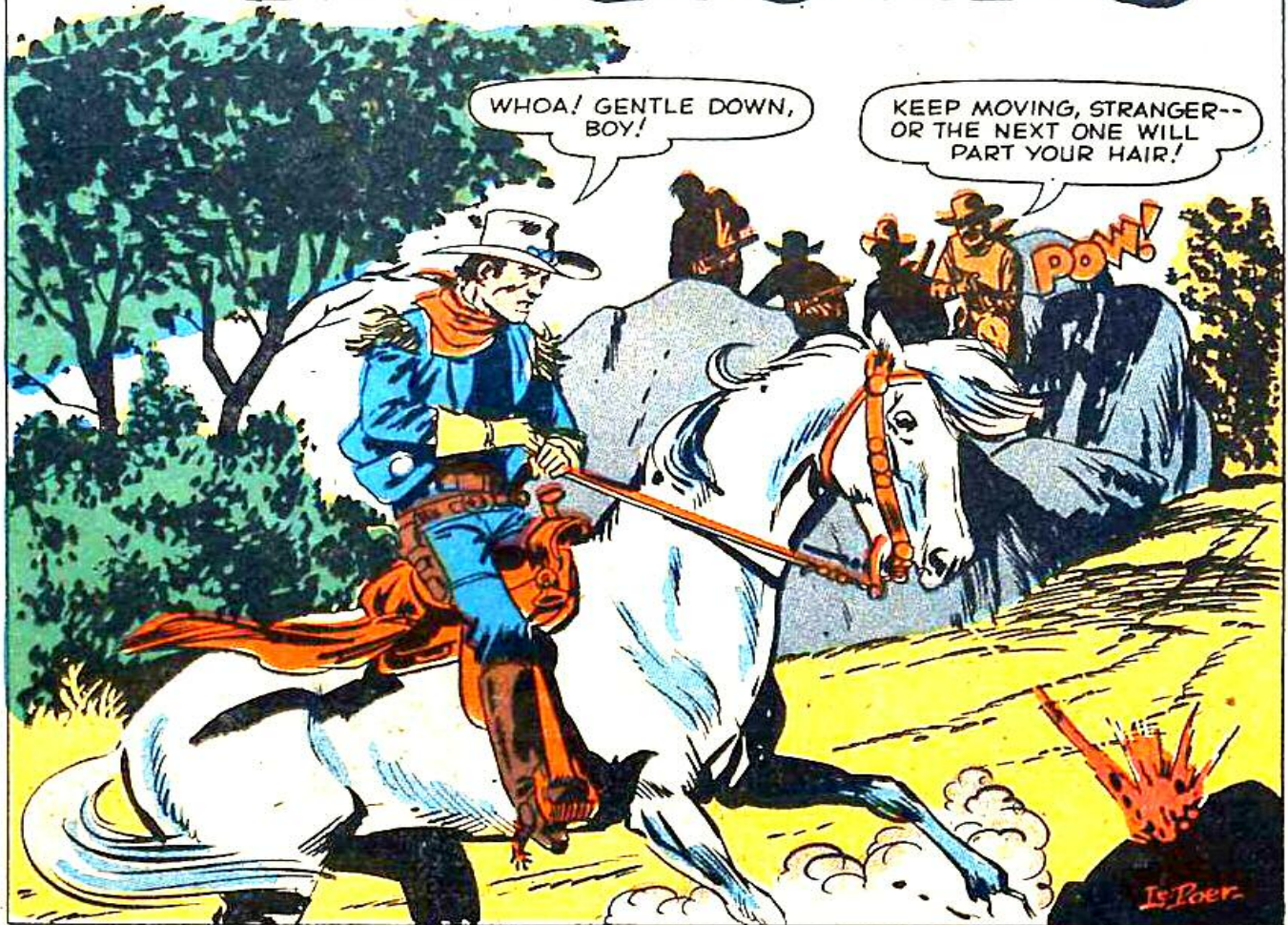
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# Articles

ALWAYS READY TO BATTLE AGAINST INJUSTICE, THE FARGO KID FINDS HIMSELF IN A DESPERATE FIGHT FOR LIFE, WHEN HE HELPS --

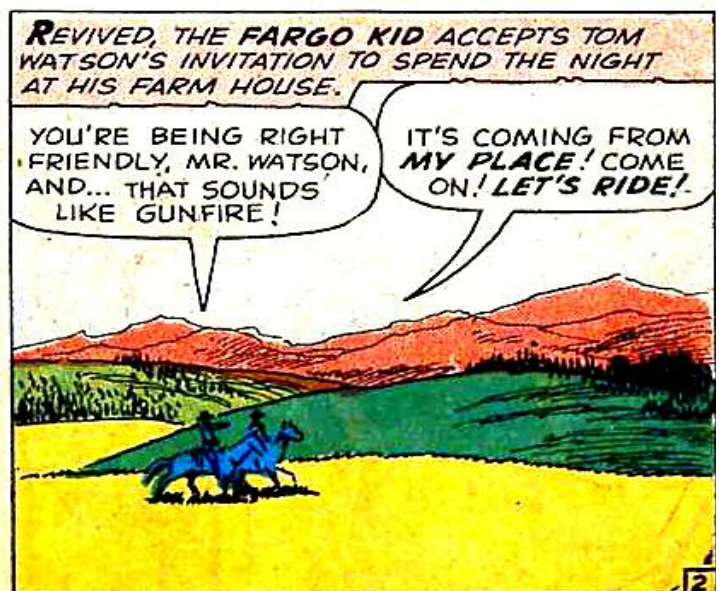
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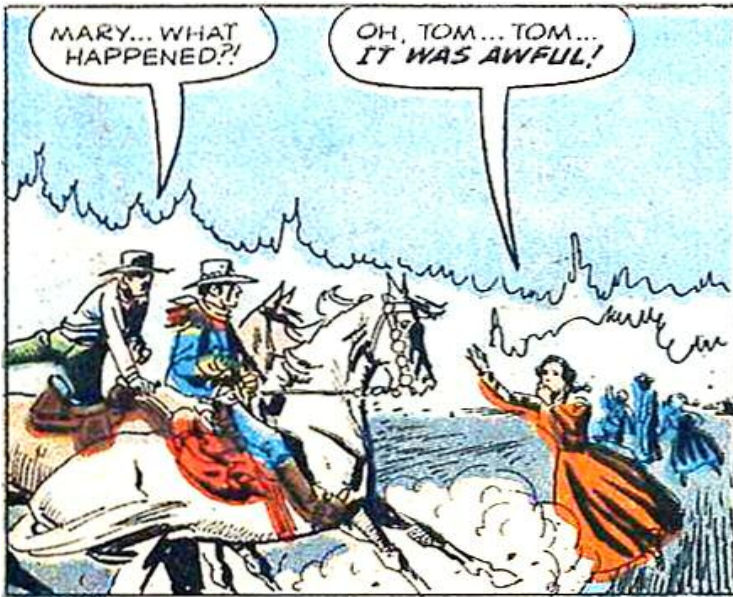
*IsPoer*











MARY... WHAT HAPPENED?!

OH, TOM... TOM... IT WAS AWFUL!



IT WAS THAT CHEYENNE TOUGH. HE SAID COLLINS WANTED US OFF OUR LAND. HE DID LET US GET OUR FURNITURE OUT BEFORE HE WRECKED THE HOUSE!

COLLINS, AGAIN. THIS TIME HE'S GONE TOO FAR!



THEY SAID THEY WERE GOING AFTER THE TAYLOR PLACE NEXT! OH, TOM, WHAT'LL WE DO?

WATSON, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?



COLLINS IS A RANCHER AND WANTS ALL OUR FARM LAND FOR GRAZING. WHEN WE REFUSED TO SELL, HE THREATENED TO DRIVE US OFF! HE HIRED TOUGHS LIKE CHEYENNE TO DO IT!

HE'S GETTING AWAY WITH IT, TOO!



WATSON, DO YOU WANT TO FIGHT COLLINS?

YOU BET I DO! AND SO DOES MARY! BUT WE CAN'T FIGHT HIM ALONE!



YOU'RE NOT ALONE ANY MORE. I'M WITH YOU! I DON'T LIKE GETTING PUSHED AROUND EITHER!

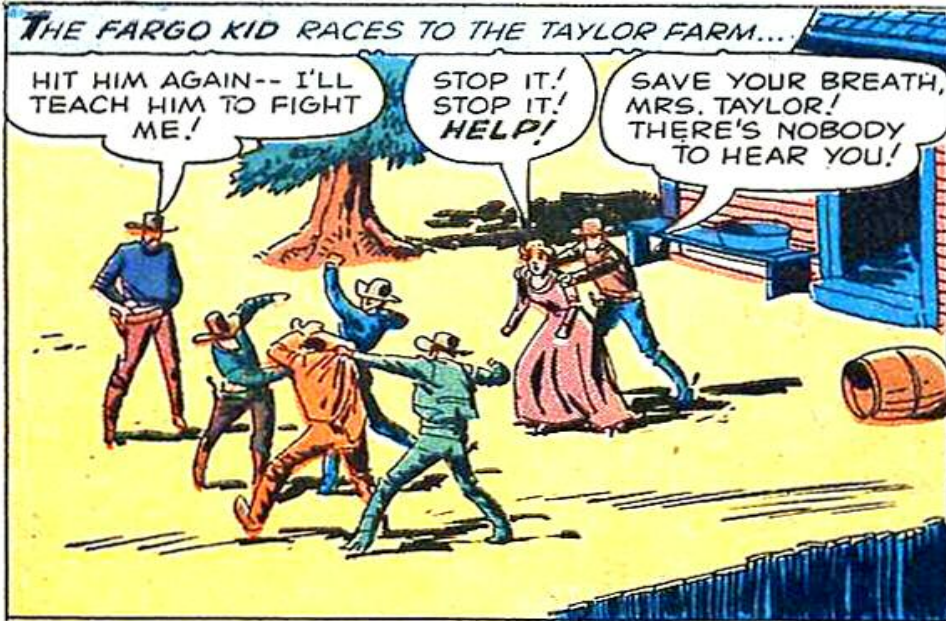
WHAT DO WE DO?



ROUND UP THE FARMERS! HAVE THEM MEET ME HERE AT SUNDOWN... WITH THEIR GUNS! MEANWHILE, I'LL STOP CHEYENNE AND HIS GANG

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE





**THE FARGO KID RACES TO THE TAYLOR FARM...**

HIT HIM AGAIN-- I'LL TEACH HIM TO FIGHT ME!

STOP IT! STOP IT! HELP!

SAVE YOUR BREATH, MRS. TAYLOR! THERE'S NOBODY TO HEAR YOU!



GOOD! I'M NOT TOO LATE!



**THE FARGO KID SPURS FORWARD AND...**



CHEYENNE! IT'S THE FARGO KID! I THOUGHT---

SO DID I!



THIS'LL DO FOR A STARTER!



I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!

SO AM I!



SAY, AREN'T YOU THE FARGO KID? I USED TO BE A DRIVER FOR THE COMPANY IN DEADWOOD-- JOE TAYLOR'S MY NAME!

PLEASD TO MEET YOU, MR. TAYLOR. I'M THE FARGO KID, ALL RIGHT!



OUR TROUBLES ARE OVER, MA! WE'VE GOT SOMEONE WHO'LL STAND UP FOR US!

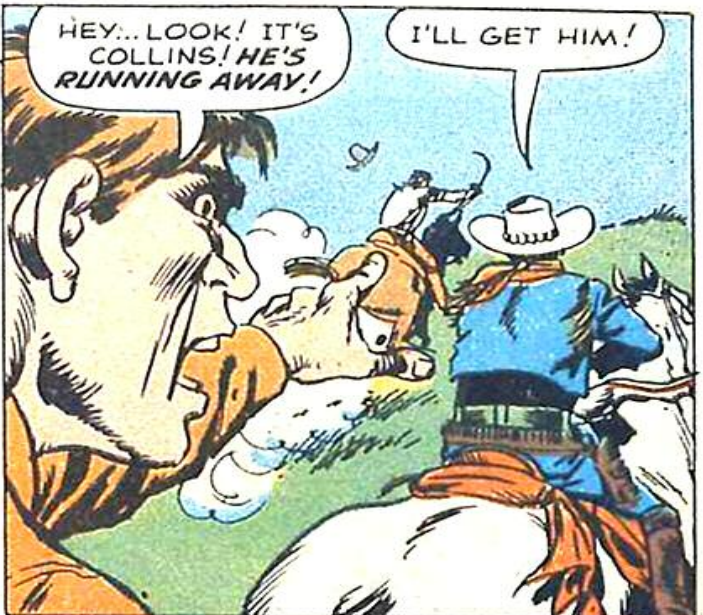
YOU'RE GOING TO STAND UP FOR YOURSELF, MR. TAYLOR. GO GET YOUR GUN!



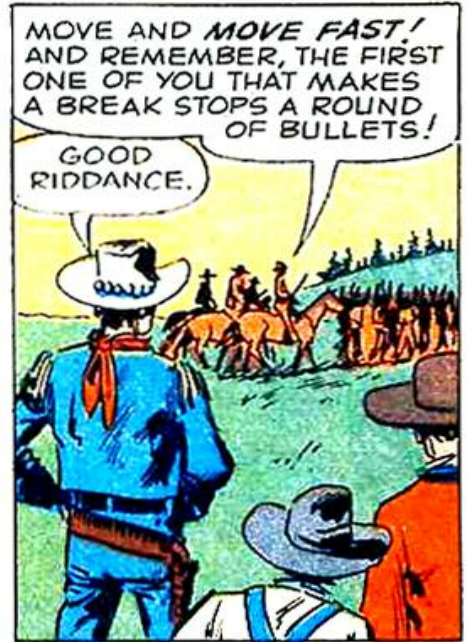




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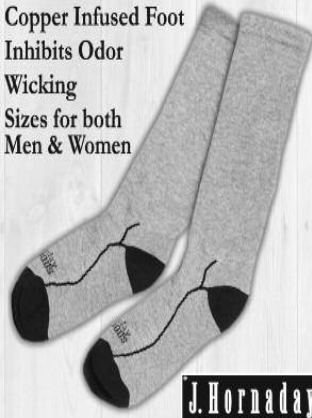
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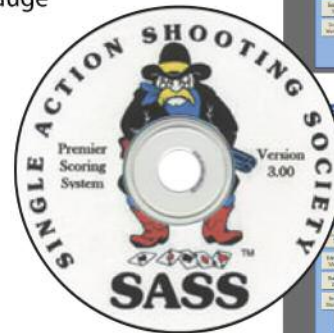


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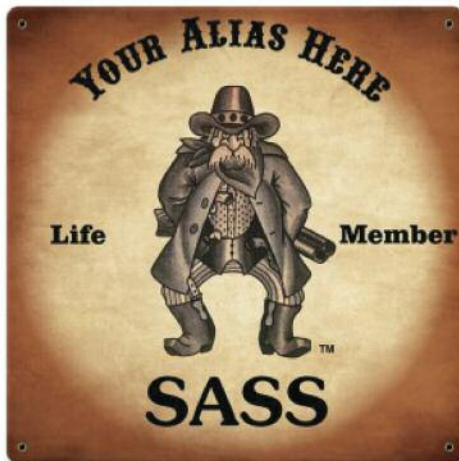


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	105,253.....Miss Lily of the Field	105,292.....Smart Asterisk	105,288.....Sweet Pie Mary Jane Caples	<b>NJ</b>
	105,323.....Mad Dod Jack Chisum	105,318.....Sassie L'Heureux	105,246.....Side Buster	105,252.....Show Me Son
<b>CA</b>	105,183.....Whitefish Harry	<b>IA</b>	<b>NM</b>	105,207.....Dusty Scout
	105,188.....Slim Clickins	105,190.....Lion El 'Jonson'	105,229.....Charley Parkhurst	105,264.....Cherry Empanada
	105,201.....Lucky Day	<b>ID</b>	<b>NY</b>	105,197.....Professor BT Bradley
	105,202.....Dewey Cheetum	105,317.....King Fisher	105,261.....Triple R	105,273.....Ma Belle
	105,212.....Silver Dollar Smith	<b>IL</b>		
	105,215.....Thomas Poole	105,206.....Wyatt Burp		
	105,240.....Lefty Leadbedder	105,230.....Bad Foot		
	105,243.....Dusty Apple Rose	105,231.....Shawn E.		
	105,250.....High Dollar	105,242.....Lady Pearl		
	105,255.....Whiskey Gunslinger	105,260.....Brass Reeves		
	105,262.....TJ Tucker	105,298.....Goodnight Dre		
	105,265.....Jay Ricochet	105,311.....Itty Bitty Bang Bang		
	105,266.....Sadie Stewart	105,312.....Windy City Cindy		
	105,268.....Marshal Fredericksburg	<b>IN</b>		
	105,295.....Bedford Tanner	105,185.....Lady Bug		
	105,297.....Gold Gopher	105,189.....Wanderer		
		105,234.....Dough Slinger		
		105,285.....Odie		
		<b>KS</b>		
		105,304.....Nachyo Daddy		
		<b>KY</b>		
		105,289.....Old Codger		



105,305.....Tack Driver

**OH**

105,205.....Bad Willy B.  
 105,214.....Shorty McSmidget  
 105,241.....Haluski Kid  
 105,248.....Sheriff Wyatt  
 105,281.....Muzzle Flash  
 105,282.....Heartless Hannah  
 105,283.....Doc Riley  
 105,286.....One Eyed Johnny  
 105,287.....Max Straw  
                     Killer Holiday  
 105,306.....Philbilly

**OK**

105,191.....Okarche Okie  
 105,192.....Wildcat Jayt  
 105,193.....Sassy Sister  
 105,277.....Dutch 6 Horses  
 105,294.....Tahoma Hawk  
 105,300.....Highbinder

**OR**

105,182..... Cow Creek  
                     Regulator, "The"  
 105,233.....Colonel Zach  
                     Mulhall  
 105,290.....Idaho Annie Rose

**PA**

105,199.....Whiskers Wooster  
 105,200.....Miss Jay  
 105,256.....105256  
 105,257.....Philthadelphia Kid  
 105,258.....Rogue LeBeau  
 105,313.....Edward Monroe  
 105,314.....Amos Cash  
 105,320.....Sidewinder Seth

**SD**

105,217.....Miss Vickie

**TN**

105,296.....English Tom

**TX**

105,184.....Sloan Steady  
 105,196.....Harry N. Morse  
 105,210.....Hurricane Cole  
 105,221.....Mongo Slim  
 105,223.....Deadly DeWitt  
 105,249.....Dead Eye Raith  
 105,254.....Frank Jackson  
 105,263.....Solomon River Kid  
 105,275.....Pink's Belle  
 105,276.....Rooster Miller  
 105,299.....Scotty Two Irons  
 105,301.....Daisy Diamondback  
 105,302.....Dazzlin Diamondback  
 105,303.....Dixie Diamondback

**UT**

105,180.....Amazing Grace  
 105,259.....Hermy  
 105,309.....Viking Pedro  
 105,310.....Ginger Ale Jo

**VA**

105,187.....Kid Banks  
 105,245.....Whiskey Mae

**WA**

105,236.....Christmas Carol  
                     Lynn  
 105,239.....Raincrow  
 105,269.....Sodbuster Harry  
 105,271.....Buffalo Belle  
 105,272.....Hardscabble Mac  
 105,321.....Danger Dave

**MEMBERS  
 BY COUNTRY**

**SASS # ALIAS**

**AB**

105,293.....Bushwack Bob

**BC**

105,218.....Silvertip Smith

**ON**

105,225.....Indecisive Kid, The

**SA**

105,291.....Doc Sheridan

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