

THE

Cowboy CHRONICLE

Rooster puts a little smoke on the water at the 2015 Texas Senior Games.

In This Issue..

**THE SULTANA DISASTER
THE STORY OF THE WORST
MARITIME DISASTER
IN U.S. HISTORY**

by Big Dave

sassnet.com

August 1

2015

**THE STRAIGHT SHOT
WYATT EARP, PART 1**

by Jesse Wolf Hardin

**DISPATCHES FROM CAMP BAYLOR
POLYMER COATED BULLETS**

by Capt. George Baylor



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Coyote Drifter (SASS #58585) gets into character at the 2014 Wisconsin State Championship, "Mississippi Fandango." Coyote finished up the match as Buckaroo Wisconsin Champion. For a complete match report, see the article in this issue.

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The Cowboy Chronicle



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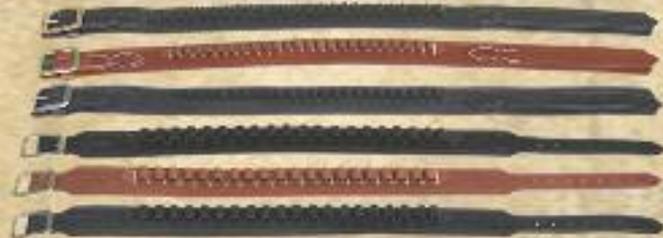
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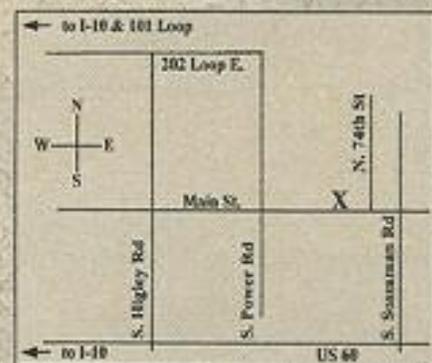
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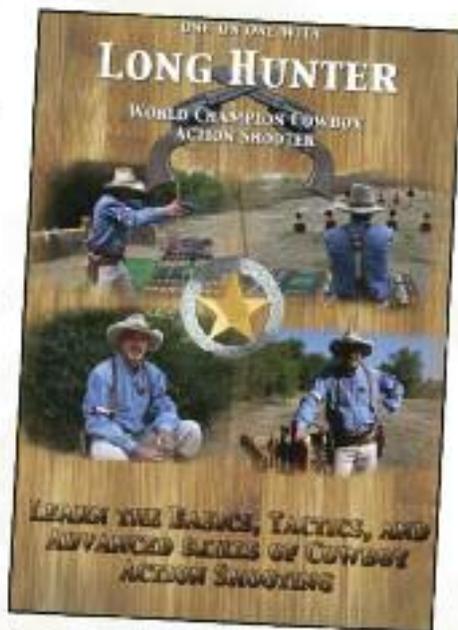
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in Las Vegas



13th SASS CONVENTION & WILD WEST CHRISTMAS

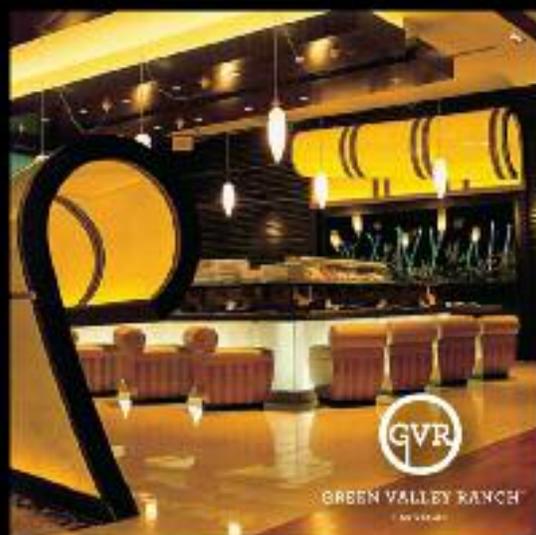


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From The Editor

SKINNY'S SOAPBOX

Changes to The Cowboy Chronicle

Many of you already know from the announcement at END of TRAIL or from the SASS Wire that a decision has been made to partially restore The Cowboy Chronicle to a printed publication. By partially, I mean it will be printed on a quarterly basis—the months of January, April, July and October. The publication itself will continue to be a monthly, so the other eight months—February, March, May, June, August, September, Novem-

ber, and December—will remain digital-only issues. We envision major SASS events like END of TRAIL, Winter Range, the SASS Convention, and Divisional matches, will be covered in the printed magazines, while other State and annual matches primarily will go in the digital issues. For overseas subscribers and for those who actually prefer the digital Cowboy Chronicle, the printed magazines will also be available electronically at the SASS website, as always. Oh, and before anyone gets excited, no, we do not plan to ever run comic book

pages in the printed Cowboy Chronicle. Obviously, other features that utilize or rely upon web access or videos will also appear in the electronic version.

Comic Book Corner

To digress for a moment, vintage Western comic book pages, as stated, will continue to be a semi-regular feature in the digital editions of The Cowboy Chronicle. This issue features the inaugural story of Two Gun Lil from *Crack Western* #63 (November 1949). With a script by Joe Millard and
(Continued on next page)

WE WILL MISS YOU SLIPNOOSE

By Misty Moonshine, SASS #83232



Roxy West

After having worked with SASS for just over five years, Slipnoose (SASS #88329) is retiring from SASS as of August 1 and resigning her position as SASS Clubs Administrator. She has meant so much to many of us and she will be missed terribly here at SASS Headquarters.

She has expressed how deeply she will miss the SASS family and connections she has formed; don't be surprised if she shows up at one of your club's matches in the fu-

ture to say hello! She and her husband, Canadian Rebel (SASS #88888)—and their dog Ripley, too!—are looking forward to putting that RV to good use, traveling and enjoying their retirement together. We will miss her, and wish her well! Have fun Slipnoose!

Roxy West (SASS #97260) will be assuming the position of Clubs Administrator beginning August 1, 2015. Roxy has been with SASS for almost two years and has proven



Slipnoose

to have what it takes to be successful here at SASS. She will continue to have Slipnoose as a great resource to her during the transition. Please update your contact information to include Roxy as your new point of contact for SASS Affiliated Club business and information:

Roxy West
roxy@sassnet.com
505-843-1320

Skinny's Soapbox . . .

(Continued from previous page)

art by Charles Sultan, Lil is an early example of a strong female hero and role model for youngsters. We'll feature her again next time around.

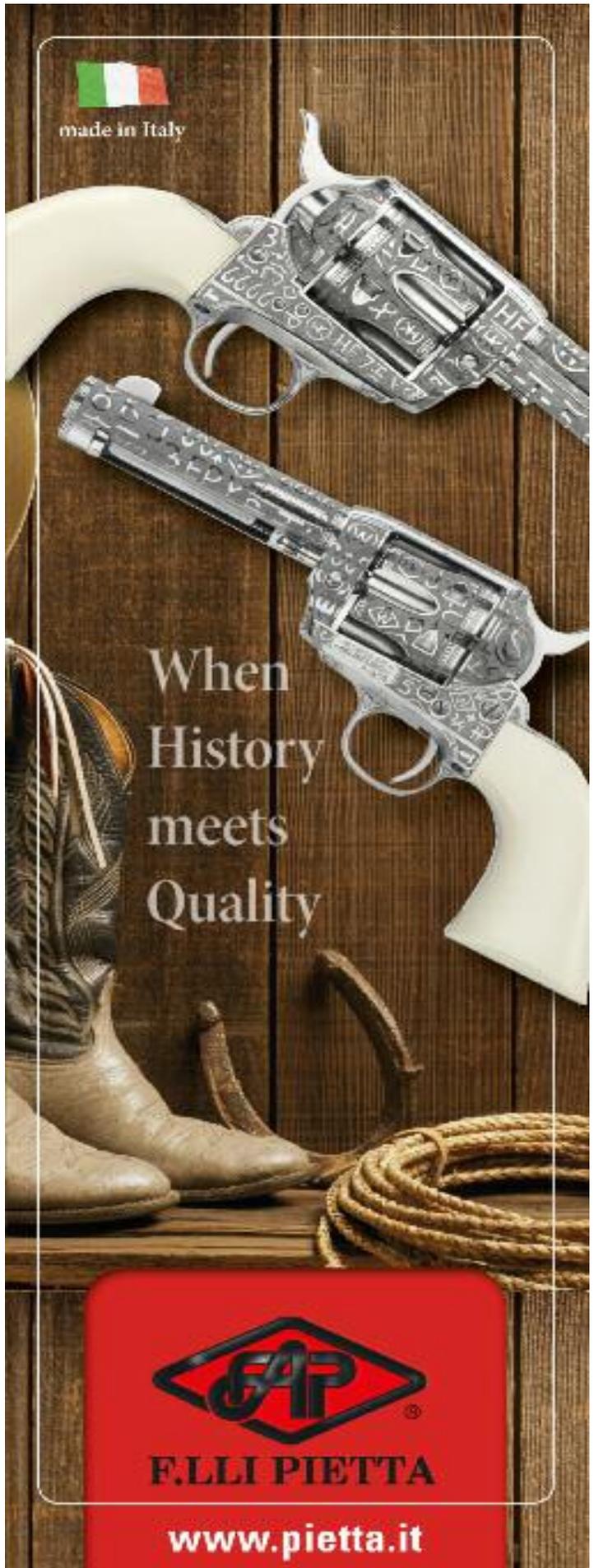
Format Change

The new Cowboy Chronicle will be printed in 8.5" X 11" slick magazine format and we anticipate it to be a 96-page publication. This should make it easy to handle, easy to read, and easy to store for all involved. As such, in order to streamline our production process, we are switching the electronic version over to 8.5" X 11" effective with this issue. Since it is viewed on screen or on a tablet, it will appear the same as it always has, but an added benefit to the size change is it should now be much easier to print out pages on a desktop printer, for those of you who like to do that. We're all very excited about getting back to a printed version of The Cowboy Chronicle and hope you all will be as well.

Hall of Fame Honorees

We're also excited and proud to announce this year's inductees into the SASS Hall of Fame on page 12 of this issue. The Hall of Fame is reserved for SASS members who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in furthering SASS and Cowboy Action Shooting™ and is not granted lightly. Congratulations to Colonel Dan; Coon Creek Old West—Lowleta and Buck Butler, proprietors; Justice B. Dunn; Ramblin' Rose; and San Juan. They will receive their awards at the SASS Convention this December. Be sure to attend.

—Skinny 



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TEXAS Senior Games 2015



Tennessee Tall, SASS #49245

By Tennessee Tall, SASS #49245

Photos by Texas Flower, SASS #43753

Groesbeck, TX. The Old Fort Parker Patriots, led by Bent Barrel Betty (Range Master, SASS #33237) and Kow Katcher (Territorial Governor, SASS #53134) hosted the 2015 Texas Senior Games May 15-17, and we now have proof that “real” Cowboy won’t wash off! Rain Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday proved that. Yard Games consisted of mud-bogging golf

carts, gun carts, four-wheelers, and pick ups. Foot wear changed considerably on the second day as cowboy boots gave way to camo muckers on Miz Donnie (SASS #88807), polka dot muckers for Texas Flower, and little pink horse mockers, worn by Belle Kaye (SASS #35884). Justice Lily Kate (SASS #1000) suggested the name of this article should be “Cat Fish Noodling at Lake Parker.” Lonesome Lefty (SASS #68693) suggested “A River Ran Through It.” Both would be good names.

Actually, this match was good

practice for presenting the Texas State Championship next year at Old Fort Parker, if you missed this event this time, you have next May to look forward to. The Old Fort Parker Patriots have been shooting here since 2004. A lot of hard work has given them a train stage, a gallows stage, a saloon, an emporium, a stable, a freight office, a cemetery, blacksmith, bank, hotel, back 40, and a fort. There are rooms available to stay on site and motel rooms readily available in Mexia and Groesbeck. Old Fort Parker has a visi-

(Continued on next page)



A dry posse!



**The Rubber boot girls,
*Justice Lily Kate, Shotglass,
Belle Kaye, and Texas Flower.***

tor center, full kitchen, a meeting room, and a gift shop. There are nice showers, RV water, electric hookups, and a dump station. The next big shoot is coming at their annual match October 2-4, Defend Old Fort Parker 2015. Registration forms are available at their website <http://www.oldfortparkerpatriots.com>.

Old Fort Parker State Historical Park is governed by Old Fort Parker, Inc. and the cities of Groesbeck, Mexia and Limestone County. The reconstructed fort pays tribute to the Parker family and other pioneers who settled in Texas. The stockade is built of split cedars buried three feet in the ground and standing twelve feet high. The stockade was rebuilt during the Texas Centennial in 1936 and again in 1967. Visitors today are welcomed Wednesday through Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Bent Barrel Betty and Kow

Katcher are to be commended for all their work in preparing for and presenting the Senior Games event. Our thanks go to Main Match Sponsor Hot Tamale (SASS #78531) and the following individuals who were instrumental in conducting this match through contributions of time, talent, materials, and money: Captain Jack (SASS #2531) and Miz Donnie, Clueless Bob (SASS #65325) and Smokin Limey (SASS #66033), Cowntown Jack (SASS #77458), Weezee Anna (SASS #72817), Wild Guy (SASS #40203), Texas Irish Princess (SASS #38760), Klassic Laser Works, Lonestar Outlaw, Sara McReynolds, Charles Deaton (almost 90 but going on 39).

A thank you to lots of other folks who contributed to making Senior Games 2015 a success despite the weather. Mentioning a few (and I'm sure I'm leaving out someone important due to my advanced age): Posse Marshals Texas Slim (SASS #43510), Texas Jack Daniels (SASS #8587), Hawkshaw Fred (SASS #36811), and Pineywoods Jim (SASS #56822). Also Captain Jack, who led the Cowboy Church service; Denton Dancer (SASS #60759) and Calico Calie (SASS #70761) for their work on the shooter books, scoring, registration, setting up displays of raffle items and selling tickets, and a million computer chores; and Petticoat Chaser (SASS #61219) and Hawkshaw Fred, our Blackjack dealers for raising a considerable amount of money for the SASS Scholarship Fund. Caddo Kid (SASS #99114) car-



**Match Directors
*Bent Barrel Betty and
Kow Katcher—
“Who ordered this rain?”***

ried off the brass cleaner Blackjack prize. Hawkshaw Fred did an admirable entertaining job of emceeing the event, assisted by Shotglass (SASS #17153), the Texas version of Vanna White. Lonesome Lefty who worked hard Wednesday putting roofs over the loading tables is greatly appreciated. He also ran the Long Range side match, with help from Kathouse Kelli (SASS

(Continued on page 10)



***Shotglass, soldiering on
despite the downpour.***

Texas Senior Games 2015 . . .

(Continued from page 9)

#72384), Jackaroo (SASS #29989), and Weezee Anna. If I forgot ya, you just work harder next time so I notice.

Our thanks to vendors Old Scynne. Roger and Joann are longtime true supporters of Cowboy Action Shooting™. Roger presented a beautiful commemorative silk scarf to Texas Mac (SASS #43494). Mac's recovery from a recent heart attack included shooting all ten stages. We are happy to see him up and about. Kathouse Kelli and Jackaroo took a bit of Texas home, winning the Texas Star hand-made hair-on cowhide rug by Texas Irish Princess. Hot Tamale donated for raffle a Bond Texas Commemorative Derringer engraved by Aspen Filly (SASS #50535), which was won by Czexican Dave (SASS #90515). The two beautiful mesquite-slab-topped stools with red cedar legs were built and donated by Bent Barrel Betty, they were put up

for silent auction and brought almost five hundred dollars.

Commemorative wild rags, hand-carved red cedar scarf slides, and hand-made aprons, all made by Bent Barrel Betty, were presented to folks who worked the kitchen, manned the side matches, and acted as posse marshals. It was good fun seeing Smokin Limey learn to use the timer and become competent working the fastest shotgun side matches.

The Farm House Restaurant catered the Saturday night banquet, bringing in chicken fried chicken, garlic mashed potatoes, green beans and peach cobbler. (Thought I was at Mamma's house.) Friday night was potluck featuring Pablo's Gringa's chicken spaghetti. Pablo's Gringa served up hamburgers with the trimmings on Sunday, assisted by Shooting Iron Miller (SASS #85140), Miz Donnie, and Miss Em Pineywoods (SASS #58832). Judges for the cookie contest were Miss Em Pineywoods, Tres Equis (SASS #90863), Whiskey (SASS #19610), Colorado Jackson (SASS #92770), and You Bet (SASS #48429). The winners were Shooting Iron Miller, with homemade cookies, and Belle Kaye with store-bought cookies. Cowboys and food—often mentioned in the same sentence!

Serious stuff now, Top Senior Cowboy was I Reckon (SASS #35883) and Top Senior Cowgirl was taken by Dream Chaser (SASS #79316), with Wannabe a Senior Top Cowboy taken by



Overall Wannabe winners, Kathouse Kelli and You Bet.

You Bet and Top Cowgirl taken by Kathouse Kelli. Spirit of the Game awards went to the following: Lonesome Lefty, Colorado Jackson, Texas Mac, Sheriff Rob Love (SASS #8960) and Shooting Iron Miller. Scores for the match are available on their website <http://www.oldfortparkerpartriots.com>.

The rain brought out the best *(Continued on next page)*



Overall Senior winners, I Reckon and Dream Chaser.



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Texas Senior Games 2015 . . .

(Continued from previous page)

in folks who stepped up and did whatever needed to be done. "Real" Cowboy won't wash off, but we sure got plenty muddy!



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News



Thirteenth SASS 2015 CONVENTION



Tex, SASS #4

By Tex, SASS #4

The SASS Convention each year traditionally inducts a set of deserving individuals and businesses into the SASS Cowboy Action Shooting™ Hall of Fame. This prestigious event is an opportunity for all Conventioneers to share in this momentous celebration. SASS is proud to recognize another outstanding class of inductees at this Thirteenth Annual SASS Convention.

**COLONEL DAN,
SASS LIFE #24025 Regulator**



Colonel Dan joined SASS in 1998 after retiring from the Army. He was amazed at how anyone could miss these big targets at such close ranges until he discovered the existence of Stealth Bullets that can pass through steel without making a sound! Colonel Dan founded and led the famous Stealth Bullet Shooting Society, which boasts 2,526 members whose stated objective is to provide official excuses for misses and to enhance the fun of Cowboy Action Shooting™. Dan would go on to shoot 253 actual clean matches to date and have a run of 22 straight twice thus far!

Initially, SASS wanted to avoid politics, but as threats to our Second Amendment became increasingly more dangerous, the need for a political voice was clear. Dan answered the call, and for 13 years was the political face and voice of SASS with his widely read and popular monthly column in *The Cowboy Chronicle*.

Dan was asked to formally lead the SASS Second Amendment effort at the national level. The Colonel responded by envisioning, launching, and leading Team SASS to organize SASS clubs into a positive force to preserve, protect, and defend our gun rights. Dan also organized and chaired a gun rights seminar at the Branson SASS Convention and remains the face of SASS at the national level with the NRA, SAF, NSSF, and GOA.

Dan has been a Match Director, Regulator, and Territorial Governor, and helped organize championship matches throughout the southeast, wrote match reports of those championship events, provided/presented the clean match awards, and has been the keynote speaker at SASS events.

Because of his total dedication to SASS, its people, and Cowboy Action Shooting™ and the profound

(Continued on next page)

Hall of Fame • 13th SASS Convention 2015 . . .

(Continued from previous page)

impact he has had from producing The Cowboy Chronicle political column, and his continuing efforts to lead Team SASS, SASS is proud to induct Colonel Dan, SASS #24025, into the SASS Cowboy Action Shooting™ Hall of Fame, 2015.

COON CREEK OLD WEST
Lowleta, SASS #4828, and Buck
Butler, SASS #4827, Proprietors



Coon Creek Old West was organized in the 1980s and for the past 25 years the proprietors have toured the country going to SASS events as Lowleta and Buck Butler.

Nearing 50 years old, they transplanted to Tucson in 1989. After discovering SASS, there was no looking back. Wrapping up their first careers in 1994, they were able to travel and attend matches full time. From Minnesota north to Texas south, from California west to Pennsylvania east, and all points in between, they were able to rack up 200-plus SASS and western theme venues in 45 different locales. Coon Creek Old West became a staple at nearly all the major matches with their large white tent, Lowleta and Buck in their period outfits, and a full inventory of both cowboy and

vintage military paraphernalia. When Wild Bunch Action Shooting reared its head, Coon Creek Old West was prepared with turn of the century military outfits, just like in the movie of the same name.

Regrettably, due to “old age issues” they were forced to suspend active outdoor vending in 2014. They continue operations on their web site.

They report their years as sutlers were the “best years of their lives!” They said “The SASS shooters are the greatest group of people and customers we’ve ever known. It helps that we all love the era of the Golden West. The Wild Bunch has created a lifestyle that 100,000 of us love. From the Founders, Judge Roy Bean (SASS #1) and U.S. Grant (SASS #2), to our closest vendor contact,

(Continued on page 14)

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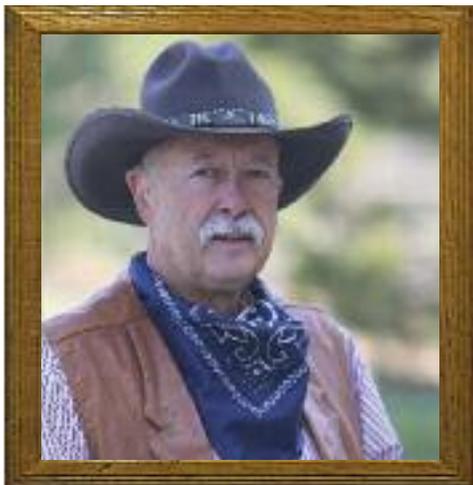
Hall of Fame • 13th SASS Convention 2015 . . .

(Continued from page 13)

Tex, the rest of the bunch, and members past and present, they are all cowboys through and through. So, looking to the future, we wish “Happy Trails” to you.”

Because of their long-standing support of SASS and Cowboy Action Shooting™, and their ability to consistently supply such a wide variety of Old West merchandise at our matches, SASS is proud to induct Coon Creek Old West, Lowleta, SASS #4248, and Buck Butler, SASS #4247, Proprietors, into the SASS Cowboy Action Shooting™ Hall of Fame, 2015.

JUSTICE B. DUNN, SASS LIFE #3516 Regulator



Justice B. Dunn, SASS #3516, purchased his first “cowboy” gun, a ‘94 trapper in .45 Colt, from a Maricopa County, Arizona sheriff. He wasn’t even aware of Cowboy Action Shooting™ or SASS at the time. He just wanted a rifle like those seen in TV shows of his youth. During the transaction the sheriff told him about shooting Cowboy Action and the fun he and his wife were having in the sport.

That was his and Ms. Emma Starr’s (SASS #3517) introduction to Cowboy Action Shooting™. This

was followed up with a visit to a local match held at Ben Avery. They had the bug and they jumped in with both feet to get equipped to play cowboy. That was 1993.

Throughout his SASS career he served at the local club level and Winter Range, often simultaneously. He helped produced annual matches for the local club and Winter Range. Incorporating fun and innovation in stage design and production for their shooting customers, the local clubs and Winter Range grew. Shooters have often commented on the unique and entertaining safety meetings using humor to present the rules.

Over the 22 years as a SASS member, 19 were served with Winter Range as a board member, Vice President, President, and Territorial Governor. He retired from the Winter Range Board at the conclusion of Winter Range 2015. Justice was recognized as a Regulator in 2004.

Through all his years of Cowboy Action Shooting™ he always promoted the sport and SASS, assisting new shooters and visitors to try it out. To him, Cowboy Action Shooting™ is a community—a community of friends for which he is an ambassador. He is there to help new shooters have a good time and succeed at this sport. That often means giving a greenhorn advice and the opportunity to shoot his guns, lend them ammo and leather as necessary, and encourage them to jump in with both feet.

Because of his influence in the development of Cowboy Action in Arizona and his role with Winter Range, the SASS National Championship, and his contributions to the

humorous and interesting shooter’s safety meetings, SASS is proud to induct Justice B. Dunn, SASS #3515, into the SASS Cowboy Action Hall of Fame, 2015.

RAMBLIN’ ROSE, SASS LIFE #2811 Regulator



Ramblin’ Rose, SASS Life #2811, and Regulator has won numerous World, National, Regional, State, and Annual Matches. If you ask her what she likes the most about Cowboy Action Shooting™, she would tell you it is the people she has met and the friendships that have developed during the time she has been a member of SASS.

She first started shooting in Phoenix, AZ. In 1990 there were few organized clubs; some clubs had no ranges—they shot in a dry wash in the desert. At first Ramblin’ Rose just watched; she was too timid to try shooting. Once she started to compete, it wasn’t long before she became addicted to the sport.

As she became more proficient, she helped, encouraged, and supported many new-to-the-sport lady competitors. She was a member of The Arizona Territorial Company of Rough Riders, the organization that is responsible for Winter Range. While part of that group she was the Treasurer and also assisted with the organization of vendors, sponsors, and the prize pool.

She was instrumental in the devel-

(Continued on next page)

Hall of Fame • 13th SASS Convention 2015 . . .

(Continued from previous page)

opment of Ladies Frontier Cartridge and Ladies Frontier Cartridge Duelist categories. In fact, she is proud of winning Frontier Cartridge at the 2006 Gathering of the Posses, as she competed with the men because there was no category for Ladies at that time. She was also very vocal in supporting the need to have equal representation of the age-based categories for both men and women.

Since 2001 Ramblin' Rose has been recognized as a World Champion Lady Senior four times, Lady Silver Senior, and Grand Dame three times. She became a Regulator in 2003.

Ramblin' Rose continues to assist, volunteer, and support SASS whenever the opportunity arises. Cowboy Action Shooting™ has become part of her life.

Because of her efforts to expand the age-based and gender-based shooting categories and her exemplary shooting record, SASS is proud to induct Ramblin' Rose, SASS #2811, into the SASS Cowboy Action Shooting™ Hall of Fame, 2015.

SAN JUAN, SASS LIFE #1776 Regulator



Like most children born during WWII, San Juan was raised playing with toy guns and watching Western movies. From that grew a fascination with all things related to the Old West. A chance meeting with Durango Kid (SASS #8) in 1982 resulted in San Juan becoming aware of the Single Action Shooting So-

ciety and the guns of our game. Later he became an RO-I and then an RO-II. Embracing Cowboy Action Shooting™ and SASS, San Juan soon became a Territorial Governor, a SASS Life member, and was honored to become a Regulator. In addition to his many local, state, Regional, and National wins, he was recognized the Overall World Champion at END of TRAIL 1999.

San Juan developed the San Juan Shooting Range in Montrose, Colorado in 1990. The San Juan Rangers were born in 1995 and San Juan has held the position of Territorial Governor ever since. Apart from serving his club, San Juan has also been instrumental in assisting other clubs become a reality in both Grand Junction and Rifle, CO. The San Juan Rangers have hosted eight Colorado Championship events, five of them in consecutive years. San Juan has led the San Juan Rangers in hosting monthly matches and the annual "Siege at San Juan" for the past twenty years.

San Juan started some of the first Cowboy Action Shooting™ classes, in a dozen different States. He is known for his passion for passing on what he has learned, and delights in seeing the smiles of satisfaction on shooters' faces as they improve their skills. This is especially true when the shooter is a lady or a new Junior shooter. He also began training ROs, even before SASS had an approved Range Officer training program. He soon recognized the need for an organization-wide RO training program and encouraged the Wild Bunch to create such a program.

Because of his contributions to SASS and Cowboy Action Shooting™, his willingness to "give back" to the SASS community, and his exemplary shooting ability, SASS is proud to induct San Juan, SASS #1776, into the SASS Cowboy Action Shooting™ Hall of Fame, 2015. 🐾



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On The Range

THUNDER IN PARADISE

International Blackpowder Championship

By Korupt Karl, SASS #68444

Photos by Sports Photography and Design, Tex, SASS #4, and others



Samuel Eells, Tex, and Korupt Karl found themselves in trouble before the match even started! They were caught reading the Match Shooter's Handbook and planning their strategy. Everyone knows planning, practicing, and reading match materials is against all Cowboy Action rules!

was the first "International Blackpowder Championship," the event topped 80 shooters. Tex came from New Mexico; Cemetery, SASS #72287, from New Jersey; and one of the originals, Fireball, SASS #7709, drove up from Florida. We were also blessed with the support of local clubs as well as clubs from Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, and Iowa.

Side matches and main match stages were blackpowder *only* with many hardcore "holy black" competitors as well as "once a year" blackpowder shooters. After side matches and a BBQ on Friday, 24 hardy souls took part in the three-stage night shoot. The

(Continued on next page)

Warsaw, IN. Korupt Karl and the Indiana Blackpowder Guild hosted the first International Blackpowder Championship the fifth weekend in May at Paradise Pass just west of Warsaw, Indiana. Privately owned by C.C. Top, SASS #62639, and Aunt B, SASS #71104, the club boasts 14 bays, a clubhouse, and five privately owned cabins, located on 40 acres along with woods, a pond, and a 350-yard long-range field.

We normally draw approximately 50 shooters to our annual blackpowder match but since this



Cabins on the range offer a comfortable "home away from home," especially for those who travel great distances to shoot here.

Deuce Stevens' cabin is on the left. It sleeps at least eight, is insulated, and air-conditioned. What more could a cowboy want in a "line shack?"

VISIT US AT SASSNET.COM

Thunder In Paradise • International Blackpowder Championship . . .

(Continued from previous page)



Black Jack Beeson has held the coveted Gourd for the past year as the top Pale Rider competitor. He was successful in retaining ownership for 2015. Black Jack declared, "I'm not giving this up lightly. They'll have to beat me if anyone else wants to take the Gourd home!"

shooter would stage his/her guns inside one of the buildings and assume the starting position. We would then turn the inside lights off and leave the downrange lights on, enabling the shooter to pick up the targets. Everyone had a ball, including the onlookers. There is something special about seeing the flash and "lava" coming out the guns! Blackpowder shooters are a special breed!

The main match started Saturday morning with six stages. The targets varied in size and distance, but allowed for a fast, up close shoot. The scenarios were well thought out with options, fun sweeps, and no "P" traps. It was a warm, humid day to say the least, and everyone enjoyed the stages, but after the shooting was over they were ready to enjoy a meal and a cocktail or

two around the campfire.

Saturday night featured a banquet with BBQ ribs, chicken breasts, and all the fixins. I think
(Continued on page 18)



Deuce Stevens was his usual polite, energetic, and efficient self. He ran an excellent posse, worked on Tex's rifle in the evening, and shot an excellent match. He unfortunately over-ran a target mid-way through the match, and because of the keen competition, that error dropped him to third place overall.

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- Then to finish all this off we have had a new design created called

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Thunder In Paradise • International Blackpowder Championship . . .

(Continued from page 17)



Tex struggled mightily through the entire match with a rifle that was slowly falling apart. On this, the penultimate stage, Tex miscounted, threw the rifle down, and when reminded “one more,” noticed the tenth round had bounced into the chamber. He had to call his own SDQ!

Tex had at least a couple of desserts—there was enough for seconds and no one left hungry. We are fortunate to have an onsite restaurant, “Holy Smokes,” that prepared the meals as well as being open for lunch each day.

Right after we were seated for dinner, the rain started. It rained off and on all night and stopped at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, just in time to start the second six stages. There was some standing water, but we were all pleased with the cooler temperatures and were able to finish the match without



The first International Blackpowder Championship was extremely competitive and fiercely fought! The SASS Champions who held it together for 12 stages were: Man—Cowboy Carty, Lady—Ray L Gun, and Young Gun—Kaya. Congratulations and Great Shooting!

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PHOTOGRAPHER: JANET WARD, NCAA



Cowboy Carty was the top overall competitor at this year’s International Blackpowder Championships. He was always a bundle of tightly coiled energy waiting for the timer to “beep,” but once he was given the “go,” he was poetry in motion!

any more rain.

Sunday morning, our tradition continued with the “Griswold Breakfast.” The name started by merging the manufacturing of the skillet and “Chevy Chase’s movies.” We had grits, egg casserole, biscuits and gravy, blueberry and buckwheat pancakes, bacon,

(Continued on next page)

Thunder In Paradise • International Blackpowder Championship . . .

(Continued from previous page)



The waddies at Paradise Pass take great pride in improving and maintaining the range. Many have taken ownership of particular portions of the range, and have made it known, “no one else is to touch this part of the range!” The result is a beautiful, pleasing shooting facility. Several shooters were seen enjoying the long-range bay.



There are few, if any, ranges like Paradise Pass “out west.” Grass and trees are everywhere, and the prop buildings are all substantial and provide genuine Old West ambiance. The beautiful range coupled with wonderful hospitality from the match officials, range owners, and range waddies makes this a “must visit” agenda on all cowboys’ agendas.

cinnamon rolls, and more. Once again we ate well and a big thanks to all who prepared their favorite breakfast food. Deuce Stevens, SASS #55996, Straight Arrow, SASS #92021, and Cowboy Carty, SASS #86059, were food judges with skillet trophies for first, second, and third. Top honors went to Short Term Emory, SASS #95635, for his spicy and not so spicy egg casserole.

We completed the second half of the main match, and thanks to the ACES program, we had the scores

in record time. We once again assembled in the big tent, and buckles were awarded for the top three in

(Continued on page 20)



Conditions on Sunday were less than ideal. It was cold. It was wet. The ground shook when you walked on it. And, not a single cowboy said a word! This is an outdoor sport, and cowboys come to play, come rain or shine!

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Thunder In Paradise • International Blackpowder Championship . . .

(Continued from page 19)

each category. We recognized the hard work of the committee and special thanks to all who attended, especially Tex.

The competition for top gun was fierce. Competitors had been shooting stages using “heavy” black-



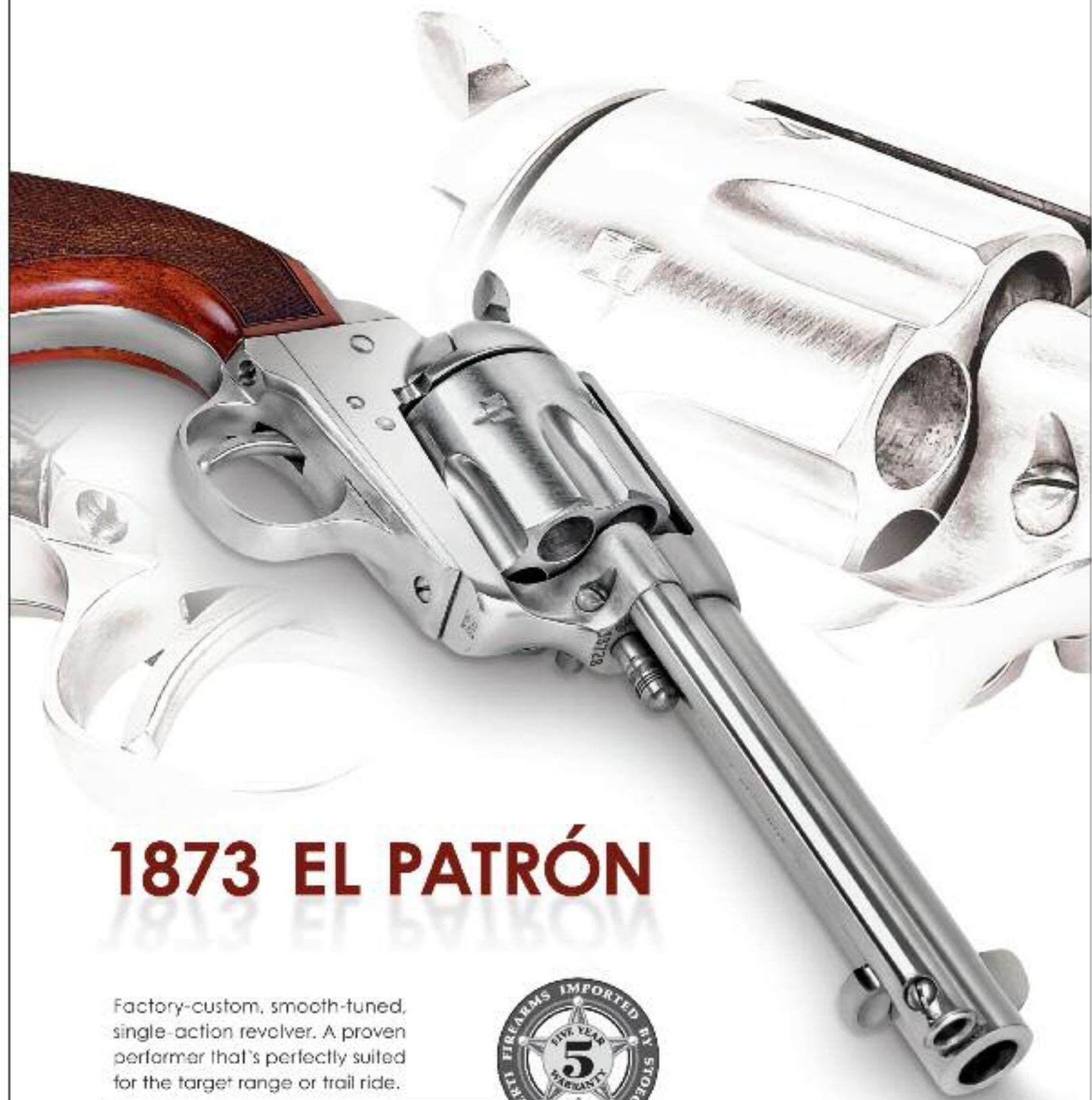
Fireball was always “entertainment” once the clock went “beep!” He is like Frank Sinatra was... he wants to do it “His Way!” Often the stage instructions were merely “suggestions” to be followed... but he never let them stand in the way of getting through the stage “with gusto!” He’s an excellent competitor!

powder loads in 20 seconds and less! The Pale Rider category was especially heavily contested. Black Jack
(Continued on page 22)



The air was definitely still, heavy, and damp on Sunday morning. The clouds of glorious blackpowder smoke hung with a festive vitality all morning long... just the kind of weather a true “dark-sider” truly appreciates!

Winners			
Overall		F C Gunfighter	Boaz Longhorn, SASS #88829
Man	Cowboy Carty, SASS #86059	S F Cartridge	Doc Noper, SASS #65017
Lady	Ray L Gun, SASS #97346	Frontiersman	Boss Outlaw, SASS #71947
Categories		Grand Patron	Deuces Uncle Johnny, SASS #61848
Buckette	Luna Chick, SASS #99042	Josie Wales	Korupt Karl, SASS #68444
C Baron	Lue Dee Kris, SASS #5422	L 49'er	Labella Dama Sans Merci, SASS #99646
C Cowboy	Sixgun Scotsman, SASS #68879	L Gunfighter	Rose Louise Reasoner, SASS #12516
Cowboy	Deuce Stevens, SASS #55996	L S Senior	Miss Elaineous, SASS #45042
E Statesman	Pale Rider	L Wrangler	Ray L Gun
Gunfighter	Tex, SASS #4	Outlaw	Boss Outlaw
E Statesman	Lightning Wayne, SASS #45658	Pale Rider	Appalachian Alan, SASS #35202
49'er	Doc Molar, SASS #18470		
F Cartridge	Fireball, SASS #7709		
F C Duelist	C. C. Top, SASS #62639		
		Pale Rider	Black Jack Beeson, SASS #11523
		Senior	Bad Dean, SASS #25978
		S Duelist	R. J. Rust, SASS #65350
		S F C Duelist	Crazy Mingo, SASS #64041
		S Gunfighter	Snuffy John, SASS #46078
		S S Gunfighter	Hondo Dan, SASS #45041
		Wrangler	Cowboy Carty
		L Young Gun	Kaya, SASS #98924
		Clean Match	
			Black Jack Beeson
			Boaz,
			Cowboy Carty
			Knob Creek Drover, SASS #29843
			Straight Arrow Hombre, SASS #64386



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Thunder In Paradise • International Blackpowder Championship ...

(Continued from page 20)

Beeson, SASS #11523, took first place and retained possession of the Gourd, which is a traveling trophy. In the past the Gourd has been in the hands of Samuel Eells, SASS #40531, Cheyenne Culpepper, SASS #32827, Split Rail, SASS #24707, and others.

At the raffle, Travelin Kid, SASS #51083, won a side-by-side and in exchange for getting reimbursed for his tickets, gave the shotgun to a shooter who needed it... talk about the Cowboy Way! There were many examples of that kind of behavior throughout the event.

We are excited about hosting the Indiana State Championship, September 11 – 13, 2015... hope to see you all here! 🤠



Chili Pepper Pete stands in water dispatching bad guys on Sunday morning. Many stood back from the burro and leaned in for their shotgun... but not Chili Pepper!



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On The Range



MISSISSIPPI FANDANGO WISCONSIN STATE SASS Championship 2014

By *Unholy Ghost* (SASS #70691) and *Flyen Doc Koyote* (SASS #31508)

Photos by *Crazy K*, SASS #89104



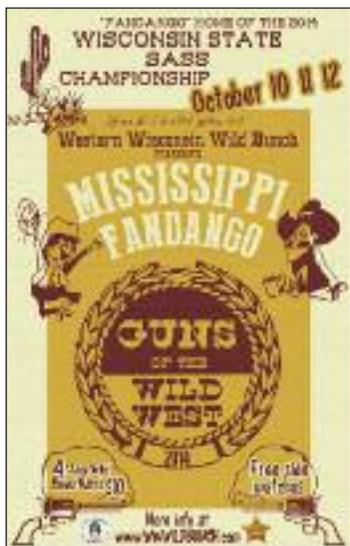
WESTERN WISCONSIN WILD BUNCH



The Western Wisconsin Wild Bunch once again hosted the Wisconsin State SASS Championship this past October 10-12, 2014. The match is our annual “Mississippi Fandango,” which is always held on the second weekend in October. This year’s theme was “Guns of the Wild West.” 120 shooters showed up to enjoy the perfect fall weather and blaze away at outlaw steel!



State champs Legs and Mockingbird.



Events got under way on Friday with a variety of side matches such as speed pistol, rifle and shotgun. There was also cowboy trap shooting and long range shooting for those with the itch to bust some clay targets or blast away with their buffalo guns at distant targets. A four-stage Wild Bunch match was also provided for those who wanted to turn loose their 1911s, Pike Bishop style!

dinner brought friends together to talk and catch up on all that has happened on the trail this past year.

A Cowboy garage sale was held for a chance to trade or buy clothes, boots, guns, knives, and many other shootin’ related items at bargain prices! Later that evening a Southwestern potluck

Early morning brought the start of the 10-stage match. Six stages are shot on Saturday and four more on Sunday. Match director, Flyen Doc Koyote, welcomed all the shooters and after a brief safety meeting and flag raising ceremony, Fandango was under way.

Each stage highlighted different guns of the Wild West. Firearms such as the Winchester 1873, Winchester 1866, Remington 1858, Schofield revolver,

(Continued on next page)



Wisconsin State Category Champions.

Mississippi Fandango • 2014 Wisconsin State SASS Championship . . .

(Continued from previous page)

Greener shotgun, and even the double action Starr cap and ball pistol, were included in the stage lines. Some examples were, “Star light, star bright, you’re going to see my Starr tonight!” or “My Sharps can reach out and touch you!” Targets were close, stages were fast and easy to understand, and most of all FUN.

Shooting was finished in the early afternoon and after all the guns were stored safely away, more friendly banter and laughs were heard. Many a tall tale was spun as groups of shooters kicked back and enjoyed the fine fall weather.

As the sun began to set, it was time for the banquet to begin! Master of Ceremonies, Beans Morocco (SASS #33778), entertained the crowd with witty poems and humorous verses. Soon it was time to dine and what a meal was served! Prime rib and chicken and all the fixins were served.

DW McCall presented the side match awards, followed by the announcement of the Costume Contest winners. Awards were given for “On the Line” shooting costumes as well as Banquet costumes. There were a lot *(Continued on page 26)*

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Mississippi Fandango • 2014 Wisconsin State SASS Championship . . .

(Continued from page 25)



Hail Mary, SASS #93459.



*Fancy lady,
Willow Thompson.*



Frontier Bill.

of fine looking Cowboys, Cowgirls, Fancy Gents and Ladies, Soiled Doves, Buckaroos, Military, and other unique costumes to choose from, so judging was tough!

Sunday morning brought crisp-

ness in the air and the last four stages were shot. It all ended way too soon! After another incredible lunch, Flyen Doc Koyote announced the match winners.

Thirty-two shooters were smiling

ear to ear with clean shooter certificates. Spirit of the Game recipients were recognized. The State Champions of each category were announced and brought up on

(Continued on page 28)

Evil Roy's

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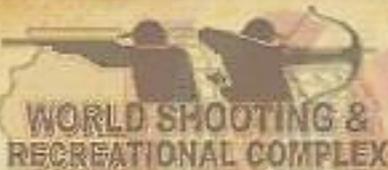
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the Holiday Theme Costume Contest.

Note: Category costume requirements will be forgiven during banquet/awards
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**Mississippi Fandango •
2014 Wisconsin State SASS Championship . . .**

(Continued from page 26)

stage and presented with a beautiful gold marshal's badge plus a certificate designed by Vega Bond (SASS #89103). Non-Wisconsin resident category winners received a silver marshal's badge plus a certificate. Mockingbird (SASS #22893) and Legs (SASS #66921) were announced as the Top Male

and Female Wisconsin State Champions. Mogollon Drifter (SASS #13690) and Pious Player (SASS #66297) were the overall Mississippi Fandango Male and Female Top Guns. After Beans held the now famous "Fandango Flip" it was time to hit the trail.

The Western Wisconsin Wild

Bunch would like to thank all the vendors, shooters and spectators who came out to make Mississippi Fandango another success! Some have said "Best Fandango EVER!" We appreciate each and every one of you and hope you will join us again next year at Mississippi Fan-

(Continued on next page)

Side Match Winners

Speed Pistol

Jailmaker, (SASS #88725)

Lady Speed Pistol

Nellie Pathfinder

Speed Rifle

Coyote Cap

Speed Shotgun

SxS

Mockingbird

Lady SxS

Nellie Pathfinder

Mule Eared

Vega Bond

1887-1897

Jailmaker

Transitions

Mockingbird

Trap

Crazy Nate, (SASS #78754)

Lady Trap

Sunrise Rider

Long Range Pistol

Flatbush, (SASS #79688)

Long Range Rifle

Pistol Caliber

Wild Buckhorn Bill,
(SASS #32174)

Rifle Caliber, Lever

Flatbush

Rifle Caliber, Single Shot

Flatbush

**Wild Bunch Side Match
Winners**

Modern

Flyen Doc Koyote

Traditional

Medicine Creek Johnny

Professionals (Open)

Lead Spittin Lefty

Lady Professionals (Open)

Nellie Pathfinder

Costume Contest Winners

Working

Cowboy

Jarrett Morgan Daniels,
(SASS #25180)

Cowgirl

Laurentian Lilly, (SASS #92053)
Mare Z. Dotes, (SASS #68403)

Buckaroo

Coyote Drifter

Buckarette

Minnie Legs

Banquet

Fancy Gent

Riverboat Red, (SASS #71733)

Fancy Lady

Willow Thompson,
(SASS #56615)

Fancy Couple

Rosie Ola, (SASS #47374) and
Sugar Creek Jack, (SASS #42530)

Military

Bugler Scott

Soiled Dove

Laurentian Lilly

Youth

Coyote Drifter

Open

Timber Jack Thompson

Spirit of the Game Awards

Lead Spittin Lefty,
(SASS #79285)

Lt. C. Burl Gatewood,
(SASS #3456)

Mississippi Traveler,
(SASS #25069)

Medicine Creek Johnny
Lazy N8, (SASS #48030)

Tony Bee, (SASS #38769)

Blue Dog, (SASS #26901)

Wolf Gang, (SASS #49977)

Mississippi Fandango • 2014 Wisconsin State SASS Championship . . .

(Continued from previous page)

dango 2015 or at one of our monthly matches, held on the second Saturday of every month. Yes, just like in the old west, we have gunfights during the winter too!

So mark your calendars and come out and join us this fall (October 9-11, 2015) for another spectacular Mississippi Fandango. It will once again promise to be an event that will surely draw you back year after year!

If you cannot make Fandango 2015, maybe you can stop by for our other annual match held in June, "Bonanza." Twelve stages over two days, Cowboy Action Shooting™ or WB. Check the web site for details. <http://www.wildbunch.com/bonanza.html>



Winners

49'er	Marshal Fire, SASS #10064	WI	Cowgirl	Pious Player Lucky Leslie, SASS #66961	MN WI	FC	Gunfighter	Bugler Scott, SASS #23687	WI
L. 49'er	Really, SASS #99229	IL	Duelist	Timber Jack Thompson, SASS #55358	MN	Grande Dame	Anita Nugun, SASS #16235	MN	
B-Western	Legs Bramble Mountain Buzzard, SASS #71030	WI MN	L. Duelist	James Rosewood, SASS #32625	WI	Gunfighter	Unholy Ghost L.	WI	
L. B-Western	Tracker Jack Daniels, SASS #58780	WI	S. Duelist	Wild Annie O, SASS #84235	WI	Gunfighter	Nellie Pathfinder, SASS #47191	WI	
Baroness	Mississippi Belle, SASS #26286	WI	S. Senior Duelist	Baldy, SASS #31481	WI	Range Detective	Palisade Jack, SASS #8167	MN	
Buckarette	Tootsie Pop, SASS #41488	WI	E. Statesman	Frontier Bill, SASS #10137	WI	Senior	Doc Ray, SASS #18111	WI	
Buckaroo	Minnie Legs, SASS #96130	WI	F. Cartridge	Coyote Cap, SASS #14184	MN	S. Senior	Flyen Doc Koyote Free Bird, SASS #61147	WI	
Cattle Baron	Coyote Drifter, SASS #58585	MN	Frontiersman	Whip L. Tree, SASS #64977	MN	L. Silver Senior	Little Tree, SASS #29671	MN	
C. Cowboy	Colt Wesson, SASS #41485	WI	F. Cartridge	Doc Potter, SASS #73734	WI	Wrangler	Buck's Little Pearl, SASS #35008	WI	
Cowboy	Myron Swaim, SASS #49410	WI	FC Duelist	Medicine Creek Johnny, SASS #61890	SD	L. Wrangler	Mogollon Drifter Mockingbird	MN WI	
	Jarrett, SASS #32423	MN		Bulldog James, SASS #53527	WI		Sunrise Rider, SASS #95134	WI	
	Crossbones, SASS #85865	WI		Flatbush, SASS #79688	WI				

Club Reports



Tex, SASS #4

A PAIR OF JEWELS

By Tex, SASS #4

Comancheria Days

Whatever you may think of Texas—hot, humid, dry, or dusty—you’re missing the mark by a long shot. Texas in the springtime is *gorgeous*! The landscape is emerald green for as far as one can see and the gold and yellow wild flowers and Texas Bluebonnets are in full bloom!

Cat Ballou (SASS #55) and I recently attended two April matches in central Texas—Comancheria Days and the Battle of Plum Creek. The drive out for the first match early in April was particularly beautiful. Starting in Ft. Stockton in far west Texas, the flowers were just beginning to bloom and were bursting with bright, vibrant colors. The bright colors against the green background were breathtaking.

During our last several trips to Texas we have pursued our quest to visit as many of the *(Continued on next page)*



In addition to the Cowboy Action match, Comancheria Days offered a dandy three-stage Wild Bunch Match. Match Director, Shooting Iron Miller (SASS #85140) is seen here executing a mag change on the run.



One immediately begins to drift back into the Texas Frontier Days upon arriving at the Comancheria Days Headquarters.



Several Old West entertainers were on hand for the crowd's viewing pleasure. Pistol Packin' Paula's gun spinning and cowboy rope work were the main attractions.



The historic Stielers ranch provides a beautiful range setting. The stages with their excellent props are all set in among the live oak trees.

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A Pair Of Jewels . . .

(Continued from previous page)

old Texas Frontier Forts as possible. There were three lines of frontier forts, all for the purpose of defending the frontier against the Comanche. These forts tell the story of how Texas and the United States won the West from the Indians.

Appropriately, both matches provided history lessons and made the story of the Anglo's struggle with the

Comanche come alive.

Comancheria Days is held on the Stieler Ranch some ten miles south of Fredericksburg, TX. Incidentally, Fredericksburg was the westernmost settlement when it was first established by German immigrants and had its own treaty with the Comanche, which was never broken by either side. The Stieler Ranch was founded in the late 1800s and is situated on the tallest hill

(Continued on page 32)

Battle of Plum Creek



The Judge "held court" on the hotel's front porch. Many SASS competitors had a chance to drop by and meet the Judge, and some even received a trading card from SASS #1.



All of the prop buildings on the Agarita Ranch are "3-D" buildings. There are even "rooms for rent" on the second floor.



This is the first floor hotel saloon, complete with tin ceiling! It often plays host to ranch visitors.



The stages were all set in or behind the range buildings and in among the Texas oaks. Cat Ballou is seen here in training for the upcoming International Blackpowder Championships in Indiana.

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A Pair Of Jewels . . .

(Continued from page 31)

in Kerr County. Adolf Stieler ranched more than 60,000 goats on his holdings. The ranch's wooded hills and wonderful stage façades take the shooter back to Comancheria Days.

The Comancheria was a time and place in the West. It extended from central and south Texas to the eastern slope of the Rockies and north half way through Colorado and Kansas. It was home to the Comanche—the undisputed Lords of the Plains. The plains became the domain of the Comanche after they forced the Apache further west into New Mexico and lasted until Ranald Mckenzie defeated the Comanche in the Red River Wars and forced them onto the reservation in Ft. Sill, OK.

The second match, Battle of Plum Creek, commemorates a turning point battle between the Anglos and the Comanche. It all started in San Antonio during the 1840 Council House treaty negotiations designed to have white captives (women and children) returned to their families. The Indians were hoping to have some guarantees regarding their access to parts of the Comancheria being overrun by white settlers.

The Indians brought a Mexican boy and a young lady, Matilda Lockhart, who had been tortured and mutilated (her nose had been burnt off) to be returned to her family. When asked about the other captives, the Indians said they were dispersed among other groups, and they didn't have them. Matilda told the Texans the Indians were lying. The Texans immediately took the Indian chiefs prisoner with instructions to send one of their women back to camp demanding the return of the captives. Also, if the captives were hurt in any way, the Indian prisoners and their families would be killed.

The chiefs immediately drew their knives and tried to fight their way to freedom. The Texans shot the chiefs and over the next several hours gathered up the Indian families that had accompanied them to the council. The Indians in camp reacted badly. They roasted and butchered their captives and left for the Llano to mourn their dead.

Buffalo Hump (yes, the chief forgotten to history but resurrected in *Lonesome Dove*) put together a sizeable revenge raiding party intent on raiding all the way from the Llano to the sea and back again. And, they did. On the way back they were pushing more than 2000 horses, mules, and cattle and were decked out in fancy “eastern” high hats, frock coats, and women’s dresses they had looted from the seaside warehouses. Unfortunately for them, they headed straight north back through “civilized” Texas and met their demise.

Some 200 Texans ambushed the Indian raiders as they crossed Plum Creek and emerged onto Comanche Flats. There was a running gun battle for nearly 30 miles where 80 Comanche were killed with the loss of only one Texan. Most, but not all the livestock, was recovered as well.

This blow was so devastating to the Comanche they never recovered the strength to raid into the “civilized” portions of Texas again. However, the Comanche did remain a formidable force until defeated in the Red River Wars in the 1870s.

Plum Creek runs next to Lockhart, TX and Comanche Flats is a large tabletop flat area on the southeast side of Lockhart. The running battle flowed right through the middle of the Agarita Ranch, site of the SASS State Championship match!

The Agarita Ranch, like the Stieler Ranch, has an Old West ambiance with big trees and wonderful stage props. These props are all “3-D” buildings and some can even be rented by match shooters who wish to spend their nights on the ranch!

Both matches offered excellent stages, shootable targets, simple scenarios, and marvelous hospitality. If you have not had an opportunity to shoot these matches—you should! You won't be disappointed. 🤠

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Club Reports



*Palaver Pete,
SASS Life/Regulator #4375*

WINGING IT!

Pine Mountain Posse June Match

By Palaver Pete, SASS #4375

Bend, OR. A bluebird landed on one of the rifle targets just as GDub (SASS #98435) squeezed the trigger. The end was quick for the bluebird, but thinking she hit the bird and not the target, GDub shot the target again, thus drawing a 10 second procedural penalty. Posse members were quick to console GDub,



*GDub draws revolver as she makes her rifle safe.
Great transition!*



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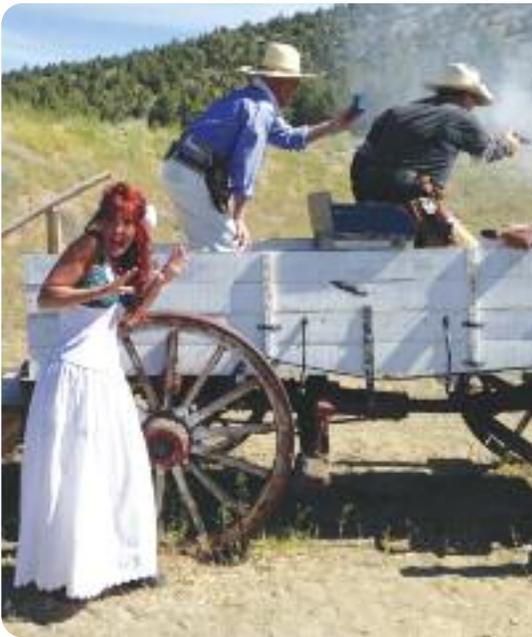
who naturally felt bad about the bird's untimely demise. Nothing has been heard from the bluebird family, but GDub was quick to consult the defense attorney listings in the event the bird family decides to pursue the case further. Other than that, GDub had a good weekend of shooting by winning her category on both Saturday and Sunday. She did all this while assisting Diamond Willow (SASS #37688) in keeping score for the entire posse—thanks ladies!

Sunrise Bill (SASS #64301) and Tetherow Tex LaRue (SASS #90999) designed the stages for both days, drawing approval from 16 Shooters on Saturday and 19 on Sunday. Five stages were shot on each day, making for a very enjoyable weekend for everyone but the birds. Like GDub, Sunrise Bill won his category on both days, as did Whisperin' Wade (SASS #36209), The Legend (SASS #36069), Deadwood Pete (SASS #57450), Stonewood Kid (SASS #62875), Sierra Sage Sue (SASS #57487), Pepper G

(Continued on next page)

WINGING IT! • Pine Mountain Posse June Match . . .

(Continued from previous page)



Amber Rose, (SASS #91120) lets out a shriek as Sunrise Bill cuts-loose with his black powder rounds. Palaver Pete timing.

(SASS #89336), Arctic Annie (SASS #37265), and Tetherow Tex LaRue. On Saturday, visiting shooter Chandelier (SASS #86146) won the Lady Wrangler category with a very commendable time of 26.02 seconds on Stage 5. Competition was a bit tougher in the Elder Statesman Category, Shevlin Kid (SASS #72550) took first place. And Isaac Scrambler Day (SASS #19637) won top honors in the in the Gunfighter Category.

Hoss Reese (SASS #88815) decided to try some black powder shooting on day two, and although he was top Wrangler on Saturday, he had to be content with second place on Sunday. This writer was left with the impression that Hoss will stick with smokeless in the future. On Sunday, Cascades Annie (SASS #70533) and Silver Sage Outlaw (SASS #70532) joined in the fun by winning their respective categories (Lady Senior and Classic Cowboy). As usual, we thank the ladies, who put on quite a spread for Sunday's match. Hamburgers, shredded meat, salad, and much more was all served up to the hungry participants. Thanks to Diamond Willow, Sierra Sage Sue, Cascades Annie, Arctic Annie, and anyone I may happen to miss. We may not always say it, but we are always thinking it: THANK YOU!

To view overall scores and information about upcoming events, be sure to visit the PMP Website at: www.pinemountainposse.com/ you're a Daisy if ya do. PP.

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The Wild Bunch Corner

THE Wild Bunch Reaches NEW HAMPSHIRE

By Dakota Joe, SASS #3471 Life/Regulator

The first official Wild Bunch match in New Hampshire is in the history books. Prior to this year, Wild Bunch Action Shooting has only been offered only as a side event at State and Regional SASS Championships.

The May 2 match, sponsored by the Pemi-Valley Peacemakers and held on the grounds of the Pemigewasset Fish & Game Club in Holderness, New Hampshire, marks the beginning of Wild Bunch Shooting in the state.

There is a growing interest in competing with the firearms featured in the classic film, *The Wild Bunch*. As a result of this interest, Match Director Dakota Joe expanded the offering of categories to attract more shooters. Following the example set by the Circle K Regulators of Ballston Spa, New York, categories allowing the use of smaller caliber cowboy rifles were included and called Rough Riders. An additional category was added to allow shooters to use other period firearms to compete. All firearms were shot following SASS Wild Bunch Rules and Conventions.

Ten intrepid soles gathered the morning of May 2, 2015 in the action bays of the club to confront six stages of what was hoped to be some fun and challenging shooting scenarios. The group represented Wild Bunch, Rough



Left to Right: Wild Bunch Posse includes, Black Jack Daniels (SASS #76541), The Lazarus Man (SASS #10662), Doc Savage (SASS #76749), Six Shot Steve (SASS #66105), Crystal Creek Chris (SASS #64500), Dillon Van Cleef (SASS #100853), Dakota Joe (SASS #3471), Callous Clyde (SASS #4677) and Deadly Doc (SASS #36890). Missing from the picture is Dead Head (SASS #29768), who took the photograph.

Rider and “Outlaw” competitors, armed with 1911-style .45s, 1917 .45 caliber revolvers, ‘97 shotguns, lever action Winchesters, and bolt-action Springfield and Krag rifles. After a Safety Meeting that extensively reviewed specific Wild Bunch Rules and Conventions, the participants were eager to start.

Typically, there were two to three pistol magazine changes, six knockdown shotgun targets, and two stages included smaller (12-inch sized) knockdown pistol targets.

Stages One and Two were based on a scenario shamelessly borrowed and modified from the 2014 END OF TRAIL Wild Bunch World Championship, while Stages Three through Six were of original design

(Continued on next page)

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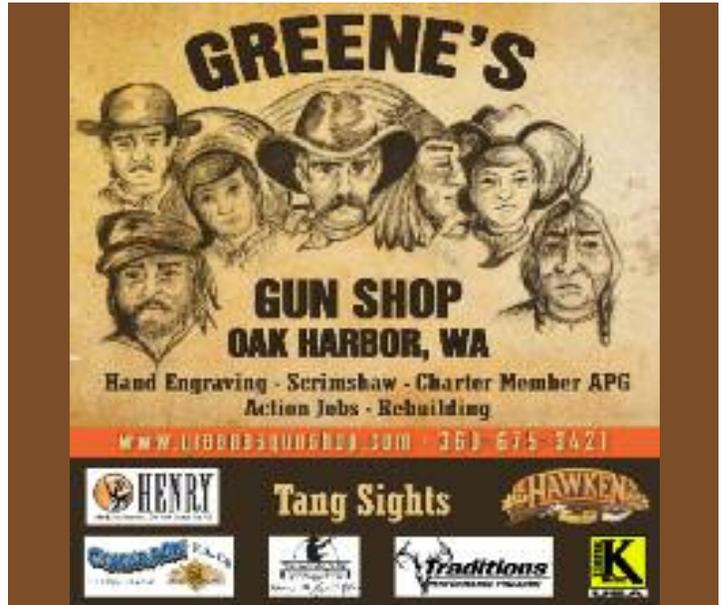
The Wild Bunch Reaches NEW HAMPSHIRE . . .

(Continued from previous page)

with titles like “You’ve Got to be Kidding,” “The Day’s Not Over Yet,” “It’s Just Another Bank,” and “We Need More Money!” Unique features written into the match included a circle arrangement of pistol and rifle targets, movement with the shotgun to engage targets, and a combination of stationary and knockdown pistol targets. Following is an example of a typical stage that included lots of movement and reactive targets. Competitors followed this action sequence using rifle, pistol, and shotgun:

Start standing at the window, hands on the sill. When ready, you say, “Is this all that there is?” At the signal, engage the pistol knock-down targets through the window. Then, engage the stationary pistol targets in two sweeps. Make the pistol safe. Move to the inside doorway, retrieve the shotgun and engage the shotgun targets. Make the shotgun safe. Move to and retrieve the rifle, then engage the targets in a 2-1-1-2 sweep. Make rifle safe. Move back to the pistol and after being cleared by the RO, retrieve the shotgun and rifle and move to the unloading table.

At the end of the day, everyone was exhausted, elated, and thoroughly pleased with this first Wild Bunch of the season. The Traditional Category winner was Callous Clyde, and the Modern Category winner was Doc Savage. The Peacemakers are planning two more matches this season in preparation for what we hope will be the first NH State Championship Wild Bunch Match in 2016. 🤠



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

Guns & Gear

DISPATCHES FROM CAMP BAYLOR

By Captain George Baylor, SASS #24287 Life / Regulator

Polymer Coated Bullets

SASS has a casual dress code for bullets: no jackets. We shoot at steel targets at close range. Jackets can separate and bounce back and cut with sharp edges. So for a long time naked lead bullets ruled.

Now several bullet companies have begun using a unique heat-set "HI-TEK Supercoat" manufactured by J&M Specialized Products P/L in Australia where it has been used for more than 20

years. The Hi-Tek Supercoat Bullet Coating totally encapsulates the lead projectiles and replaces standard wax lube. It is also available to home-casters in kit form.

From whom to buy?

We are blessed with a lot of bullet makers for Cowboy Action Shooting™ bullets. Some are one man or mom and pop stores. Some are fairly large businesses. I've bought from several manufacturers and still use more than one. I look for a seller that:

A. Has an online shop so I can order any time I'm thinking about it.

B. Has the bullets I'm looking for (requirements for .38-55 bullets for Plainsman are quite different from .45 ACP for Wild Bunch).



When I load Lead bullets, I wear nitrile gloves to minimize lead exposure. This isn't necessary with coated bullets.

C. Uses foundry lead and specifies the Brinell hardness of their bullets.

D. Has competitive prices.

E. Ships in a timely manner, well packed to survive gorilla package mishandlers.

I sometimes work on "just in time" delivery. I always have a back up or two in case one dealer gets behind the curve because some idiot in Washington just scared every shooter in America into hoarding everything shooting related. Gee, that couldn't happen, could it?

(Continued on next page)



SNS Casting 105-grain .358 diameter Coated bullets.

Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

(Continued from previous page)



Loading 105-grain bullets on Dillon XL650.

For this test, I contacted a long-time Cowboy Action Shooting™ bullet supplier, S N S Casting. They have a wide selection of bullets. So I was able to test five bullets suitable for Cowboy Action Shooting™ or Wild Bunch Action Shooting.

Copper Colored

Their bullets are copper colored. Some companies are using other colors. If you see pink, red, or blue bullets at the loading table, you probably won't be asking if they're legal bullets. If you see copper, you might. So S N S asked Hipshot (SASS #7) about it. His reply:

“Revolver and rifle ammunition may not be jacketed, semi-jacketed, plated, gas checked, or copper washed. It must be all lead. molybdenum disulfide, polymer coated bullets, or equivalent are acceptable.” Shooters Handbook 2014 p.12

There is no mention of color, therefore anyone using a METALLIC-colored (gold, brass, copper, silver, etc) coated bullet would be subject to inspection at the load-

ing table to insure that he/she is not using plated/jacketed ammo.

So, they're SASS legal, and the answer, “Poly Coated” should satisfy the loading table monitor. You probably won't be the only one in the posse using some sort of coated bullets. There are companies selling red, pink, and blue-coated bullets. **The home kit sold**

by Missouri Bullet Co. comes in brown copper, red copper, and Zombie Green (I am not making this up). Getting, say, red bullets for one load and copper colored for another is not unreasonable.

Claims and Results

Claim—“There is no more wax lube to get into your reloading dies.” Result—This I found to be true. Where I have to stop and clean the seating and crimping dies every few hundred rounds with lead bullets with smokeless lube, the dies remained clean with coated bullets.

Claim—“There is significantly less smoke than standard cast bullets.” Result—The smokeless loads tested supported the claim, and that is an important characteristic at a lot of ranges with bad sidelight.

Note: Not for “Wholly” Black Powder

I tested these bullets with smokeless powder and American Pioneer Powder, a black powder substitute, not “wholly” black

(Continued on page 40)



Loaded 105-grain ammunition.

Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

(Continued from page 39)

powder. Black Powder and the substitute Pyrodex need black powder lubed bullets. Black powder lube will keep the fouling soft. Otherwise it will be hard, and the gun will “foul out.” This is definitely true with rifles. The longer the barrel, the faster the gun fouls out. American Pioneer Powder does not have hard fouling with smokeless lubes or even bullets with no lube. I couldn’t tell the difference in smoke between APP loads with lead bullets and the same load with coated bullets.

Claim—“Lead fouling is drastically minimized with this advanced coating material.” Result—I haven’t gotten much lead fouling over the years, but, as expected, none with these.

Claim—“Shoot higher veloci-



Loading coated .45 ACP 230-grain RN bullets.

ties without lead fouling. We recommend 1,500 fps or less (1,750 fps in rifles).” Result—All of my test loads were below 1,000 fps, so I didn’t test this.

Claim—“The end result is a cleaner reloading and shooting experience. Your hands, guns/barrels and loaders will all be cleaner and easier to maintain.” Result—I can’t argue with any of that.

Claim—“One great reason to consider using them for cowboy action shooting is a number of people have noticed less lead splatter with our coated bullets than with traditional bare lead bullets. An added bonus!” Result—I didn’t experience any noticeable lead splatter, and the recovered lead, identifiable by traces of the coating, seemed to be in full bullet globs. They can still bounce back, but generally fragments, moving at higher speed, are dangerous,

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while full bullets are slow enough to just be annoying. Your mileage may vary. You still need wrap around eye protection.

Loading instructions

“Load the coated bullets the same way you would a lead bullet, with lead data.

“Be sure that you have enough flare on the case mouth when seating the bullet or the coating may be scraped off, causing performance issues.

“Also be sure you are not over-crimping as this will cause accuracy and leading issues.”

105-grain TCFP .38/.357 bullet

This bullet design is one of the most popular in SASS. It feeds in 66/73s smoothly if loaded with the crimp in the crimping groove (1.450"-1.455").

(Continued on page 42)



Loading 125-grain FP bullets. Note the case mouth has been belled just enough for the round to sit inside the mouth.

This prevents the mouth from gouging into the bullet on seating.



147-grain FP bullets have no crimp groove, adding to their versatility. OAL can be adjusted to suit your rifle.



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Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

(Continued from page 40)

I started with freshly cleaned seating and crimping dies, which get clogged with bullet lube after a few hundred rounds with lead bullets. Once you switch to these bullets, you don't have to clean bullet lube off these dies again. When loading lead bullets, after 300 rounds or so the O.A.L. (overall length) begins to change slightly. The bullet will seat deeper, and it's time to clean the dies. With coated bullets, once the O.A.L. is set, you don't have to re-adjust. I still check O.A.L. periodically, but with all of the bullets tested, it never varied.

Blood Lead Levels

As mentioned in previous *Dispatches*, I have higher than normal lead blood levels from years of shooting and reloading actively. One of the reasons I tried these bullets is to lower that number. The bullets are fully coated, so there is no lead exposure in loading or shooting. If all of your fired brass was used with these, there will be little or no lead exposure in cleaning that brass, but, of course, you don't always get your own brass back, so using wet cleaning methods is still a good idea. Anyway, it results in cleaner, shinier brass.

125-grain TCFP .38/.357 bullets

This is another good Cowboy Action Shooting™ bullet. The 125-grain lead TCFP is a very popular all around bullet. Low recoil loads can be made, and a

Firearm	Cal	Barrel	Bul.Wt	Coating	Vel	PowerFac
Rug. Vaq.	38 Sp	4.375	105	Lead	757	79.5
Rug. Vaq.	38 Sp	4.375	105	Coated	787	82.6
Rug. Vaq.	38 Sp	4.375	125	Lead	731	91.4
Rug. Vaq.	38 Sp	4.375	125	Coated	750	93.8
Rug. Vaq.	38 Sp	4.375	147	Coated	685	98.2
Taylor's 73	38 Sp	18.5	105	Lead	916	96.8
Taylor's 73	38 Sp	18.5	105	Coated	845	88.7
Taylor's 73	38 Sp	18.5	125	Lead	907	113.4
Taylor's 73	38 Sp	18.5	125	Coated	902	112.8
Taylor's 73	38 Sp	18.5	147	Coated	859	126.3
Colt 1911A1	45 ACP	5	230	Lead	688	158.2
Colt 1911A1	45 ACP	5	230	Coated	676	155.9
Cimarron 73	45 Colt	19	200	Lead	833	166.6
Cimarron 73	45 Colt	19	200	Coated	874	174.9

Condensed results of the chronograph session shows most of the time the velocity differences between lead and coated are small, but if you are loading close to the "legal minimum," chronograph your loads before using in competition.

SASS power factor is 60.

WBAS power factor is 150.



Completed 147-grain round and bullet.

heavier bullet for knockdowns is strictly optional. It is an exceptionally accurate load at Cowboy Action Shooting™ ranges, as well. Little or no adjustment of the seating die is necessary when switching from 105 to 125 gr. bullets.

147-grain FP .38/.357 bullets

For loads to stop a charging Buick or a plate rack I chose the 147-grain FP. It's long with a narrow flat point and feeds smoothly in my 73s. The bullets are smooth with no lube groove, so overall length is up to you. I picked 1.500." There is a minimum length because of the shell lifter. The cartridge must be long enough to keep the next round from sticking out into the shell lifter, which locks up the gun.

In any case, the 147s worked fine in my rifles and my Vaqueros. Knockdowns went down solidly. I didn't test in a Marlin .357. They're notoriously finicky about overall length. These bullets look very promising to be loaded to work in stock Marlins using .38 special brass.

230-grain RN .45 ACP bullets

I use 230-grain Round Nose bullets for Wild Bunch, so I chose these. Several .45 ACP bullets are available. This is not the same bullet mold as their LRN 230-grain bullet, which has a lube groove and an edge at the point where the case mouth should go. This bullet is the same shape as jacketed .45 ACP bullets and can be loaded to the length of your choice. I used 1.275" because that's the book specification for a 230-grain FMJ. I checked other manufacturers, and all I found used the same mold as they had for lead 230-grain .45 bullets. I liked the FMJ-like shape of these bullets. They work flawlessly in my Wild Bunch 1911s, as expected. S N S has invested in several molds without lube grooves optimized for poly-coated bullets.

(Continued on page 44)

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Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

(Continued from page 42)

200-grain RNFP .45 Colt bullets

These are the same bullet mold that is used for lead 200-grain RNFP .45 Colt bullets. I will note that these have a crimp groove appropriate for the roll crimp of the .45 Colt. They could be used in .45 ACP, but .45 ACP uses a light taper crimp. Do not crimp the case mouth too tight. This is important because the .45 ACP headspaces on the case mouth. The magic number is 0.473. Bigger than that can impede feeding, and much smaller will prevent headspacing, and the round will, in effect, headspace on the rim. This is not beneficial for accuracy.

Chrono Results

The chart distills three hours of chrono testing into as small a chart as practical. Are coated bullets



Coated 230-grain RN vs. lead 230-grain RN in loaded ammunition.

faster or slower than lead bullets? Yes.

Okay, I'll explain. Sometimes they're faster. Sometimes they're slower. If you're shooting Wild Bunch, with its 150 minimum power factor, TEST YOUR LOAD IN

YOUR GUN. 149.9 equals a match disqualification. I tested the loads in two different 1911s. They varied.

The .38s are all 11-grain (weight) American Pioneer Powder Premium Grade. The smokeless loads used 3.9-grain WST for .45 ACP and 6.8-grain Tin Star in .45 Colt. The same load was used in comparable lead and coated bullets. Altitude and temperature both alter velocities. These were obtained at Founders Ranch, which is almost 7000 feet, and the temperature was a high of 60°F.

Costs

SNS sells 125-grain Lead TCFP for \$64/1000, coated \$68/1000, a 6.25% premium. The 200-grain LRNFP is \$85/1000, while the coated equivalent is \$97/1000, a 14% premium. The 230-grain LRN is \$92/1000, while the

(Continued on next page)



Comparison of 200-grain LRNFP and 200-grain coated RNFP in loaded ammunition.



Crimping die after loading 300 lead bullets—needs to be cleaned to remove bullet lube.

Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

(Continued from previous page)



Crimping die after loading 500 coated bullets.

coated is \$105/1000, also a 14% premium.

These costs seem reasonable considering the advantages of the coated bullets, especially the lowered lead contact and cleanliness when loading. As a result of this testing my plan is to use coated bullets extensively. 🐾



Chronograph testing used an Oehler 35P Printing Chronograph. The tape tells the tale.

A lot of rounds were chronographed that day.

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History

THE *Sultana* DISASTER



By Big Dave, SASS #55632



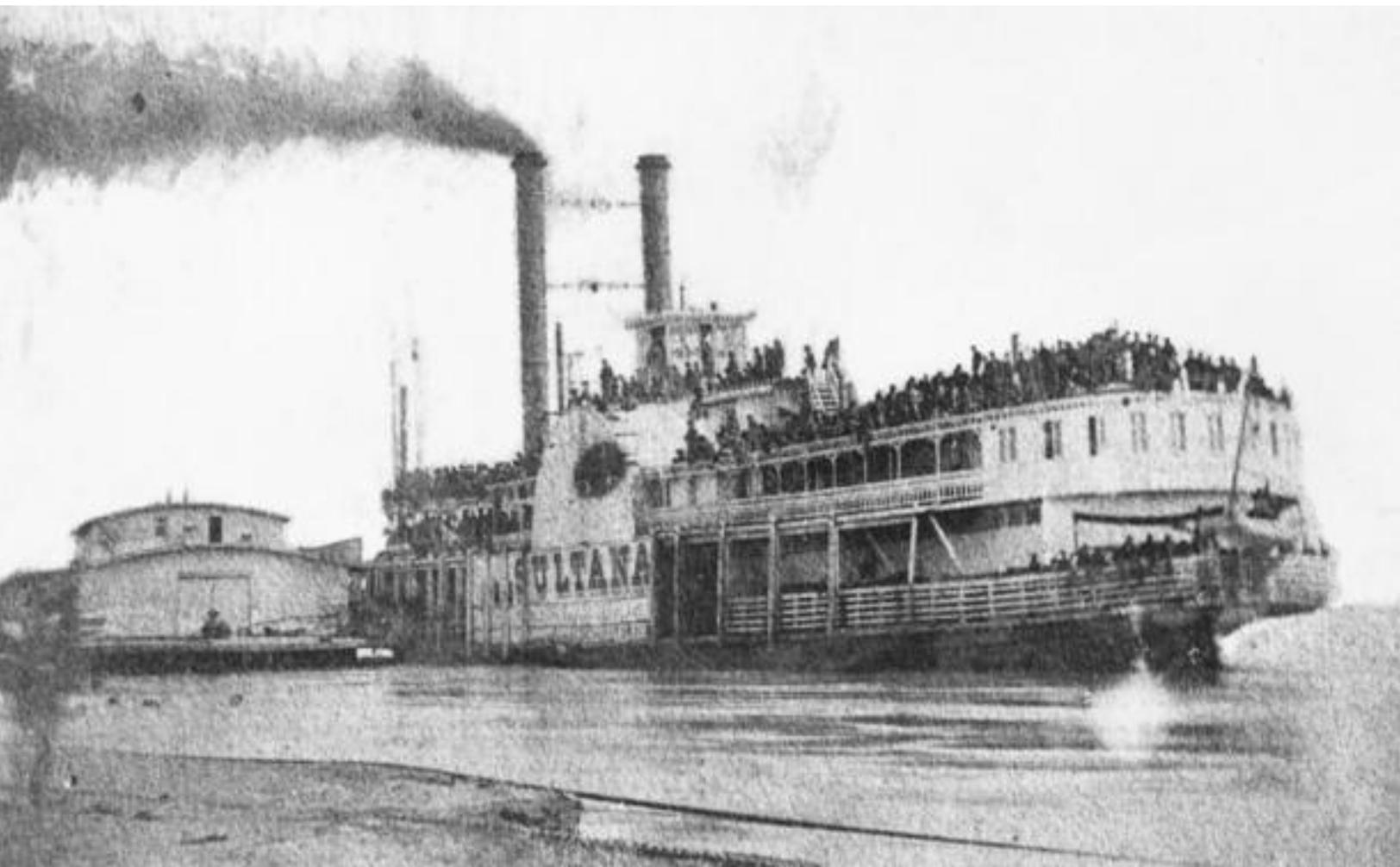
Big Dave, SASS #55632

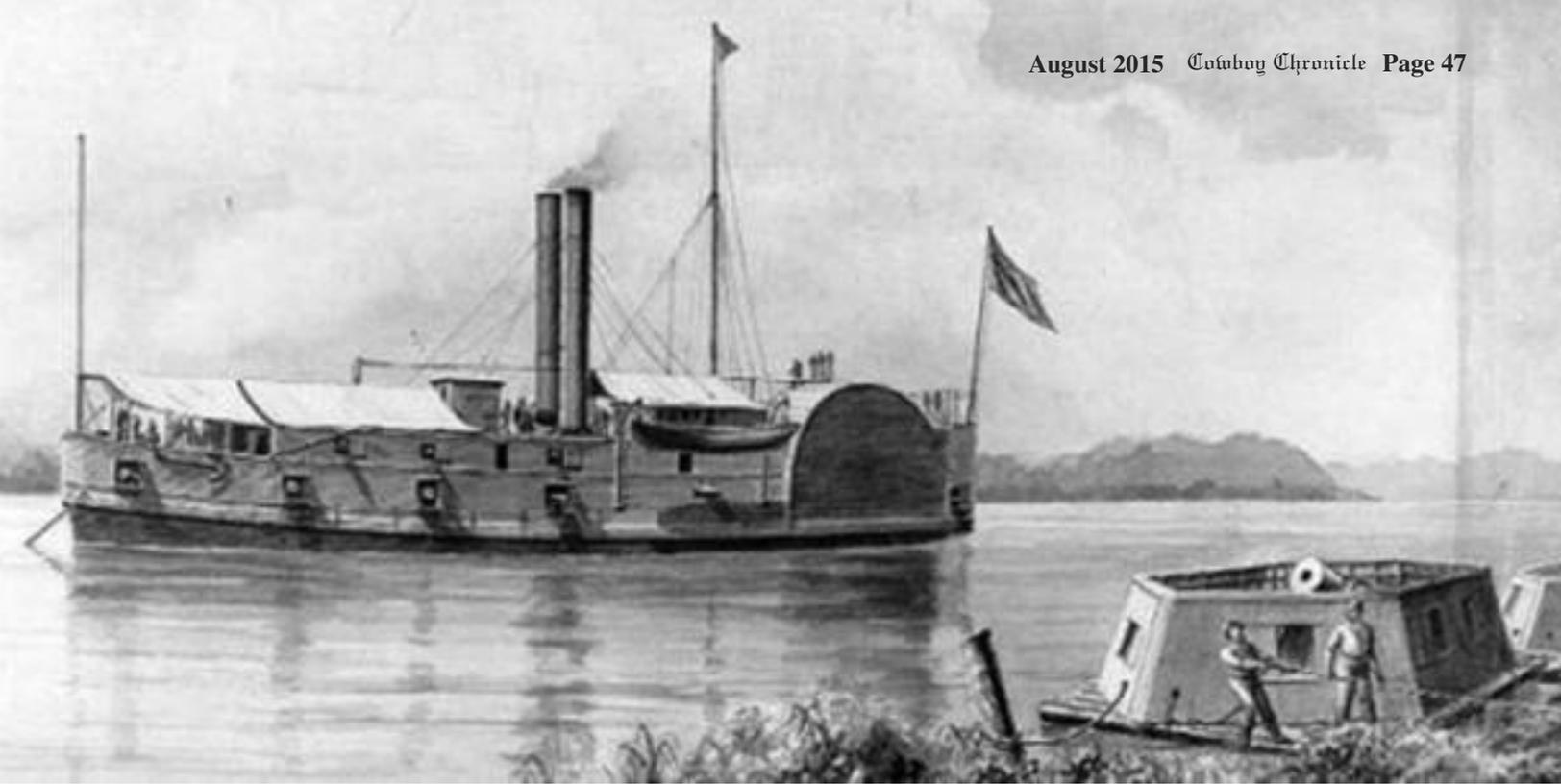
Imagine having survived combat, being taken prisoner, and confinement in a squalid Confederate prison camp (like Andersonville). Then you board a steamboat that is going to finally take you home, and the thing explodes and burns to the waterline. This very thing happened to about 2,000 Union soldiers in the early morning of April 27, 1865. The sinking of the *Sultana*, the aforementioned steamboat, is still the worst maritime disaster in American History. All told, about 1,800 people died in this incident. The death toll tops even the much more famous sinking

of the *Titanic* in 1912.

The death toll is so high because the ship was overloaded to a level that almost defies the imagination. The *Sultana's* legal capacity was 376 passengers, but the steamboat had about 2,300 people aboard her when the boilers blew. The overcrowding was one of the leading factors of the disaster. It put an additional strain on the boilers, one of which was faulty and had been hastily repaired. In addition, the Mississippi River, upon which the *Sultana* was trav-

(Continued on next page)





The Sultana Disaster . . .

(Continued from previous page)

eling upriver, was flooded to record levels. The *Sultana* disaster was the culmination of a seriously flawed chain of events.

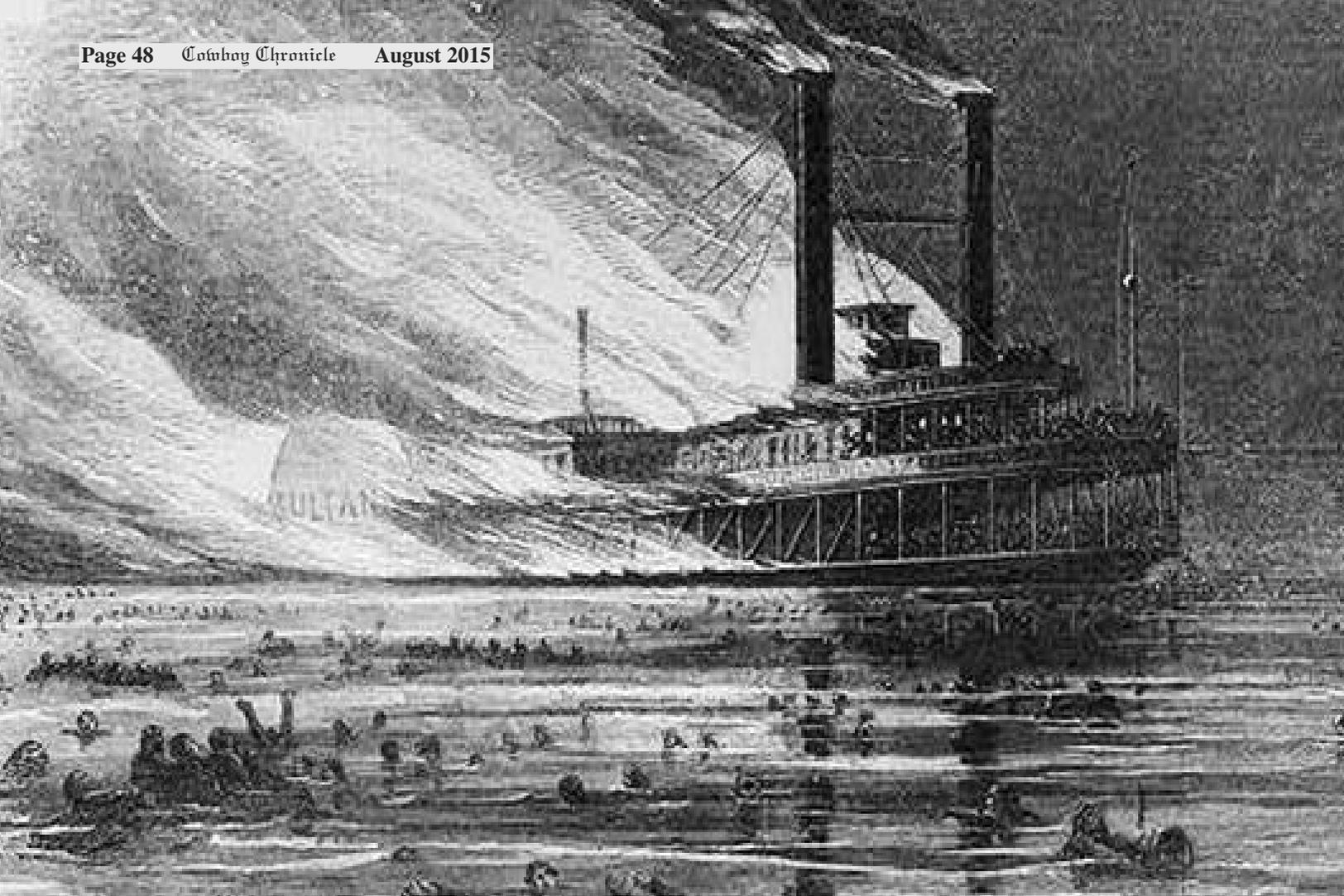
The steamboat's captain, J. Cass Mason, had stopped off in Vicksburg on the way from Cairo, Illinois to New Orleans, where he met the Vicksburg Quartermaster, Lt. Colonel Reuben Hatch. Hatch suggested that on the return trip, Mason take on board a number of recently paroled Union POWs. Since the war had ended less than two weeks before, the Union government was anxious to get these men home to their families. Thus, the government would pay \$5.00 for every enlisted man and \$10.00 for every officer who was transported northward. Hatch promised Captain Mason a kickback if he agreed to take on as many former prisoners as possible. Mason agreed.

The *Sultana* went down to New Orleans and began the return trip on April 21. Not far from Vicksburg, one of the *Sultana's* boilers began to leak. The leak was repaired with a temporary patch since Mason didn't want any delays. He was concerned that if the leak was subjected to a thorough repair, it would take too much time and another steamboat would pick up the POWs. There was, after all, a fair amount of money at stake. \$1.00 in 1865 was worth about \$15.00 in today's currency. A boatload of former POWs would bring in a pretty good return.

The repair, intended as only a quick fix, might have sufficed if the ship hadn't been crammed with men. Originally, the *Sultana* was supposed to transport about 1,400 men, but due to a mix-up, or more likely bribery, the boat was loaded with more than 2,000 former POWs. In addition, it had about three hundred passengers and crew already on board. This would have strained the boilers of a much larger vessel, but one can imagine what it meant to a relatively small boat like the *Sultana*, with an already damaged boiler. Moreover, the river was high that year and the *Sultana* would be battling a stronger than normal current.

In the early morning of April 27, just north of Memphis, one of the boilers exploded. Two more explosions quickly followed that explosion. Some of the passengers were instantly killed and others were flung

(Continued on page 48)



The Sultana Disaster . . .

(Continued from page 47)

into the river. Then part of the deck collapsed into the furnaces and the *Sultana* caught fire.

Those who weren't killed by the explosions or burned to death began to jump into the river, but many of them, after months in prison camps like Andersonville in Georgia, or Cahaba in Alabama, weren't strong enough to swim to safety. A large number of them drowned. Since the ship had only 76 life preservers on board and only two small lifeboats, the only escape was to try to swim for it.

At about 3:00 a.m., another steamboat, the *Bostonia II*, came within view of the disaster and began to rescue the survivors. Not long afterward, a Union gunboat, the *Tyler* joined in. People on both sides of the river began to help. Interestingly, some of the rescuers had been Confederate soldiers who would have been shooting at the *Sultana* if they'd had it in their sights a few weeks before.

About 500 of the survivors were placed in hospitals, but a large number of them didn't live very long. They were too badly burned or scalded. It is estimated that

all told, about 1,800 people who had been aboard the *Sultana* died. Captain Mason was among the dead.

The Army conducted an investigation and a trial, but nothing really came of it. Captain Mason was dead and couldn't be held accountable. Colonel Reuben Hatch, the Vicksburg Quartermaster, was the logical person to prosecute since he had been involved at the tragedy's inception. It was Hatch who came up with the idea to cram the *Sultana* with as many men as possible in order to turn a profit. As it turned out, he had just happened to resign his commission and couldn't be tried in a military court. In addition, Colonel Hatch had some excellent connections in Washington who could shield him from any official culpability.

Nevertheless, a scapegoat had to be located and that person turned out to be Captain Frederick Speed. Speed was the officer in charge of the parole camp that sent the former prisoners to Vicksburg in order to board the *Sultana*, so he was charged with overcrowding the vessel. Found guilty by a military

(Continued on next page)

The Sultana Disaster . . .

(Continued from previous page)

court, Speed's conviction was overturned on the grounds that he wasn't present in Vicksburg when the soldiers were packed aboard the ship. It wouldn't have served the cause of justice to convict Speed; he really wasn't the cause of the tragedy. In the end, nobody was officially punished for involvement in the disaster.

Americans weren't really interested in the *Sultana* incident in April and May 1865. The bloodiest conflict in U.S. history had just ended. An explosion and fire aboard a steamboat was, sadly enough, rather tame news compared to the carnage of battles like Antietam, Gettysburg, or Spotsylvania. On April 15, less than two weeks before the *Sultana's* boilers blew, Abraham Lincoln was killed. John Wilkes Booth, Lincoln's assassin, was shot and killed the day before the *Sultana* tragedy occurred. Most newspapers were more concerned with events centered on the death of the President.

The National *Sultana* Survivors Association was formed in 1885 and continued to meet for the next several decades. There was a chapter of the organization that met in Knoxville, Tennessee until 1929 when it

held its last meeting with only two members present. Both men were well into their eighties at the time. Except in the minds of these two aging survivors, the *Sultana* tragedy had all but faded from memory. Few people know about it today, but it remains the worst disaster in American maritime history.

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History



Joe Fasthorse,
SASS #48769

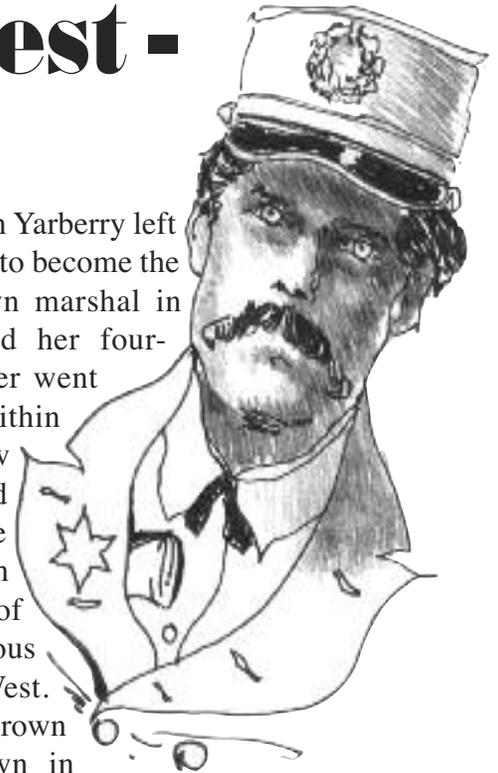
LITTLE KNOWN FAMOUS PEOPLE

- Way Out West -

By Joe Fasthorse, SASS #48769

Milton J. Yarberry was born John Armstrong in 1849 in Arkansas. After killing a man in 1869, he left his original family and changed his name to Yarberry. In 1873, he killed another man and beat a hasty retreat to Missouri, where he rode with outlaw gunmen Dave Rudabaugh and “Mysterious” Dave Mather. In 1875 Yarberry settled in Texarkana, Arkansas but soon killed a bounty hunter and turned tail for Texas to join the Texas Rangers. In 1876 Milton quit the Rangers and opened a saloon in Decatur, Texas. When another busybody bounty hunter showed up, Yarberry shot him dead and left Texas. He headed for Canon City, Colorado, opening a saloon there with partner Tony Preston. In 1879 he sold out to Preston and started a brothel in Las Vegas, New Mexico. Again, Yarberry was forced to sell out after killing a man over a prostitute. He moved to San Marciel, New Mexico, the town in which Tony Preston had recently settled. He promptly started an affair with Preston’s

wife Sadie. When Yarberry left for Albuquerque to become the town’s first town marshal in 1880, Sadie and her four-year-old daughter went with him. Within days, the new marshal had killed two more men to establish himself as one of the most dangerous gunmen in the West. Gunman Harry Brown drifted into town in 1881. Soon he and Sadie became romantically involved. The couple was having dinner at Gerard’s Cafe when Yarberry appeared. Brown met him outside and the two began arguing. Brown hit Yarberry and pulled his pistol. He fired once and missed. The marshal fired and didn’t miss. He shot Brown twice in the chest, killing him instantly. Yarberry was acquitted on grounds of self-defense. Three weeks later, Yarberry killed again. While responding to a shooting incident at the Greenleaf Cafe, Yarberry shot and killed Charlie Campbell, the man he thought was responsible. Yarberry was arrested and tried for murder. At a time when New Mexico news stories of Billy the Kid’s outrageous exploits were rampant, the jury found Yarberry guilty and, to set an example, sentenced him to hang. On February 9, 1883, Yarberry was marched to the Gallows. More than 1,500 people watched the hanging. As Sheriff Perfecto Armijo pulled the lever, Yarberry proclaimed, “Gentlemen, you are hanging an innocent man.”



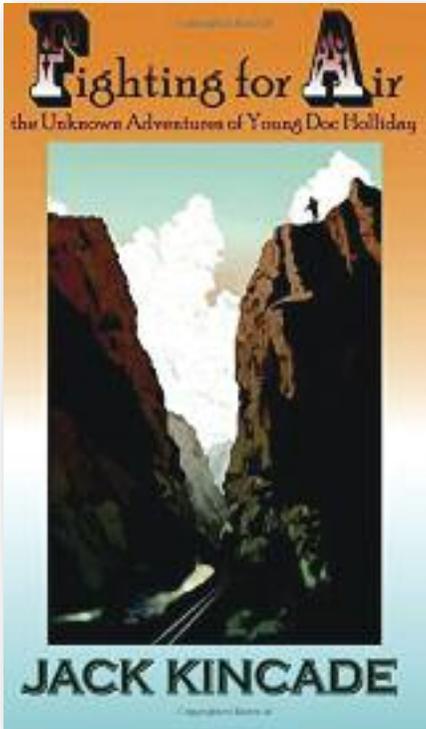
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Reviews Books



FIGHTING FOR AIR

FIGHTING FOR AIR

The Unknown Adventures of the Young Doc Holliday

By Jack Kincade

Reviewed By Michael Gutierrez

Fighting For Air is available online at Amazon:

http://www.amazon.com/Fighting-Air-Adventures-Young-Holliday/dp/1438214464/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1435942128&sr=1-1&keywords=fighting+for+air

I found *Fighting for Air—The Unknown Adventures of the Young Doc Holliday* an excellent and highly enjoyable read.

The well-paced story takes you through the life of Doc Holliday up to the point most people know him.

I really enjoyed the historical detail of the novel covering Holliday's experiences through the Civil War, the carpetbagger era in the South, and the boom of the U.S. as the country expanded westward in the later part of the 1800s.

Against this historical backdrop, the author does an outstanding job of getting inside the character of Doc Holliday to help understand the events and people in his life that created the man everyone knows mostly from the OK Corral.

The history-altering events that Holliday wit-

About the Author

Born in Fairbanks, Alaska into a career Air Force family, Jack Kincade grew up all across the face of this great country—from Beverly, Massachusetts to Twenty-Nine Palms, California; from Presque Isle, Maine to Albany, Georgia and everywhere in between—before serving four years in the Marine Corps. Winner of the UCLA Film School Jim Morrison Award, and Emmy Award Nominee in Sound, Kincade is currently the Supervising Sound Editor on AMC's new epic Western series, *Hell on Wheels*, Netflix's *Orange is the New Black*, and Fox's *New Girl*.

nesses are covered from his viewpoint and give a unique personal perspective into how these events affected both Holliday's course in life and individuals of this time period.

Yet the narrative never stops to digress into an extended history lesson. There are numerous well-drawn supporting characters, both historical and fictional, that come in and out of Holliday's life along the way. As with the events he experiences, the effects these people have in the choices Holliday makes in his life are fascinating.

Putting historical events and characters aside, the book is also a fun, rip-roaring, fast paced adventure! I would highly recommend this book to anyone looking for a well-crafted character driven story, historical fiction, or just a good read. 🐾

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Profiles

THE Great Folks of SASS Shine Once More

By Colonel Dan, SASS #24025



Colonel Dan, SASS Life/
Regulator #24025



Lil, Lori, and Sibby smile for the camera right after the follow-up exam for Lori's successful surgery.

We already know how caring and generous are the people drawn to SASS, as we've all heard many stories of outreach by ours to others. In that vein, I just had to report on this latest one by two of our own to someone outside of SASS, but who was in very real need since her early childhood.

Lori is a good friend of South-Paw Sibby, SASS #62914. They're both mothers involved in home schooling and have become close friends over the years. Since childhood, Lori has had an extremely debilitating case of lazy eye but never had the resources to properly correct it, as it would require eye surgery by a skilled ophthalmologist.

thalmologist.

Sibby also has another good friend of many years by the name of Dakota Lil, SASS# 13593, aka Dr Vivian Allen of Jacksonville, FL. Lil, as many around these parts know, is a very talented ophthalmologist, and she has operated on and treated Sibby for several years.

Well, Sibby and Lil got together and decided that Lori's condition would not continue untreated. Not surprisingly, the major stumbling block was the necessary money to fund the procedure. The surgery, the anesthesiologist, the surgery center, all mounted up to much more than Lori and her family could ever hope to afford—a

worthwhile challenge to overcome in the view of Sibby and Lil.

Lil immediately said she would donate all her time and talent and perform the surgery *pro bono*. That left only the surgery center, the anesthesiologist, and of course the post surgery prescriptions Lori would need.

Lil and Sibby went to work on all fronts, Sibby by starting a "Go Fund Me" account to collect donations, and Lil by approaching the surgery center and anesthesiologist.

Although the original cost was estimated at between \$5,000 and \$6,000, the funds collected amounted to only \$1,800. Lil unhesitatingly went to work with determination convincing the center and the anesthesiologist to reduce their costs to a point where the funds collected would meet the need.

Sibby and Lil's goal was met and on 17 June, Lori received her operation... but it didn't end there. The post-op examination required Lori and Sibby to spend the night in Jacksonville and see Lil the next morning. Lil generously opened her house to Sibby and Lori so they could stay with her overnight and save the cost of a hotel!

The report from Lil is Lori's operation was a grand success and her lazy eye is lazy no more. I'm personally extremely proud of

(Continued on next page)

The Great Folks of SASS Shine Once More . . .

(Continued from previous page)



Dakota Lil.

both Sibby and Lil for obvious reasons. Lil and her departed husband, Deadwood Jake, have been very good friends ever since I joined SASS more than 17 years ago. But I've known SouthPaw Sibby just a little longer... she's my first born daughter, the wife of Santa Fe River Stan (SASS #36999) and the mother of Dominator (SASS #62912), Little Livvy (SASS #82544), and Cracker Dan (SASS# 90287).

Once more, the great folks of SASS really shine, eh?!

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Profiles

2015 Scholarship Recipient

Callaway Kid, SASS #82862

Edited and Adapted by Justice Lily Kate, SASS #1000



Fulton, MO. Howdy ya'll! My name is Scott Strough, aka Callaway Kid. I shoot at the Moniteau Creek River Raiders which is located near Fulton, MO. I am beginning my Junior year at Westminster College in Fulton, where I am double majoring in sports management and sociology, as well as minoring in coaching.

I am currently playing tennis for Westminster College and I plan on continuing to work in the tennis industry after my completion of college as either a collegiate tennis coach or by going into management of tennis.

There have been numerous influential people in my life, many of whom have been the coaches and teachers who have guided me throughout my life.

The three tennis coaches I have had the privilege to work with through my years of playing the sport have taught me more than how to play a game. They have



taught me to believe in my own ability, to stand on a stage where everything is a result of my actions with no team to fall back on, and to compete with everything I have while still maintaining a

level of sportsmanship that has earned me countless friends on and off the court.

Apart from tennis, SASS has also been an influential part in my life. Shooting and shooting sports has been a part of my life since I was four or five years old.

I grew up hunting and competing, but mainly competing in just .22 target rifle competitions and sporting clay tournaments.

Back in 2008, Bev Lueckemeyer, aka Prairie Dawn (SASS #2963) convinced me to move into the Cowboy Action Shooting™ arena.

I instantly fell in love with the sport. SASS has given me an outlet to expand my shooting skills, as well as given me the opportunity to continue competing in the first sport I was taught.

SASS has also given me experiences and memories, and most importantly friends, that I will remember for the rest of my life. 🤠

SASS Scholarship
Help Educate Our Youth

The Supreme Court's Stance on The Second Amendment

By Callaway Kid, SASS #82862

Edited and Adapted by Justice Lily Kate, SASS #1000

“A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

This is the sentence that spurs so much debate, is responsible for millions of dollars being spent on lobbying efforts, and evokes almost unrivaled political upheaval within the United States today. There are few topics that are more red hot in the U.S. right now than the true meaning of the second amendment.

There has been little enthusiasm from the United States Supreme Court to tackle this issue head on and they have been reluctant to make any major decision on the issue in regards to the specific limitations of laws in which can or cannot be enacted by states as far as gun control is concerned. The last case heard in the Supreme Court was decided on June 28, 2010, which further backed the precedent set by the *Columbia v. Heller* case, in which the Supreme Court made a decision supporting the thesis that the Second Amendment does apply to the protection to the individual citizen. It was said during the 2010 case, “The Second Amendment protects a personal right to keep and bear arms for lawful purposes, most notably for self-defense within the home.” Although this is still a very vague

interpretation of the amendment, it was still a major victory for gun owners. I agree with the decisions by the Supreme Court to interpret the law as applying to individual protection, but I do believe it is



time for the Court to start laying down specific protections for citizens in regards to the limitation of state power in creating gun control laws.

Furthermore, I believe there are some limitations that should also be placed on citizens who own firearms. For example, I do agree with the Court's decision in the *United States v. Miller* case, where the use and ownership of sawed-off shotguns was made illegal. We, as responsible gun owners, need to realize we need to make smart, responsible decisions on how we choose to practice our rights to own and use firearms. We need to realize there are, in fact, some weapons, or tools, that are more of a danger to society

then they are an aid to it.

Overall, I do agree with the Court that the amendment should and does apply to the protection of the individual citizen, but I am also in agreement with laws that ban the use of unreasonably unsafe firearms that would pose more of a risk to society than aid in protecting it.

The line between creating fair and just federal laws to better regulate state gun control laws is a fine one as well, but nonetheless, it is a line that needs to be explored.

* * * * *

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Profiles

2015 Scholarship Recipient

Crumville Kid, SASS #89467

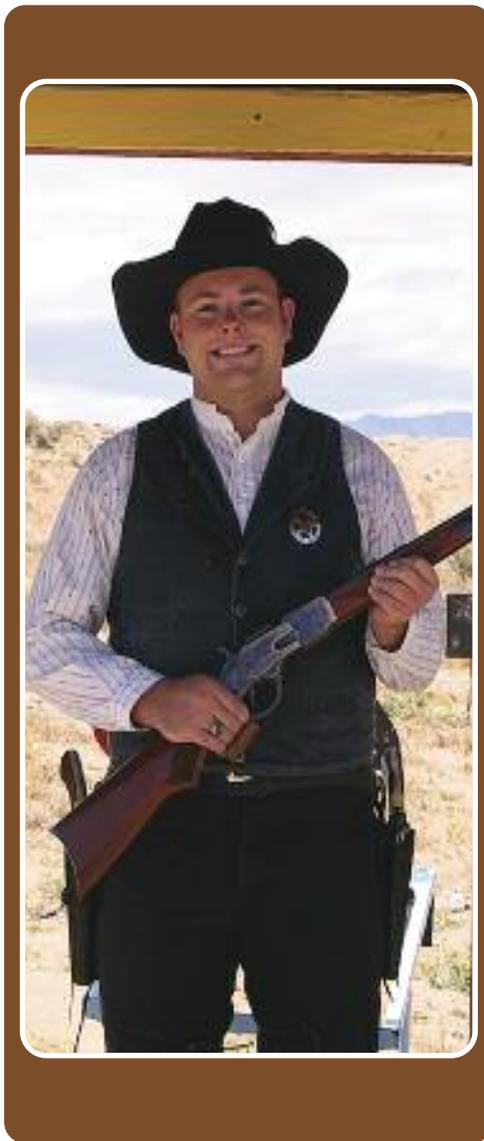
Edited and Adapted by Justice Lily Kate, SASS #1000



*Justice Lily Kate,
SASS #1000*

Ridgecrest, CA. My name is Zachary Cordes, aka Crumville Kid. Along with me in Cowboy Action Shooting™ I have my dad, Orland Granger (SASS #89465) and my older sister, Miss Mandy (SASS #89466). I am currently a part of Robbers Roost Vigilantes in Ridgecrest, California. I plan on attending the University of Wyoming to study Mechanical Engineering in Fall, 2015.

The most influential person in my life is my Dad. Whether he is competing against me, rooting for me, helping me or whatever he can do to help me develop on the range and off the range, he is THE most influential. Most people say they have the best Dad in the world but I would disagree with them. I would say that my Dad is the best in the world. Would your Dad travel two-and-a-half to three hours twice a week to watch you play soccer? Would your Dad be there for you whenever you needed him most? Would your Dad push you to be the best you can? Would your Dad sacrifice his time just for you or to be with you? My Dad does. He's shown me whenever you get knocked down just get back up and keep moving forward. I have witnessed



this first hand. He has been knocked down to the point most bystanders didn't think he would get up or didn't want him to get up. You know what, he did and he

got back up even stronger than he was before he got knocked down. This showed me, no matter what happens I just need to shake it off and get back up.

Other influential people in my life would have to be my Scoutmaster, Richard Thayer and my Assistant Scoutmaster, Jerry Shultz. Without these two people I probably wouldn't be shooting as well as a self-trained shooter would be. Jerry, a certified NRA instructor, first taught me general safety and basic shooting. Then I met Richard Thayer who taught me how to be more accurate when I shoot and taught me things my dad could not teach me.

The impact of SASS/Cowboy Action Shooting™ has been great on my family. It gives my Dad, my sister, and me a little competition to see who the better shooter is or who the faster shooter is, and just some good old fun. I would have to say I am proud I was awarded this Scholarship, I am proud that I am an Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America, I am proud that I was a three-year starting Varsity goal keeper for my high school team, I am proud that I am going to college, and last, I am proud to be the shooter I am today. 🤠

Firearm Ownership

By Crumville Kid, SASS #89467

Edited and Adapted by Justice Lily Kate, SASS #1000

The ownership of firearms by peaceable citizens is a right, not a privilege, given to us by the US Constitution and Bill of Rights, in particular the Second Amendment. This right can be taken away very easily and there are people who are determined to take it away from everyone. Who determines who and why this right can be taken away?

There are those who are determined to take the right of ownership of a firearm away from everyone. But what they have realized is taking away this right is a very hard objective to accomplish. They have realized that they may not be able to take away the right from everyone, but they can take the right away from some people, or make the process of owning a firearm difficult to accomplish. I am against the overall extermination of gun ownership. I do agree, however, that some people should not own firearms. There are people in this world who should not own a gun because they are either mentally unstable, a felon, or a drug addict. I do believe people need to pass a back-

ground check before they can own a firearm. This background check determines if a person is a felon or not. As such, the required background check can be considered to be the fair way to determine if a person can possess a firearm.

There are certain things that should nullify a person's right to own a firearm, such as: a failed background check, mental disabilities, and being a convicted felon. I do know from experience that not everyone can pass a background check. I know this because I work at a local gun shop and have seen people fail a background check. I think we should take the ownership of firearms away from people who excessively abuse alcohol, drugs, or people, but how are we supposed to know if they do this or not? The only way we know if they do abuse alcohol or drugs is if they have been arrested for it and it went on their record. Obviously, if you show up to buy a firearm and you are under the influence of alcohol or drugs, the police will be called and you will not be able to purchase a firearm.

What is important to remember is the right to own a firearm can be taken away over something big or over something smaller, such as mishandling a firearm. In my experience at the gun shop, before a person takes possession of the firearm, we show them how to handle it safely.

Sources

- Barnes, R., & Eggen, D. (2010, June 29). Supreme Court affirms fundamental right to bear arms. *The Washington Post*. Retrieved March 28, 2015, from <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/06/28/AR2010062802134.html>
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SASS Scholarship Help Educate Our Youth



Articles

ONE POT CHUCK

Cooking Up Some Tasty Grub Like Cookie Did Out On The Trail

*By Whooper Crane, SASS #52745, and The Missus
Photos by Deadeye Al, SASS #26454*



Whooper and The Missus

Ranger Marv's Fantastic BottaBing Chili

Come the end of February each year, our good shootin' buddy, Ranger Marv (SASS #86812) arrives here in The Valley of The Sun to join the Stooley Gang as we take part in Winter Range. Marv is a retired LEO from New Jersey and a former shooting competitor of Deadeye Al's when Al was a Deputy in the Bergen County Sheriff's Department.

That's Marv, second from right in the picture of the Stooleys, alongside Al at Stage 12 at this year's WR. By the way, the Stooley Gang name honors the notorious Dooley Gang from Texas, with a minor spelling change to point out the folding stools we old-timers use before and during our matches (when we're not timing, spotting, brassing, etc.). That's Whooper giving his stool a workout in the picture.

Now, Marv's both a good shooter and a good *(Continued on next page)*



The Stooley Gang

One Pot Chuck . . .

(Continued from previous page)



Even the Godfather couldn't refuse a big bowl of Marv's Botta Bing Chili!



Don't skimp on your best stuff for this hearty one-pot supper!

I love it, but now it's time to reveal it to the rest of our SASS buddies.

Marv's recipe features some ingredients we don't normally use here in the west, but the results are fantastic! Since there were quite a few "outlaws" in Jersey, equally as fearsome as our local ones, who's to say that the dishes they enjoyed were any

(Continued on page 60)

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backyard chef. His hearty chili is renowned in his neighborhood back east. He's also smart enough to use prepared ingredients to cut down on the assembly time of his great creation. The Missus and

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One Pot Chuck . . .

(Continued from page 59)

less “authentic” than those wolfed down by Wyatt or Curly Bill or The Kid? BottaBing! Let’s get started:

Ingredients

- 1 14-oz Package of Lit’l Smokies Smoked Sausages
- 1 Large (28-oz.) can of whole peeled stewed tomatoes
- 1 Package of Chili-O Chili Seasoning Mix
- 1 16-oz. can of Bush’s Chili Beans
- 1 Package of frozen chopped peppers and onions blend
- 1 Package of Birdseye Frozen Southwestern Style Rice
- 2 “Tubes” or 1 Tablespoon instant coffee crystals
- 1 12-oz. bottle of Beer
- 1 tsp. cumin powder
- 1 tsp. garlic powder

Directions

Warm up your dutch oven with a splash of olive oil.

Cut your Lit’l Smokies in half and toss them in. Cut your tomatoes in half and toss them in. Toss in your beer.

Toss in your Chili-O and coffee crystals and stir the pot well.

Toss in your beans, rice, peppers/onions veggies and seasonings.

Cook one hour over medium heat, stirring frequently.

Serve with garlic-buttered marble rye or pumpernickel toast.

Thank Ranger Marv for his great creation! 🐾

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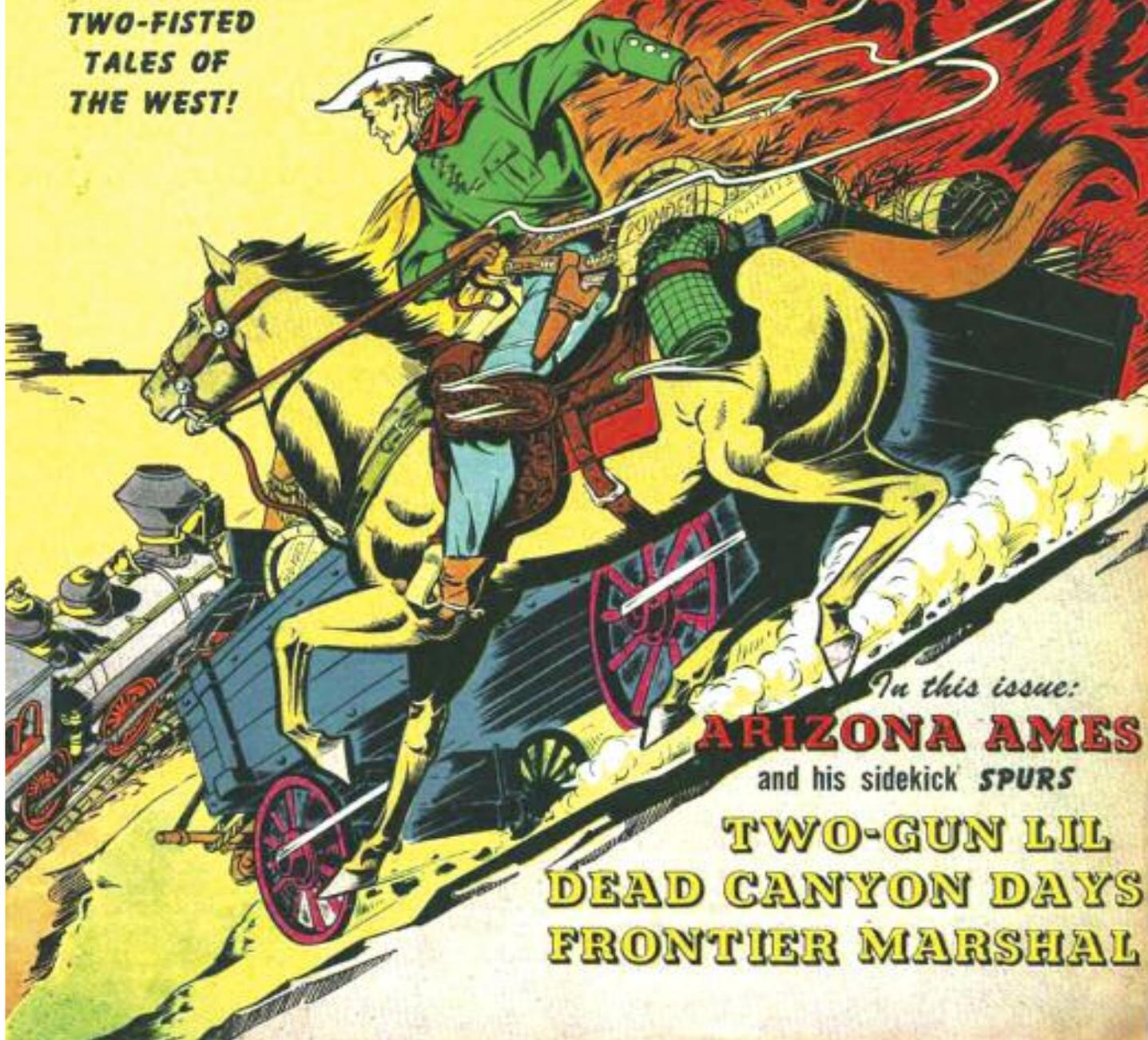


CRACK

WESTERN



**RIP-SNORTIN',
TWO-FISTED
TALES OF
THE WEST!**



In this issue:

ARIZONA AMES

and his sidekick **SPURS**

TWO-GUN LIL

DEAD CANYON DAYS

FRONTIER MARSHAL

CRACK WESTERN

TWO-GUN

LIL

"KEEP SHOOTIN', HONEY,"
SHERIFF SAM PETERS TOLD
HIS BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER, LIL!
"SOME DAY THOSE SIX-GUNS
MAY TURN OUT TO BE THE ONLY
FRIENDS YOU GOT!" SO LITTLE
 LIL PLAYED WITH GUNS BEFORE
 SHE PLAYED WITH DOLLS -- AND
 WHEN THE TERRIBLE DAY OF
 VENGEANCE CAME -- SHE WAS
READY!



CRACK WESTERN



CRACK WESTERN



CRACK WESTERN

AW, I WOULDN'T TALK, BOSS!

YOU'D BETTER NOT! LIL PETERS IS POISON WITH SIX-GUNS AND SHE'S OUT TO AVENGE HER FATHER! WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF HER!

MEANWHILE...

...YOUR DAD GAVE CADE 24 HOURS TO LEAVE TOWN! THAT NIGHT HE WAS BUSH-WHACKED, BUT THERE'S NO PROOF CADE DID IT!

I'LL GET PROOF! I'LL HAVE THAT ORNERY SIDE-WINDER SQUEALING LIKE A DOGIE CALF BEFORE I'M THROUGH!

SUDDENLY...

SHERIFF, COME QUICK! THERE'S A TWO-GUN POLECAT DOWN AT THE 'LAZY DAY'... FULL O' PIZEN AN' AIMIN' TO SHOOT UP THE PLACE!

YOU RUN ALONG, BOB! I'LL GO BACK TO MY OLD ROOM AND GET INTO MORE FITTING PUDS!

I GET A LUMP IN MY THROAT WHEN I THINK OF THE HAPPY YEARS WHEN DAD AND I LIVED BACK OF THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE!

WHAT...? WHAT ARE YOU VARMINTS DOING IN MY ROOM?

WAITING FOR YOU, MY DEAR! WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE EASIER TO TAKE CARE OF MATTERS BEFORE YOU GOT YOUR ARTILLERY UNPACKED!

TIE HER UP, BUNCO! WE GOT BOB CROSS OUT OF THE WAY LONG ENOUGH TO FINISH THIS OFF RIGHT!

YOU BUZZARDS! YOU'RE PLUM SCARED I'D PIN DAD'S KILLING ON YOU!

OF COURSE, MY DEAR! BUT THIS DYNAMITE BOB SEIZED FROM SOME BANK ROBBERS LAST WEEK WILL TAKE CARE OF THINGS NICELY!

WHEN THAT GOES OFF, NOBODY WILL KNOW IF SHE WAS TIED OR NOT!

EVERYBODY KNOWS ABOUT THE DYNAMITE! THEY'LL ONLY WONDER HOW A FIRE STARTED HERE... BUT THEY CAN'T PROVE ANYTHING!

YOU TWO-LEGGED POLECATS! IF I HAD GUNS IN MY HANDS RIGHT NOW...

CRACK WESTERN



THESE MEN ALWAYS FIGURE A GAL WILL BE TOO PARALYZED WITH FRIGHT TO USE HER HEAD!



THEY NEVER HAD THE ADVANTAGE OF BEING RAISED BY SHERIFF SAM PETERS, THAT'S ALL! HE ALWAYS EXPECTED THE UNEXPECTED...



AND THIS TRICK WASN'T EVEN UNEXPECTED! I KNEW CADE WOULD TRY SOMETHING ONCE HE KNEW I WAS BACK!



I'M LUCKY THESE OLD ADOBE WALLS ARE THICK AND SOLID!



IF I CAN CUT THROUGH THESE ROPES ON A PIECE OF SHATTERED GLASS...



I MADE IT! I'LL BE OUT OF HERE IN A JIFFY AND INTO ACTION BEFORE CADE DISCOVERS I WASN'T IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT BLAST!



NOW MR. GARSON CADE IS IN FOR A SHOCK... AND IT'S LIABLE TO PROVE FATAL!



THAT WAS PLUMB NICE OF HIM TO FURNISH THE PROOF I NEEDED! NOW I'LL BE POLITE AND RETURN HIS VISIT!

CRACK WESTERN



NEVER MIND THAT DYNAMITE BLAST, BOYS! THE DRINKS ARE ON THE HOUSE! BUNCO AND I ARE CELEBRATING! STEP RIGHT UP!

THAT'S RIGHT! WE JUST PUT OVER A BIG DEAL!



NOW THAT I'VE TAKEN OVER SAGE CITY COMPLETELY... **AWRRRK!**

ALL YOU'VE TAKEN OVER, YOU ORNERY COYOTE, IS A LEASE ON SIX FEET OF BOOT HILL EARTH!



L-LIL! BUT... BUT...!

GET HER! SHE CAN'T WATCH EVERYBODY AT ONCE!



I DON'T HAVE TO! THIS IS WHAT I CALL LIGHT WORK!

LOOK OUT! THE CHANDELIER'LL PIN US ALL DOWN!



NOW, BUNCO... I'M PAYING YOU OFF FOR BACK-SHOOTING MY DADDY!

NO! NO! I DIDN'T DO IT... HONEST! CADE DONE THE SHOOTIN'! I SWEAR HE DID IT! I ONLY STOOD BY IN CASE OF TROUBLE!



YOU HEARD THAT, BOB! IS THAT THE EVIDENCE YOU NEEDED?

PLENTY, MISS LIL! AND MORE SKUNKS'LL SQUEAL TO SAVE THEIR HIDES! CADE WILL SWING FOR THAT JOB!



LATER... WELL, THAT JOB'S DONE! NOW I SUPPOSE, WITH CADE'S RULE BROKEN, YOU'VE GOT A CHANCE OF BEING ELECTED SHERIFF, BOB!

I'LL STICK TO BEIN' DEPUTY, MA'AM! THE PEOPLE IN SAGE CITY ALREADY KNOW WHO THEY WANT FOR THEIR NEXT SHERIFF!



TWO-GUN LIL FOR SHERIFF
VOTE FOR LIL PETERS
SHE CLEANED UP SAGE CITY

BUT IF THAT DEPUTY'S JOB IS STILL OPEN...

Articles

COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING™ SHOOTING THE STAGE

HOW TO EXPLAIN ACTION SHOOTING TO VISITORS ON THE RANGE

By Palaver Pete, SASS Life/Regulator #4375



This is the fifth in a series of articles presented by Palaver Pete that provides suggestions for Action Training as well as safety hints developed over the years. Subsequent articles will cover: Range Safety Rules, Firearms Training, and Keys to Faster Shooting. Since summer shooting season is here and more guests can be expected, we are stepping out of order to suggest approaches to be used for visitors. Segment five suggests a way to approach your visitors—an approach that can be suggested to your entire club or posse. This procedure or tool, explains Cowboy Action Shooting™ in terms the visitor will understand.

Keep in mind these articles reflect the opinions of many shooters and are not the sole thoughts of one person—there is nothing original in these opinions—they represent in many cases, the thought of others expressed over the SASS Net or through The Cowboy Chronicle. If you see something that may not be correct, please send a letter to the Cowboy Chronicle editor so others can benefit from your observation or experience. The Bottom Line is the same for all of us: Safety and fun in the game we all love to play. Keep this in mind—You're a Daisy if ya do. PP.

Picture yourself at your gun cart, waiting for space at the Loading Table, when you notice a party of visitors standing close-by, watching the shooting with great interest, but none of the shooters seem interested in the visitors—sound familiar? I've seen this situation often, and although I can sometimes break away to explain what it is they are watching, there are times when I simply cannot. Unfortunately, these spectators are too often ignored, and eventually

they move on to other venues without having received any explanation at all—this is not good for our sport or our game.

This scenario happens often because most shooters are thinking about the stage they are going to be shooting and not who is visiting or who is watching them—this is normal, and frankly, the safe thing to do—shooters waiting to shoot the stage should be thinking about not only the stage scenario itself, but how to shoot the stage as safely as possible. However, if you have already shot the stage, or if you have time before your turn is up, then you might want to think about approaching the visitors and giving them a “rundown” about our sport and about the scenario of the stage and how it is being shot. You really don't need to go through the entire history of Cowboy Action Shooting™—a simple explanation of the stage can be made, and here is an approach you might consider using.

After introducing yourself, you might want to explain the stage as follows:

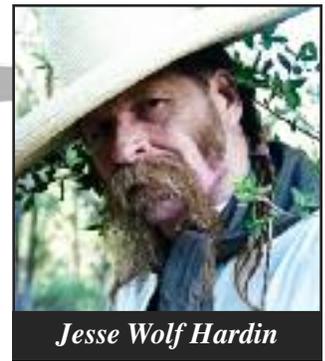
The Cowboy/Cowgirl Shooters you see are gathered into what we call a POSSE. Each Posse is shooting a different STAGE. Each Stage has a SCENARIO describing how the participants are to shoot the stage.

The shooters must hit the Pistol, Rifle, and Shotgun targets in a prescribed sequence. If they hit all the targets as directed, they have then shot the stage CLEAN, and you will see the Spotters raising their fists, as an indication that the stage was shot clean. If the shooter misses one or two shots, you will see the Spotters raise a number of fingers that corre-

(Continued on next page)

Straight Shot

THE STRAIGHT SHOT



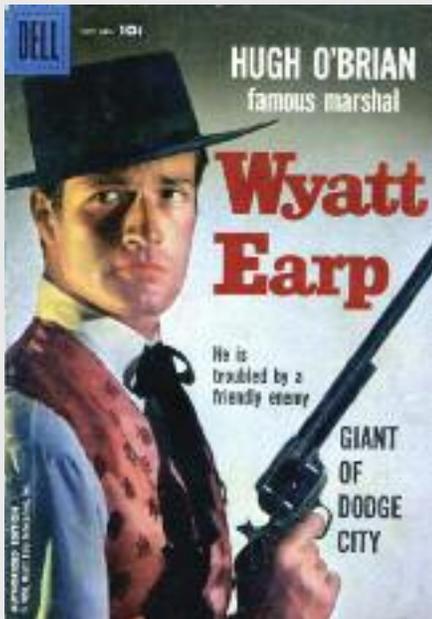
Jesse Wolf Hardin

Wyatt Earp

Part I

The Fighting Pimp

By Jesse Wolf Hardin



The sanitized and romanticized character that actor Hugh O'Brien played in the 1960s was about as far from the real Wyatt as a scriptwriter could get.

In 40-some years of researching and writing about the characters of the “Old West,” I have dug up some mighty interesting information. Some lawmen like Wild Bill Hickok were every bit the equal of their press and billing, neither more nor less honorable and notable than their reputation lets on. Some, like Sheriffs Buckeye O’Neill and Bear River Tom Smith, proved to be so utterly admirable that it’s hard to understand why they have been neglected by history and largely forgotten. And then, after digging deep into the records, I discovered that more than a few of the many lionized Western “heroes” of our books, movies and imaginations were actually pretty unsavory characters, not only bending but breaking the very laws they were hired to enforce. So strong is our attachment

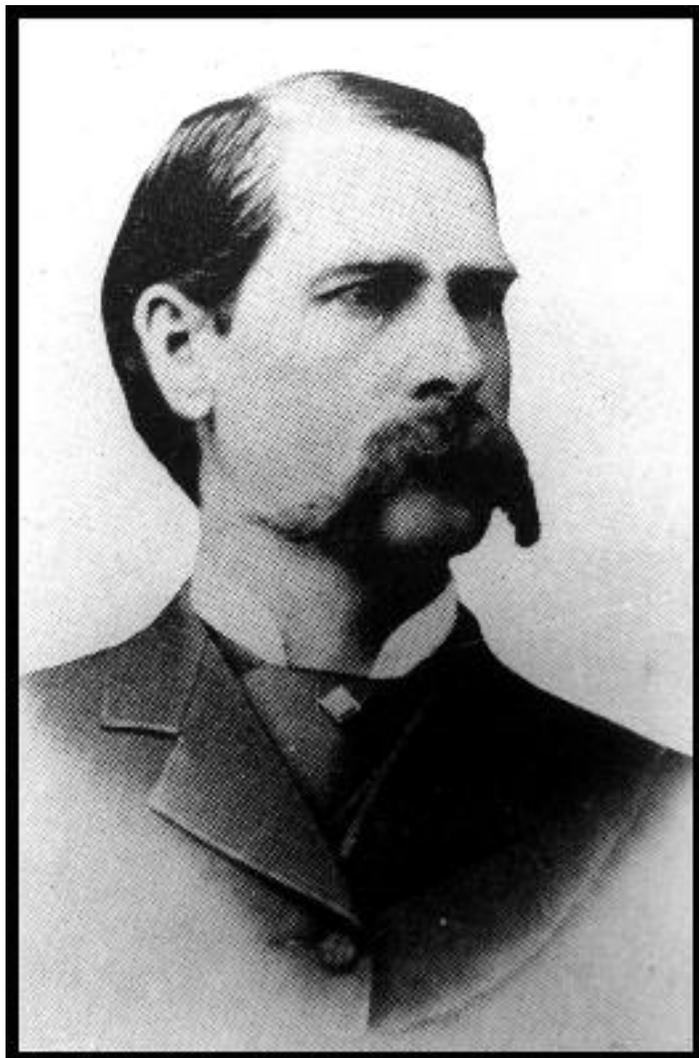
to the mythology of men like Wyatt Earp that the fur flies at the very mention of their unvarnished characters. But to my mind, the real stories of complex frontiersmen and women with conflicting human interests are far more compelling than the one-dimensional, sanitized white-hat characterizations we heard growing up.

“This is the West, sir. When the legend becomes fact, print the legend.”

—From *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*, 1962

It is kind of crazy to imagine things ever are or were simple and “black and white.” Western lawmen were human beings like the rest of us, making hard choices in difficult situations and fast changing times. Whether we respect their choices or not, we have to sympathize with

(Continued on next page)

The Straight Shot • WYATT EARP (pt. 1) . . .*(Continued from previous page)*

Earp as he may have looked around the time of his badge swinging days in Kansas.

them, considering all they faced. Whether known as sheriff, marshal, deputy, ranger, policeman or peace officer, those who wore a badge found themselves caught between the demands of a city council or state government and the practical realities of hard-bitten frontier towns where freedom and opportunism were both worshipped and defended. Many received no pay other than a percentage of any money that those they arrested might be fined, contributing to the most honest officers having to moonlight at a second job, and others to turn to protection rackets or other crimes. Those who received salaries usually made less than not only the saloonkeepers, but even the saloon sweepers, a monthly wage no better than that of the cowpunchers they rode herd on come Friday and Saturday nights. Their work could best be described as weeks of boring tasks, punc-

uated by moments of high drama and sometimes deadly confrontation. For these reasons and more, very few of even the most famous lawmen actually spent that many years wearing the star. While some like famed Jeff (Jefferson Davis) Milton could boast of lifelong lawman careers, they were the exceptions. Wild Bill Hickok, for example, served only a few stints between less officious gunslinging, while Wyatt Earp worked only as a policeman in a couple of Kansas towns and for less than three years, other than being temporarily deputized by his brother Virgil in time for the O.K. Corral incident.

It is the image of Wyatt Earp and the O.K. Corral gunfight—or more accurately, *the fight in a back alley near the O.K. Corral*—that defines the western lawman for most people, as popularized by early sensationalist dime novel biographer Stuart Lake, featured in dozens of books in the years since, and burned into our memory thanks in part to the highly inaccurate movie *Wyatt Earp* and more so due to the powerfully acted but also fictionalized film *Tombstone*. We are comforted in this case by the notion of a brace of officers standing up for law and order and protecting the innocents with an air of knight-like nobility and fitting *panache*, unintentionally setting off a firefight with their well-meaning enforcement of sensible gun control laws. Less comforting is the reality of two contending politicized factions of part time criminals and full time hustlers vying for control of the town of Tombstone, using an unpopular and seldom enforced ordinance against carrying guns as the excuse to confront a handful of cowboys who were already saddling up their horses and on their way out of town. There is something creepy about the marshal pinning badges not only on Wyatt but on the colorful lawbreaker and killer Doc Holliday in order to carry out what many testified to be more of an execution than fair fight.

In the “days of yesteryear,” and to some degree in these modern times as well, things like right, wrong, justice and law enforcement in the American West were anything but clear-cut. Instead of the proverbial black-hatted bad guys and white-hatted heroes, upon close inspection what we find are more like the gray hats of complex people acting on agendas that sometimes appeared—to certain vested interests, in specific situations—as being either dangerous threats to the community, needing to be removed, or else its brave defenders upon whom civilization itself seemed to depend. Not only were they judged differently depend-

(Continued on page 72)

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The Straight Shot • WYATT EARP (pt. 1) . . .

(Continued from page 71)

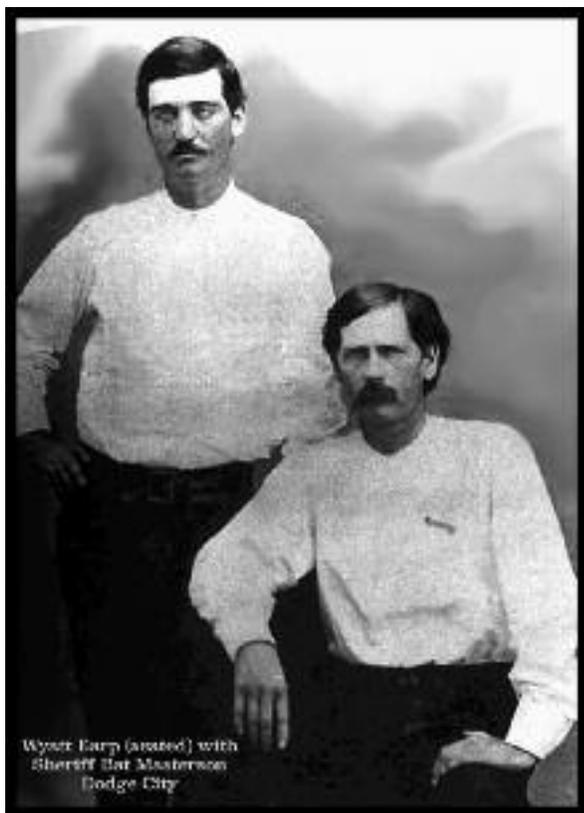
ing upon the circumstances, but many at one time or other worked both sides of the fence.

The job of lawman may have been underpaid but it provided potentially valuable inside information and special advantages sometimes contributing to officers branching out into extortion, or hanging up their badges altogether in exchange for a potentially more lucrative career of crime. Whether they were praised or reviled for their forays outside the law depended on the situation and context, and just who was doing the appraising. The bounty hunter Tom Horn was treasured by the well-financed and often European cattle barons who hired him to both punish assumed rustlers and enforce their monopoly on grazing, but was hated by the small struggling homesteaders whom he primarily targeted. The respected lawman Sheriff Henry Brown of Caldwell, Kansas, was awarded a gold-plated, presentation model Winchester rifle by a grateful citizenry for his services, but then took this same rifle with him on a botched robbery attempt on the bank in nearby Medicine Lodge.

At the same time, experience as a gunslinger and lawbreaker were excellent qualifications for the post of sheriff, and it often required bending or ignoring the fine points of law and order to get the job done. In the cases of Hickok and the Earps, town managers were more than happy to overlook their zealous use of their Colt's revolvers to bludgeon or shoot miscreants undeniably making life difficult for law-abiding folk.

Wyatt Earp is a perfect case in point, our collective memory of him being one of a brooding anachronism with a flat brimmed hat and drooping mustache, a reluctant hero and near magician with a gun. More often and more accurately he was a gambler and provider of womanly flesh, a man whom many contemporaries referred to as the "fighting pimp." He can neither be wholly lionized, nor vilified, being more than anything typical of any of the "sporting men" who joined with the countless other opportunists who came west in search of riches and adventures. What distinguished him and others of his ilk was a degree of hardheaded determination and a willingness to kill. But even given his various shooting scrapes, the primary reason we remember him is for the exaggerations and outright fabrications about his experiences that started with the

(Continued on next page)

The Straight Shot • WYATT EARP (pt. 1) . . .*(Continued from previous page)*

Wyatt Earp (arrested) with
Sheriff Bat Masterson
Dodge City

During his days in Dodge City, Wyatt and the justifiably lauded lawman Bat Masterson were friends. Masterson later added both facts and flourishes to the growing Earp legend.

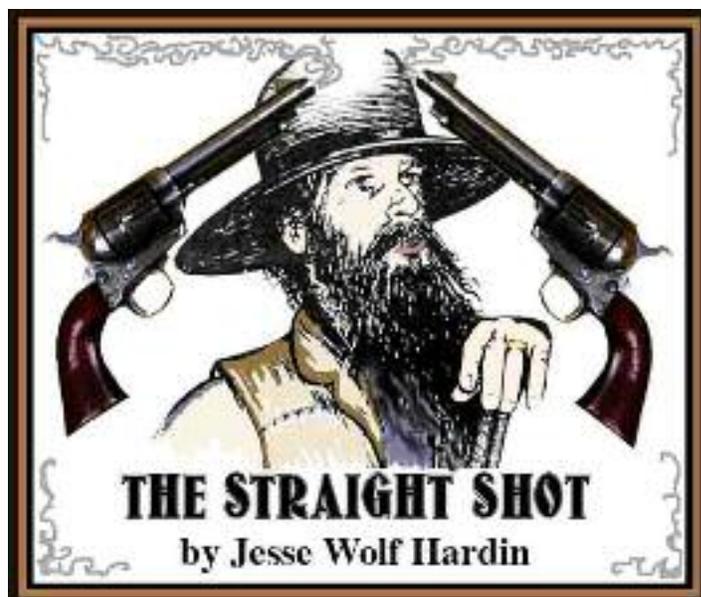
release of those dime novels while he was still alive.

Like many of you, I grew up watching a fictionalized Wyatt Earp played by Hugh O'Brien on TV, a morally spotless good guy always looking out for everybody but himself. To the contrary, the real Wyatt was in many ways a self-serving and self-aggrandizing scoundrel.

Wyatt was born March 19, 1848 to a family locals came to call the “fighting Earps,” since anytime the father and brothers weren’t fighting other folks they could likely be found brawling amongst themselves. When he got his first law enforcement job as constable of Lamar County, Missouri in 1870, he was heard to brag about how the badge made it possible for him to do as he liked without any more worry about being thrown in jail. A year later, he had quit and moved on into the territory of the Cherokee, where he and a friend named Edward Kennedy were pursued, arrested and fined for rustling horses. By 1874 he could be found with his brothers Jim and Morgan and their mistresses in the then rowdy cowtown of Wichita, Kansas, where he made money gambling in the saloons and managing a stable of prostitutes,

several of whom registered for business using the Earp last name. It was for kicks, it’s said, that he joined local officers in tracking down a wanted miscreant, when the act of emptying their prisoner’s pockets of \$148 for “expenses incurred” reminded him of the extracurricular opportunities law enforcement work could provide. Wyatt then got hired as a Wichita policeman in 1875, his performance described by the Wichita Weekly Beacon newspaper as “unexceptionable.” The most exciting incident he was involved in was his dropping of his revolver on the saloon floor and being barely missed by his own bullet. Later that year, he was arrested and fined for pummeling his boss’ main rival during the election campaign for city marshal. The Earps moved out of town two weeks after his dismissal, prompted by the city council issuing a warrant for their arrest as vagrants.

Not exactly the best start for what would be a future righteous legend. We’ll continue next issue... *A*



Jesse Wolf Hardin is a wilderness-dwelling writer, artist, arms collector, co-editor of *Plant Healer Magazine* for students of herbal medicine (see: www.PlantHealer.org), and author of dozens of books. Portions of this essay are excerpted from the full-color book *Old Guns & Whispering Ghosts: Firearms of the Old West & Those Who Used Them, 1866-1916*. He most recently released the conversation-stirring *Lawmen of The Old West Unmasked*. Bothbooks are available through www.OldWestScribe.com. Hardin’s work has garnered the respect of characters like John Taffin, Boge Quinn, Jim Supica, Doug Turnbull, Ned Schwing, Dennis Adler and Bob Boze Bell, while verily confounding the thin-skinned and politically correct. You can send indignant comments or letters of cheer directly to Wolf at: Scribe@OldWestScribe.com

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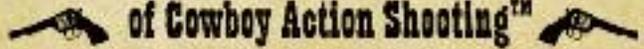
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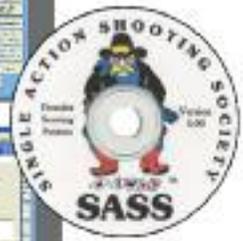
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AL

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AZ

102,785..... Little Mac

CA

102,721..... Claptrap
102,741..... Scotty Copperbear
102,744..... Ironbutt Statman
102,745..... Killer Kiesman
102,750..... Drop Dead Red
102,754..... Smoke E. Bear
102,786..... KB Pistolero
102,843..... A.D. Rivers
102,852..... Steve Adore
102,890..... Ole Blondie

CO

102,761..... Colorado Colt
102,777..... Pistol Packin' Nana
102,778..... Gypsy Dawn
102,779..... Lil Gypsy
102,835..... Pedro the Wisco Kid

102,861..... Blue Mountain Bill
102,895..... Anadarko Kid

FL

102,730..... Florida Russler
102,846..... Cyrus Mars
102,849..... "D"
102,859..... Keen Eye Kayla
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102,893..... Dashin Dan

GA

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