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SASS END of TRAIL
(See page 17)



Happy New Year!

The Cowboy Chronicle

The Monthly Journal of the Single Action Shooting Society®

Vol. 28 No. 1

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January 2015

OUTLAW TRAIL 2014

The SASS Four Corners Regional Championship

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

Founders Ranch, New Mexico. August 20-24, 2014—Outlaw Trail has been an annual event at Founders Ranch, home of END of TRAIL, for several years. It has been the Regional some times, and at other times Buffalo Stampede has been the regional. At one time Outlaw Trail was the Regional, and Buffalo Stampede was the New Mexico State Championship. Buffalo Stampede was in April or May, and Outlaw Trail started in August and moved around to as late as early October. It moved back to August last year and stayed there this year. August, believe it or not, is usually good weather in Albuquerque, not too hot, not too cold. April is iffy. Late September and October are even more so.

It certainly started off with beautiful weather, clear blue skies and temperatures in the 70s and 80s. Outlaw Trail is a smaller event than END of TRAIL, so RVs are allowed to park “in town.” This is convenient, and free, too.

Wild Bunch Match

Activities started on Wednesday, August 20, with the Wild Bunch match, 10 stages, five each day for two days, written by WBAS Match Director J. Frank Norfleet. Frank is one of the rare shooters who participates in Wild Bunch but not Cowboy.

To keep from having to move targets between the Wild Bunch Match and the Cowboy Match with a small working crew, the Wild Bunch match used bays at one end of the range and the Cowboy Match used the bays at the other end, with only one overlapping.

Wild Bunch stages are more taxing than the average cowboy stage. They’re more complex usually, and, of course, they have more pistol rounds (20-30 per stage is

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Sonora Blaze (SASS #69510) having fun during the Outlaw Trail warm up match.

SASS Cowboy Chronicle

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*Texas Flower (SASS #43753) is not only an avid Cowboy Action Shooter™ and Costumer, but is also a serious fan of Steampunk outfitting and now a newly-discovered sport, Tea Dueling! Read all about it in Costuming Corner in this issue.*



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The Cowboy Chronicle is published by The Wild Bunch, Board of Directors of The Single Action Shooting Society. For advertising information and rates, administrative, and editorial offices contact:  
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The Cowboy Chronicle (ISSN 15399877) is published monthly by the Single Action Shooting Society, 215 Cowboy Way, Edgewood, NM 87015. Periodicals Postage is Paid at Edgewood, NM and additional mailing offices (USPS #032). **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to The Cowboy Chronicle, 215 Cowboy Way, Edgewood, NM 87015.

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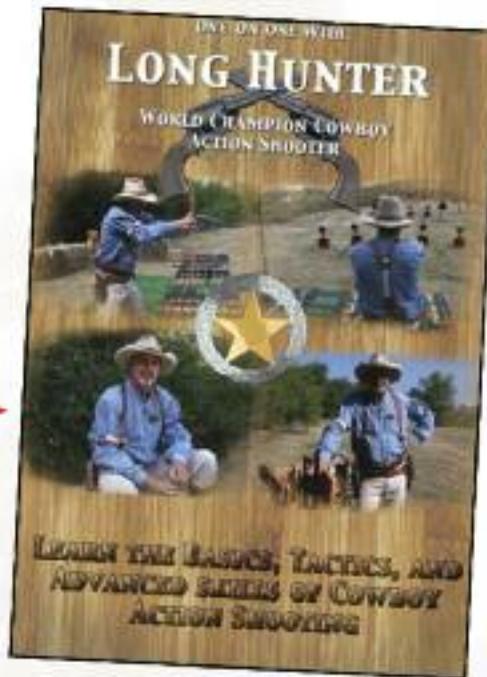
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# SKINNY'S SOAPBOX

## Reading the digital Chronicle

Since The Cowboy Chronicle went all digital, I've heard the complaint from numerous sources that members find it difficult to read because of the "fine" print, so I thought I'd address that issue and give readers some solutions. It's true that the type size cannot be increased nor can you zoom in on the type in the digital online version, as our online publisher, Mirabel, does not offer those features. You can increase the size somewhat by making your browser window as large as possible, and if you double click on a page you'll get a slightly larger view of that page, but that's about it. (If you do that, then move your cursor to the side and click to return to a page view with toggle arrows, so you can move to the next page.)

If you're reading online, the theory is you'll be using a computer with a fairly large screen or a full-size tablet and will therefore not need to enlarge the type. Of course, if you're using a mini-tablet or a phone, the on-line type does appear small. That's one reason why we also offer each issue as a PDF download. Once you download into a PDF reader, such as Kindle or iBooks, you will then have the ability to "pinch and expand" each page to make it readable. To do this, touch the center of your screen with your thumb and forefinger, then move your fingers apart, and the area you wish to enlarge should expand for you.

If you want to read on your computer but *still* want to enlarge the type, you can do that with the PDF as well. Simply download to your desktop and open with Acrobat Reader or Acrobat Pro. Once the issue is open, go to the toolbar at the top and click on the magnifying glass icon. You will be able to use this to expand any section of each page as much as you want. If the magnifying glass icon isn't there, then go to the taskbar at the top of your computer screen. In Acrobat Reader, click on "View," then go to "Zoom" and choose "Marquee Zoom." In Acrobat Pro, click on "Tools," then go to "Select & Zoom" and click on "Marquee Zoom." In you don't have Acrobat, go to <http://get.adobe.com/reader/> to download the latest version of Acrobat Reader for free.



*Skinny*  
SASS #7361

### Welcome to Jesse Wolf Hardin

We're kicking off 2015 with a brand new feature by Jesse Wolf Hardin. Jesse has spent his life researching and living the Western dream and promises to regale us with his stories and observations in the coming months. I'm very pleased to add him to our list of regular contributors. Look for his column at the end of each issue of The Cowboy Chronicle.

### Happy New Year

I hope everyone had a happy holiday season and that 2015 will be a joyful and prosperous year for everyone.

—Skinny 🐾

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Texas Flower,  
SASS Life #43753

# The Art Of TEA DUELING

By Texas Flower SASS Life #43753  
Pictures by Texas Flower

In days of yore, dueling was often the way to challenge an opponent or settle a dispute. When thinking about a duel, a sword or gun is often envisioned. But what about a TEA Duel?

While attending a Steampunk Convention in Dallas recently, I was introduced to the Art of Tea Duelling and the use of Tea Cup Holders. Tea Duelling is often conducted at Steampunk Conventions and Tea Cup Holders are frequently used with costumes. Participants at the convention seemed to enjoy the Tea Duel so much, I became interested in the rules and requirements. After contacting the lady in charge of the Dallas Tea Duel, “Madame Askew,” and doing some research, this is what I learned about a Tea Duel.

Tea Duelling (spelled using the Queen’s English) is an elegant sport for a more civilized age. Tea Duelling is the art of gracefully dunking a tea biscuit (cookie) into a “Cup of Brown Joy” (tea), soaking it for five seconds, and then lifting it and cleanly “nomming” (consuming) it—all without dripping tea, losing biscuit fragments into the tea or on the table, and doing so after your fellow du-

elist. This sport has been known in the UK for some time and was introduced to the US in February 2012 by the American Society of Tea Dueling.

A Tea Duel can take place any time or place. To prepare for the duel, appropriate teacups, hot tea, and cookies are necessary. Lemon, milk, and sugar or sugar substitute are optional, but may be requested by participants who want to drink their tea. Any kind of tea is permitted. “Malted Milk” and “Nice” biscuits are used In the UK, but since these are not available in the US, the recommended biscuit is the Pepperidge Farms Chessman Cookie.

In a Tea Duel, known as a “Tiffin Party,” duelists sit across from each other at a table each with a cup of tea known as the “Brew Martial.” Only tea may be used (coffee and chocolate are strictly prohibited) and should be as near to 150-180 degrees as possible. The drinking vessel, known as “The Keg,” shall be no less than three and one quarter inches deep and made of pottery or metal. The duel should be presided over by a president/umpire known as the “Tiffin Master/Mistress.” An ap-

*(Continued on next page)*

|                                                                                              |                                                                                |                                                                             |
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**The Art Of Tea Dueling . . .**  
*(Continued from previous page)*

pointed officer, known as the “Pot Master,” is responsible for the supervision of Kegs, the Brew Martial, and suitable biscuits for the duel.

The duel will begin with the laying out of the biscuits by the Tiffin Master. Six biscuits will be

**Anatomy of a TEA DUEL**



*Supplies necessary for a Tea Duel.*



*Weapon chosen.*



*Ready to Dunk.*



*The Dunk*



*The Wait.*



*A Splodge—too late to NOM.*

laid upon a white napkin on a serving plate. The Tiffin Master will place the biscuits on the table between the duelists and give the command “choose your weapons.” Each duelist chooses one of the six biscuits. Biscuits must be held in one hand with finger and thumb no further than one half inch from the edge. Hands or fingers cannot be changed during the duel. The Tiffin Master gives the order, “Ready,” and biscuits should be positioned over the appropriate keg no more than six

*(Continued on page 8)*

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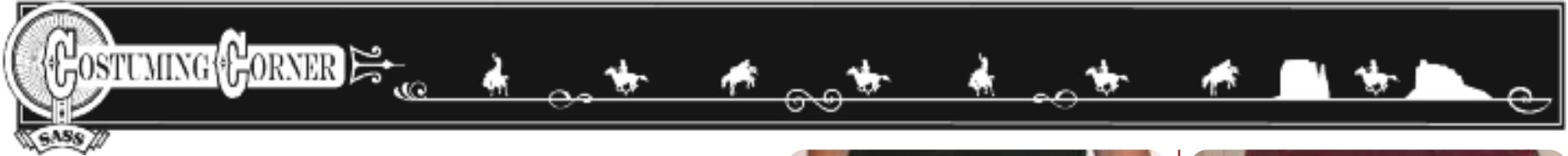
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## The Art Of Tea Dueling . . .

*(Continued from page 7)*

inches above the lip. On the command, "Dunk," du-  
elists will immediately and swiftly lower their biscuit  
into the brew. At least 50 percent of the biscuit  
must be held submerged in the tea for an audible  
count of five seconds.



*My cream-with-pink-flowers Cup Holder.*



*Cup Holder hanging from  
a chatelaine.*



*Cup Holder carried on the arm.*

Biscuits are withdrawn from the tea and held  
while deciding when to "nom" the biscuit. They are  
usually held vertically. The duelists are permitted  
to hold the biscuit elevated (nearer to the mouth)

*(Continued on next page)*

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## The Art Of Tea Dueling . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*

or the lower hold resting the hand on the table to keep it steady.

There are three ways to lose the duel before nomming the biscuit: the “splash,” when a biscuit crumbles into the tea cup, the “splatter,” when a biscuit crumbles onto anything other than the tea cup or the duelist, and the “splodge,” when a biscuit crumbles onto the person.

The goal of tea duelling is to get a clean nom without having lost any pieces along the way. When duelists achieve a nom, the one who waited the longest before eating their biscuit is the winner. When both duelists manage a clean nom, then the duelist who last mouthed their biscuit is considered to be the victor with their opponent defeated. The duelist must put at least 94 percent of the biscuit in their mouth to win. The Tiffin Master/Mistress is the judge and declares the winner.

Both Ladies and Gentlemen are eligible to participate in a Tea Duel.

So, grab your teacup holder and LET THE DUELING COMMENCE!



*My Steampunk Cup Holder.*



*Inside of Cup Holder – pockets for supplies – a pad to put between cup and saucer.*



*A leather Cup Holder.*

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# OUTLAW TRAIL 2014



*(Continued from page 1)*

common). A lot of movement is also common.

It's hard to pick a "sample" stage, because they varied. So I've picked Stage 3 to describe. It required 30 pistol rounds and 4 shotgun rounds. On the left side of the range was a building front with a window on each side of the door. Each window had a shelf for long guns, the left one angled



*Rain came and stayed most of Friday.*

toward the left berm, the right one angled toward the right berm. Then a few yards down range was a fence with a shelf, and, off to the right, further down range was another fence with a shelf.

There were four knockdown targets off to the left, and five "hostage and hostage taker" targets in front, another five off to the right and further down range. These targets consist of a silhouette target (the hostage) and a movable small round target off one shoulder (the hostage taker). No, I don't know why we would shoot at hostages.

**STAGING:** Shotgun loaded with 4 rounds in the left window. Pistol loaded with 5 rounds and holstered.

**STARTING POSITION:** Standing at the right window with hands on each side of the window frame.

**PROCEDURE:** With shotgun, engage the four shotgun targets and *discard shotgun back in the left window, pointing into the berm*. Moving through the door to position 1, sweep the five hostages, then the five hostage takers, then the five hostages once more. From position 2, repeat the instructions on the next set of targets.

So, this emphasized precision shooting with the 1911. The "hostages" were big, but the "hostage takers" were small. No one shot the match clean.

Meanwhile, up the hill at the Founders Ranch Shotgun Sports Club, the Cowboy/Wild Bunch/Black Powder Clays

Three-Person Team Side Match was going on. It went on the rest of the week. With the excellent shotgun facility at Founders Ranch some shotgun side matches that would be difficult at most ranges can be handled.

At 1:00 p.m., over at the long range kiosk, the long range matches started: Single Shot Black Powder, Single Shot Smokeless, Buffalo Rifle, Optical Sights, Lever Action Rifle Caliber, and Lever Action Pistol Caliber. Lady competitors were recognized in each category. You could shoot either Wednesday or Thursday, but only once in each category.

Wild Bunch Speed Matches and Bolt Action Military Rifle started when the Wild Bunch match stopped over at Bays 15 and 16.

On Thursday the Wild Bunch match continued, but the shooters were broken into two small posses, enabling the shooters to finish by 2:00 p.m.

Simultaneously the Cowboy Warm Up stages went on at Bays 7, 9, 11, and 13. These were considerably simpler than the Wild Bunch stages, on the same bays as the cowboy main match but with different scenarios. The side matches continued.

## Main Cowboy Match

Last year New Mexico, SASS clubs were invited to write the stages. This resulted in stages that varied quite a bit in concept and difficulty. This year, match director, Mica McGuire (SASS #18526) wrote all of the stages. He used END of TRAIL's excellent stages by T. A. Chance (SASS #4072) as a guide. These were different but with the same philosophy. Mica's lovely and energetic wife Ez Gz (SASS #83885) was Event Coordinator and Support.

The scenarios were based on the theme "Arizona Outlaws." Last year's was New Mexico Outlaws. Last year the

*(Continued on next page)*



*Saturday was sunny and dry.*

## Outlaw Trail 2014

*(Continued from previous page)*

posse marshals were from New Mexico clubs. This year they were from Arizona.

The stages all “flowed,” meaning they were all about the same complexity (pretty simple), with fairly close targets, no bonuses, no aerial targets, no “hostage takers.” Six ran from left to right, and six from right to left. All three of Founders

Ranch’s excellent permanent sets were used. This turned out to be extremely useful as Friday had light rain and no wind most of the day. The shade set up in each bay was useful at keeping rain off the shooters as well.

### Stage 11

Two stages were in Hot Tamale’s Cantina, the newest permanent set. Both were 10 revolver, 10 rifle, and 4 shotgun, as were 10 of the other stages. Stage 2 had 6 shotgun. Hot Tamales has three shooting positions, a door in the middle and a window on each side. Four shotgun knockdowns were in

front of the left window, four chili pepper shaped rifle targets in the middle, alternating red and green, and four similar revolver targets on the right.

This scenario was dedicated to Pearl Hart. Pearl Hart committed one of the last recorded stagecoach robberies in the United States. On May 30, 1899, while working as a cook in a boardinghouse or running a tent brothel near the local mine (historians disagree about her profession), she and an accomplice, a man who called himself Joe Boot, robbed the Globe to Florence, Arizona stagecoach. The two held up the stage at gunpoint at a watering point near Cane Springs Canyon, about thirty miles southeast of Globe. Hart took \$431.20 and two firearms from the passengers. The Pinal County Sheriff caught the two six days later. Boot surrendered peacefully, but Hart fought to avoid capture.”

**STAGING:** Rifle on table in doorway, shotgun at left window, revolvers holstered.

**STARTING POSITION:** Start in right arch, hands by your side. Shooter snarls, “I’m NOT going peacefully!”

**PROCEDURE:** With revolvers, triple tap an outside target and *then* alternate for four shots between the next two targets *then* triple tap the other outside target,



*Ez Gz shooting Wild Bunch Ladies Modern.*

using second revolver as needed. From doorway with rifle, engage the rifle targets with the same instructions as the revolvers. From left window, shoot the four shotgun targets.

Since not everyone has read my articles on previous matches that epitomized the “State of the Art” in stage writing, I’ll repeat some of the principles that work: Do not specify direction unless absolutely necessary. Don’t

give unnecessary instructions. For example, “restage your rifle.” If the shooter wants to restage it where it was shot, fine. Or take it to the next table, why not? The next principle was in the shooter’s handbook when I joined in 1999. Use big targets relatively close. No target is too close or too big



*Six (SASS #41283) won Plainsman Modern.*

to miss. A note about close targets: we are shooting lead bullets at steel targets. Bullet fragments will come back—unless the targets are properly designed. The targets at Founders Ranch are angled down. The splash goes down, as a result (angle in = angle out). After a match you can see a trench in front of them left by bullet splatter.

Again, six stages involved running from left to right, and six were right to left. Please note that this is a good thing.

“Repeat the instructions” is an anti-procedural device that simplifies things. Gunfights are not memory contests. An example from Stage 4: “With rifle engage the back three targets in a 2-1-2 sweep and repeat instruction, may start on either end each time. With revolvers engage the front three targets using

*(Continued on page 12)*



*Johnny Meadows (SASS #28485).*



# OUTLAW TRAIL 2014



*(Continued from page 11)*

same instructions as rifle.” So, this means you could, for example shoot rifle target 1 twice, 2 once, and 3 four times, then 2 once, and 1 twice. Or you could start on target 3.

A certain number of procedural mistakes are inevitable because people make mistakes. Last year the match was more complex, but the number of procedural mistakes and clean shooters was about the same. 10 percent of the shooters shot clean.

## Plainsman Match

The three-stage Plainsman Match was held after the main



*Marie Laveau (SASS #67222).*

match on Friday. It was still raining on and off. This meant the Plainsman shooters shot nine stages in a row. This caused a couple of shooters to pass because they were exhausted. Not every shooter is a 25-year old Army Ranger. I would recommend other matches not do this. Put Plainsman on side match

day. I could gush on how well the match went, but since I wrote the stages, that would be wrong.

Friday night, the evening at the Belle Union Saloon featured the Last Minute Bluegrass Band, winners of the 2012 Santa Fe Bluegrass and Old Time Music Festival band contest, and a Dessert Bar.

Saturday the sun returned, and it was a beautiful day. After the main match Cowboy Action and Wild Bunch Side Matches continued with Pistol Poker; Speed Rifle; 1911 Speed Pistol (Modern and Traditional); Speed Shotgun Cowboy Pump; Speed Shotgun Cowboy Lever; Speed Shotgun Hammerless Double; Speed Shotgun Hammered Double; and Speed Shotgun Wild Bunch Pump.

Then Saturday evening the awards banquet. Excellent



*Trigger Happy Ted (SASS #88160).*



*Lodan B. Fast (SASS #47576)  
—hot Duelist.*

entry fee. There are matches that “nickel and dime” the contestants for side matches and banquet tickets. This wasn’t one of them.

Drawings for raffles and the bigger contestant prizes were done early in the ceremonies. If you’re having drawings for more than, say, 10 prizes, you should have done it at registration or during the match. Nobody wants to be there till midnight listening to tickets being drawn for \$10 prizes, and keeping the big prizes to the end of the awards ceremony, well, that would be wrong, too.

Last year’s Buffalo Stampede had low cost awards because when they had to be ordered, only 32 contestants had entered. This angered some folks. This year’s prizes were definitely Regional quality, with fine

plaques for the top three in every category. Additionally there were no minimum entries to have a category, especially in the older and younger categories.

If there was a “Theme” to the awards, it was “Cobra Cat’s Year.” Cobra Cat (SASS #19275) won Winter Range, the SASS National Championship, overall; END of TRAIL, the SASS World Championship, overall; the Colorado State Championship, his home state; and Outlaw Trail, his regional. You don’t see that every day in SASS. In fact, Misty Moonshine (SASS #83232) thought it had never happened before.

The overall Lady Champion, by a tiny margin, was Lady 49’r champion and 8<sup>th</sup> overall, Texas Tiger (SASS #74829). Lady Wrangler champion Amber Ale (SASS #66175), was 8.99 seconds and 21 rank points behind.

All in all, in my “after action report” I have to say that Outlaw Trail only disappointed in one area. It was about 100 contestants short. I could write an entire article on the answers people gave me when I asked why they weren’t attending, but it wouldn’t change things. Because of the light turnout Outlaw Trail will no longer be the Four Corners Regional. Its loss is a shame, especially considering the quality of this year’s event. The stages were among the best I’ve

*(Continued on next page)*



*Saturday night’s dinner was included in the entry fee.*

## Outlaw Trail 2014

*(Continued from previous page)*

seen, and the off-the-range activities were first class and well done. Visit <http://www.sassnet.com/outlaw/> for a complete list of standings for the Main match, the Wild Bunch match, and the Plainsman match. ♣



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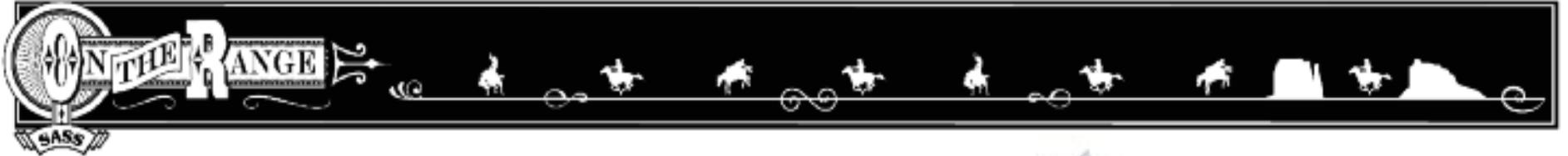
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# Shootout at BOUNTY GULCH

## 2014 SASS Western Canadian Regional Championships

*By Grey Beard, SASS #79061 Life and Territorial Governor for Saskatchewan*

**Saskatoon, SK.** August 7-9, 2014 saw the second SASS Western Canadian Regional Championship. Cowboys and cowgirls from across Canada, and as far South as California, arrived to take part. Once again, the members of the Saskatoon Muzzle Loader Club opened their doors to partner with the Saskatchewan Association of Wild West Shooters to host the event held on their dedicated Cowboy Action Shooting™ range, “Bounty Gulch,” named after the ghost town of Bounty, Saskatchewan. The range is now two years old and features a mission, sheriff’s office, saloon, general store and bank, with plans to make it bigger and better next year.

With only one past shoot history to draw on, a committee of members from both Saskatchewan Association Wild West Shooters (SAWWS) and Saskatoon Muzzle Loader Club (SMLC) was formed. The committee members worked tirelessly throughout the winter and summer months leading up to the shoot. Their hard work made the event a huge success.

With the rich history of the town of Bounty, the shoot committee decided the second SASS Affiliated shoot should honour the cowboy spirit of the pioneers that settled and built Western Canada. After lots of re-



*Reverend Sweet Dorsey with the Saloon Girls.*



**Best dressed couples:**

*first place, Wanderin Rose (SASS #78642) and Mad Trapper of Rat River (SASS #78641); second place, Victoria Diamond (SASS #60952) and Haweater Hal (SASS #55287); third place, Pistol Packin’ Laniece (SASS #82686) and Jericho (SASS #74073).*



*Top shooters Victoria Diamond and Short Fingered Bill.*

search, “Canadian Outlaws” was chosen as the shoot theme. Each stage featured an outlaw who was either from Canada or committed their crimes in Canada. With names like the Mad Trapper of Rat River, Bill Miner, Boone Helm, Red Kelley, the McLean Gang, and the Flying Dutchman, Grey Beard had no end of material to work with as he wrote the stages.

For three days the air was filled with gunshots from side matches and the main match along with RO

*(Continued on next page)*

## Shootout at Bounty Gulch . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*



*Mad Trapper of Rat River recounts the tale of his namesake.*

Courses; swap meets and vendors in the event tent; a saloon girl contest; and other fancy dress contests each night. We played cowboy golf (with guns of course) and once again the members of the SMLC hosted a Knife and Hawk Trail Walk, to name a few of the activities.

Thursday started with an RO2 course while the ladies dressed up in their best finery and, along with their photographer Wild Whiskey Wade (SASS #97244), traveled to Boomtown for a Victorian Tea at the Western Development Museum. There they were treated to a museum tour and served a sit down luncheon. Comments from those who took part indicate it was a big hit and they would like to see it repeated next year again. The folks who run the museum are hoping they return as well. They com-



*The top 10 men and women shooters.*

mented that it was a real treat for other museum-goers to see so many beautiful ladies dress in 1800s garb.

Thursday afternoon side matches, set up by Pepper Em In Lead (SASS #92312) and Wild Boone (SASS #92715), were a big hit, featuring both speed and precision shooting matches using shotguns, revolvers and rifles. We shot speed pistol, rifle and shotgun, along with precision pistol and rifle, with prizes for the top men and women in each category. Thursday evening featured a steak supper followed by entertainment by the Mad Trapper of Rat River (SASS #78641) as he told the story of Albert Johnson, the historical Mad Trapper of Rat River, and his fight across the Yukon

*(Continued on page 16)*

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## Shootout at Bounty Gulch . . .

(Continued from page 15)

Territory. You could have heard a pin drop as the Mad Trapper told the story of his flight with words and music from his violin. After the story was complete, Mad Trapper treated us to several songs including one he had written to commemorate a former student who died serving his country. I'm not sure if it was the tune or the story that he told with it, but there were a lot of tear-filled eyes as he played.

The main match stages were entertaining and depicted events that took place in Western Canada and the USA. The scenarios included jailbreaks, robberies and lots of gun battles. Having targets that were big, close, and hittable added to the fun, resulting in many accolades to the host committee for a well-run shoot.

Shooters acted out stages that included Pearl Hart, the Bandit Queen, and her exploits in Arizona. As the story goes Pearl was born in Eastern Canada. After leaving her husband and children Pearl moved southward committing minor crimes until she took up with an outlaw going by the name of Joe Boot, robbing stage coaches. After they were caught and sentenced Pearl escaped from jail and the legend of the Bandit Queen was born.



One of the most entertaining stages was stage six, which featured an outlaw hiding in the outhouse. After cleaning up most of the bandits with their revolvers and five rifle rounds, the "Flying Dutchman" is found hiding. After shooting the door open, contestants dumped all remaining rounds on the gang leader hiding just inside the door, then finished the stage with four knock down shotgun rounds.

Over the two-day main match, cowboys and cowgirls shot every type of sweep imaginable. Competition at the top was fierce, but at the end of the day, Victoria Diamond (SASS #60952) and Short Fingered Bill (SASS #82161) edged out the competition, earning the buckles with well-de-



Victorian Tea at Boomtown.

served victories in the women's and men's categories.

After each days shooting, competitors were treated to some delicious food prepared by Saskatoon Muzzle Loader Club members. After Friday night's supper of fried chicken, we were treated to the second annual Saloon Girl contest, hosted by Doc Thompson (SASS #53294) and Reverend Sweet Dorsey. As usual the contest started with a sermon from Sweet Dorsey on the evils of wine, women and song, filled with lots of Oh Yahs. Then the cowboys had the opportunity to



purchase a ticket they could redeem for a drink or cigar from their favorite saloon girl. This year's twist to the contest was the tickets all went into a hat and the saloon girl who sold the lucky ticket was the winner of a single

action revolver. At the end of the night, Meadow Creek Ma (SASS #96461) was crowned Top Saloon Girl. The contest raised just a tad under \$2000.00 to support youth Cowboy Action Shooting™ here in Canada. Now we're waiting to see what kind of evil Doc and the Reverend will dream up next year.

Saturday night was the awards banquet and fancy dress up night. Roast beef with all the trimmings was on menu followed by door prizes and the awards presentations. The committee raffled off a bronze sculpture that raised \$370.00 to be donated to the SASS scholarship fund. Then, because of the generous support of our sponsors, every competitor received a door prize, plus we gave away three revolvers to participants. Best dressed, side match, category and the top 10 overall men and women were recognized to end a very successful second Western Canadian Regional Championship.

Thank you to SASS and all of the folks who supported us with donations to our prize table. The committee vows to make the shoot bigger and better next year, so watch for the posters or visit <http://www.sawws.com/> and get it on your shoot schedule. 🤠

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# Shootout at SASS CANADIAN National Championship

# TWIN RIVERS COW TOWN

By Helena Handbasket, SASS #85280  
and Slim Delgado, SASS #85279



**Kamloops, British Columbia, August 29-31, 2014.** Boy howdy! You know you're in cowboy country when match director Gunfighter Jim (SASS #31412) has to keep reminding SASS shooters to close the gate to the range so the grazing cattle don't get out onto the Trans Canada Highway. This was a real open range, but it was also the venue for the 2014 SASS Canadian National Championship.

Cowgirls and Cowboys from Western Canada and the Pacific Northwest came to ranch country in central British Columbia to compete, camp out, catch up and commiserate. This part of BC is well-known for scorching-hot summers and sage brush-covered hills, so holding the match at



the end of summer means the heat is starting to moderate somewhat.

One piece of Wild West scenery seemed to be missing, so an intrepid team of shooters headed on foot and by jeep to the top of a very steep and in-

accessible hillside behind the shooting bays. What's a Cowboy Action Shooting™ match without a warrior on horseback looking down on the proceedings? After much climbing, hammering, engineering and sweating, the new life-sized silhouette was installed high above the range.

The fun started Friday morning with a three-stage Wild Bunch match. This is a relatively new aspect to Cowboy Action Shooting™ in Canada, so we were pleased to see so many interested and talented shooters showing up and having a good time. Of course, costuming is a huge part of our sport, and Wild Bunch is no exception. We had the usual shooters dressed as U.S. cavalry, Gringo bandits, and a larger-than-life

*(Continued on next page)*





**Shootout at Twin Rivers Cow Town • SASS Canadian National Championship . . .**

*(Continued from previous page)*



Mexican peon. There were no reports of unpleasant interactions with the resident rattlesnakes, which was a relief to the peon in his sandals.

Ladies had a tough decision to make, because while the Wild Bunch

match was going on, a ladies Victorian Tea was also scheduled. This is where the ladies trotted out their finery, fripperies and furbelows. Those who attended the tea discovered the classic charm of homemade scones, clotted cream, and strawberry preserves, alongside a groaning table of other irresistible goodies. Turns out that our hostess, the always elegant and well-dressed Lady Shuswap (SASS #53492), is an amazing baker too.

The action continued in the afternoon with the usual precision and speed side-matches and long-range competition. A lot of the competitors felt that if it weren't for drinking too much coffee, or not enough coffee, or eating a bigger breakfast, or a smaller breakfast, or getting a little more sleep, or a little less sleep the night before, they would have snatched victory from the jaws of defeat. I think they're probably right.

Saturday morning found the excited shooters ready and raring to go. We had five main-match stages each on Saturday and Sunday, with a little Kamloops twist thrown in to make things interesting. One stage had an authentic beautifully-restored Democrat buggy as a prop. That stage started with the shooter carrying a sack of grain over his or her shoulder, then flinging it

into the buggy to commence the course of fire. Good thing we all ate our Wheaties that morning!

Another stage had life-sized saguaro cactus to shoot around. The saloon stage had a different window or door for each gun, so a fair bit of traveling was in-

*(Continued on page 20)*

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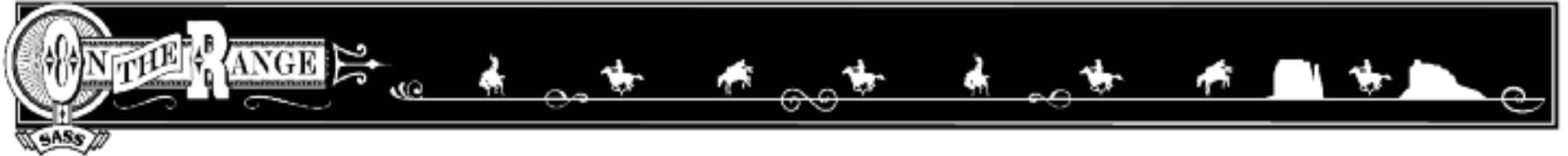
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## Shootout at Twin Rivers Cow Town • SASS Canadian National Championship . . .

*(Continued from page 19)*

involved. The stages were written to be challenging but not difficult, and everyone was able to enjoy themselves while testing their mettle against their shootin' buddies. That's not to say that it was easy—oh no. Stage one was everybody's favorite, with the shotgun targets replaced with poppers loaded with clays. Some of our most experienced shooters met their Waterloo on this stage, but a few brand-new shooters were surprised to hit the flying birds. There's nothing that shows the cowboy spirit more than when a rookie shooter does really well on a tricky stage.



After five fun stages, Saturday night's awards for side-matches and costumes were handed out. The

multi-talented couple of Preacher Flynn T. Locke (SASS #86343) and Georgia Bank (SASS #86344) won for best-dressed man and best-dressed lady in costumes created by Georgia Bank. We were also entertained by frequent appearances at the awards podium by Hurricane Hayley (SASS #94450), who accepted so many award certificates for side-matches that she finally resorted to carrying them in her teeth. After the formalities were over and the formal-wear hung back in the closet, campfire socializing and tall-tales completed the evening's entertainment.

The second day of shooting passed in a flash. Before we knew it,



we had wrapped up another year's national finals and it was all up to the scorekeepers. These are the often-unsung heroes of each match, toiling away in small crowded rooms compiling the statistics that



make it all worthwhile. Thank you all! We also appreciate our vendors, some of whom come from across the line and show up faithfully every year. When all was revealed Sunday evening at the banquet, our overall Canadian champions are, once again, Haweater Hal (SASS #55287) and Victoria Diamond (SASS #60952). Visit <http://www.ktsa.ca/CanadianNationals.html> for a complete list of scores and standings.



The 2015 SASS Canadian Nationals will be in Mission, BC, near Vancouver. We're all looking forward to

*(Continued on next page)*

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**Shootout at Twin Rivers Cow Town • SASS Canadian National Championship ...**

*(Continued from previous page)*

catching up with far-flung cowboys we may only see once a year, and trying to grab the chance for a belt-buckle again. Hope to see you there! 🤠



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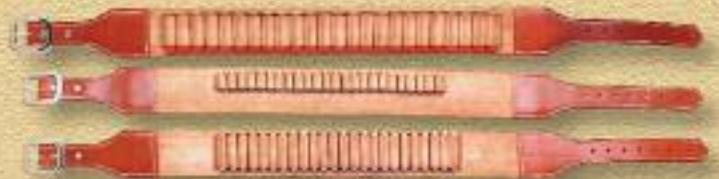
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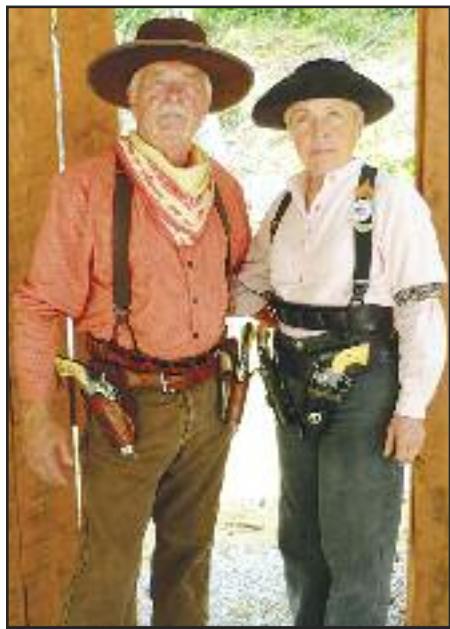
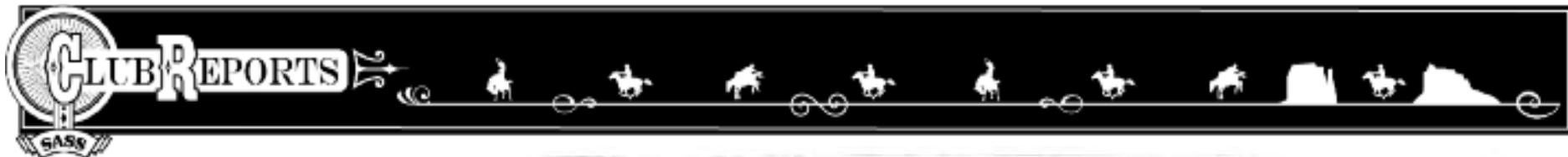
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Rio Drifter, SASS #49244 and Tennessee Tall, SASS #49245

# SHOOTIN' OUR WAY ACROSS AMERICA New Jersey

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

Photos by Dancin Angel, SASS #53686, Doom's Darlin', SASS #92853, and Jesamy Kid, SASS #34841

## Jackson, NJ—our 42<sup>nd</sup> state and counting!

Surprise! Yep, that is what we got in New Jersey. We were not expecting to find the Old West alive and kicking in Jackson. Be prepared for surprises when you visit the Northeast. For starters, very friendly folks, serious shooters, and an abundance of the BEST DRESSED cowboys and cow-



Baby Bella and Cimarron Boca.

girls we have seen in our travels. The website for the Jackson Hole Gang gives travelers clear concise information on how to transport guns and ammunition into the state. Jesamy Kid, Territorial Governor, was explicit in telling us to follow the rules and drive

safely. Visit <http://www.jacksonholegang.com/> for more information.

Jesamy Kid, of the Jackson Hole Gang, conducts a new shooters class on Saturday before each Sunday match. New shooter Lone Wolf Austin (SASS #100393) showed he paid attention, as he was a member of one of the top teams in the shoot off. We shot the first four stages of the Postal Match, which consisted of a four-stage match in June and another four-stage



Doom's Darlin', Bronco Joan (SASS #30643), Dancin Angel, Wyoming Schoolmarm, and Tennessee Tall.



New Jersey Postal Match posse.

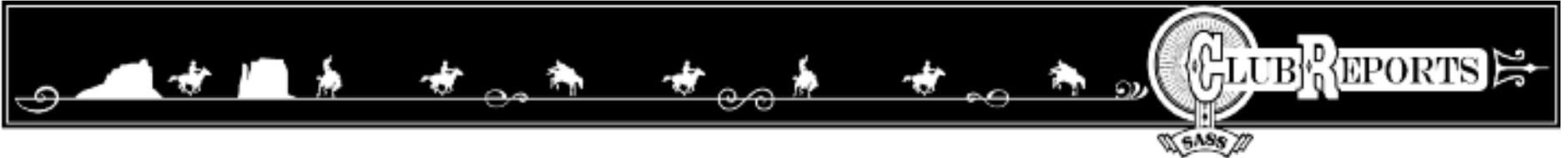
match in September. The matches were held at various participating clubs throughout the country and the world, with final, worldwide scores tallied at the end. The Doily Gang is responsible for the idea, and further details, along with final scores, can be found by going to <http://doilygang.com> and clicking on the Postal Match link. Those who weren't participating in the overall competition (like us), were welcome to shoot as though it was just a monthly match.



Duel winners, Maspeth Kid, Chivato, and Rio Drifter.

Dancin Angel, three-time New Jersey State Lady Champion, wrote two of the stages, and two more were written by Appaloosa Amy, SASS #63949, Connecticut State Champion, and New England Regional Lady Champion, from the Ledyard Sidewinders in Connecticut. There were also shooters from Pennsylvania, Virginia, Delaware, New Jersey, and Florida,

*(Continued on next page)*



**Shootin' Our Way Across America • New Jersey**

*(Continued from previous page)*

making up four full posses.

After the fourth stage of the Postal Match, three names per team were drawn from a hat to make up 14 teams to go head to head in the first Doily Gang Duel. The first team member drawn shot ten rifle rounds, ran back and tagged the second



Jim (SASS #98823) and Sweetheart Sherry (SASS #68929), and their daughter Sweet Irish (SASS #96160); and Papa Gray (SASS #73118) and Irish Devil (SASS #87190). We saw moms, dads, and kids proudly practicing an American tradition. You can see by the photos that everyone is talking



team member, who shot 10 revolver rounds, then ran back and tagged the third member of the team, who cleaned up any misses and fired two shotgun rounds. I was having a really good time right up till Maspeth Kid (SASS #98037), Chivato (SASS #91643), and Rio Drifter beat my team!



costumes, guns and shooting. Yep, New Jersey was a very pleasant surprise!

We feel like we have made some lifelong friends

in the Northeast. We loved shooting with Vaquero Dan (SASS #31330) and Wyoming Schoolmarm (SASS #32070), from Bridgeville, Delaware, again. Shooting is definitely a family sport as illustrated by Papa Hawk (SASS #10380), Baby Bella Hawk (SASS #92817), and her dad, Cimarron Boca (SASS #7032). Families ruled the day with Dancin Angel and Jamsamy Kid; Vaquero Dan and Wyoming Schoolmarm; Doctor Doom (SASS #69253) and Doom's Darlin' (SASS #92853); Johnny Swan (SASS #50322) and his son, J. Everett Swan (SASS #92973); Irishman



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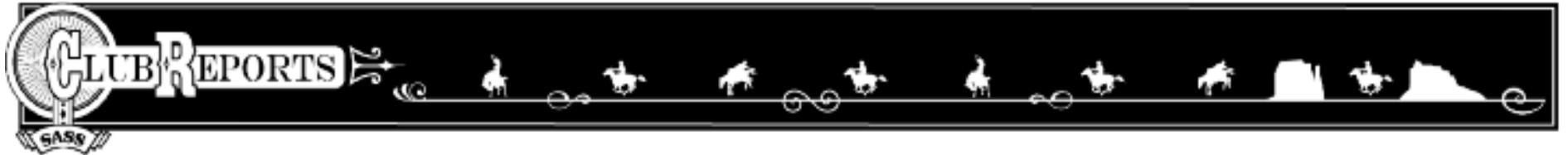
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# Fourth Annual **DOUBLE B** Shootout

By *Frenchy Cannuck SASS #86789*

**A**ugust 8-10, 2014. Things being relatively quiet at the “Double B Ranch,” the cowhands are sittin’ around the firepit telling tall tales.

The BB ranch is located in South-eastern New Brunswick, Canada, near Moncton. The BeauBassin Range Riders have been Cowboy Action Shooting™ for four years already. The first year was a one-day event and the only



match that year. The second year we decided that in order to make the trip worthwhile, we should offer two days of shooting and did so for two years. This year the event has grown again, on Thursday we offered a Wild Bunch RO Course offered by Legendary Lawman (SASS #73160) and Serenity (SASS #64982). Five new WBAS ROs were anointed that day: Frenchy Cannuck (SASS #86789), Range Gypsie (SASS #81433), Capt. Henry Cutter (SASS #85380), Ace Holder (SASS #94589), and Doc McGillcuddy (SASS #93946).

On Friday there was a Wild Bunch Match and at the same time there were some speed matches happening for those who were interested.

Saturday after the customary safety briefing the Cowboys and Cowgirls were treated to four

main stages and one of two signature side matches, *The Good The Bad and The Ugly*. These side matches have become favorites with the shooters.



The winner was The Blackrock Kid (SASS #95826).

That evening we all gathered at the “Scandinavian Village,” a local resort where all the buildings are made of logs—a fitting décor. There was a BBQ and some cheers and great socializing, the ladies and gents where attired in their fineries and were a sight, drawing admiration from other guests of the resort.

*(Continued on next page)*



# SEPTEMBER IN THE SUN

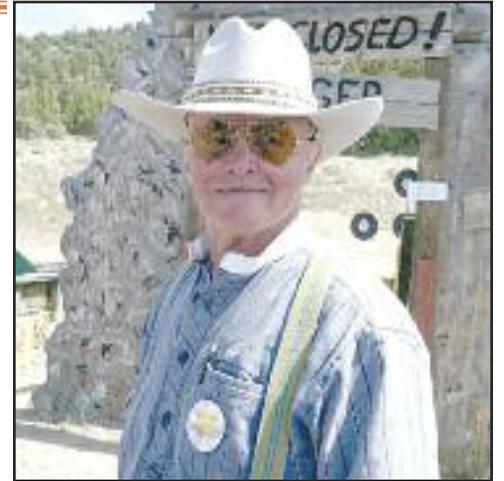
*By Palaver Pete, SASS #4375*

What a beautiful summer day the Pine Mountain Posse had for their monthly shoot in September—it was Mother Nature at her very best. The day was made even more pleasant by visiting shooters from other areas of Oregon, as well as the return of Snowbird, Doc Valentine (SASS #39814), who resumed his normal fast shooting style by winning the Senior Duelist Category. Perennial winner Hoss Reese (SASS #88815) led the entire pack with a blistering 141.29 seconds for five very tricky stages. I say “tricky,” because we had two stages where five of ten rifle rounds were fired in one sequence, and then re-staged (in accordance with SASS rules) and the last five rounds shot in another sequence (very interesting).

Sunrise Bill (SASS #64301) and Tetherow Tex LaRue (SASS #90999) were the instigators of the rifle shooting sequences, but the posse adapted quickly, and after several insurance policies were used, seemed to agree that the aforementioned stages were a challenge well met. Deadwood Pete (SASS #57450) nipped-by Will Preacher (SASS #77260) to win the 49’r Category, while visiting shooter Yo Montana (SASS #72343) took the Lady 49’r title. Sierra Sage Sue (SASS #57487) was top Cowgirl, and The Legend (SASS #36069) topped the Gunfighter category.

Also visiting us with his winning smile was Reloader Fred (SASS #68761), who won the Silver Senior category while barely nosing-out Highroller Ross (SASS #99885), who was top Cowboy for the day.

For total scores by stage and category, and for scores of past shoots, visit our Website at: [www.pinemountainposse.com/](http://www.pinemountainposse.com/) you’re a Daisy if ya do. 🤠



*Palaver Pete,  
SASS Life/Regulator #4375*



*Visiting Shooter, Yo Montana fires her ‘73 on her way to winning the Lady 49’r Category.*



*“What am I supposed to do here?”  
Tetherow Tex LaRue asks of RO Hoss Reese  
as Will Preacher looks on.*



*Well, the answer of course was, “Shoot your  
rifle so fast we can see the brass fly through the  
air.” And this he did with excellent precision.*

## Fourth Annual Double B Shootout . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*

On Sunday things got underway again and the day ended with another side match this one based on the Duke’s movie *Rio Bravo*. Again, this is an event that is now a staple of our annual match.

This year was special in the fact that we enjoyed spending time with the returning Legendary Lawman and Serenity from Ontario, and welcomed Captain Copps (SASS #57513) from British Columbia, a gentleman and a good man to ride the river with. Captain Copps was traveling and shooting across

our beautiful country planning to return via the northern states.

The weekend was a rousing success and shooters went away promising to return. We saw experienced shooters displaying great performances and offering advice to newer shooters. There was a great sense of friendship and camaraderie that has become the norm at the BB Ranch. We enjoyed seeing our old friends as well as meeting new ones. Y’all come out and play there’s always enough to go around at the BB Ranch.

For complete scores, or if you want to learn more about the ranch, y’all can visit our website at [www.doublebcowboys.com](http://www.doublebcowboys.com). 🤠



# RED DIRT Oklahoma State WILD BUNCH Championship

By Missouri Mae, SASS #80828



Lady Modern winners (L-R): Krazy Kat (SASS #100929), second place; Missouri Mae, first place and state champion.



Lady Traditional winners (L-R): Green Eyed Brazos Belle (SASS #82399), first place; Kathouse Kelli (SASS #72384), second place and state champion.



Modern winners (R-L): Paladenton (SASS #68542), first place and state champion; Lonesome Buck (SASS #77860), third place; Dusty Boddoms (SASS #1907), second place.



Oklahoma State Champions Missouri Mae and Paladenton.

**Oklahoma City, OK.** A small but dedicated group of shooters from Oklahoma and Texas gathered at the Oklahoma City Gun Club, home of the Territorial Marshals to participate in the fourth annual Oklahoma State Wild Bunch Championship. Thirty-two shooters, including four ladies, shot ten fast and exciting stages over the two-day period of Friday and Saturday, October 11 and 12. It looked like a scene from the great movie, with our shooters well representing the cowboys, military, and even the Mexican rebels. After shooting six stages Saturday, most were



Senior Modern winners (R-L): Flat Top Okie (SASS #80827), first place and state champion; Backwoods Butch (SASS #85732), third place; Jackaroo (SASS #29989), second place.

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Traditional winners (L-R): Crooked Bullet (SASS #70870), first place; Stoney Cahill (SASS #92623), second place and state champion; Snake River James (SASS #12523), third place.

ready for a break. Everyone relaxed a bit and enjoyed a barbeque dinner, which concluded with numerous door prize drawings, including a Rock Island 1911,

*(Continued on next page)*



**Red Dirt • Oklahoma State WILD BUNCH Championship ...**

*(Continued from previous page)*

that was won by Choctaw Al (SASS #88106) from Texas. I bet he was glad he decided to come at the last minute!

Saturday was another beautiful day, with some shooters hoping to continue their success from the previous day and some hoping to recover from earlier problems. With all stages completed, we all gathered at the pavilion for brisket and links, giving everyone the chance to brag or whine about their day. After this short break, we reconvened at the Adobe Wall for the top gun shoot-off and



final awards presentation. Twenty-four shooters competed in the furious shoot-off, with Green Hill Bart (SASS #95894) taking Top Gun Honors.

Many of us thought it might never happen, but for the first time since we've been hosting the Wild Bunch Championship, one shooter completed the match clean and with no penalties. So unprepared were we for this possibility, that we had failed to purchase an award for this, so we had to order one the next day. Congratulations to Buff Driver (SASS #85299) from Oklahoma City, we are all proud of you.

Congratulations to all the winners, placers and state champions. Please visit <http://www.okcgunclub.org/cowboy/wildbunch.html> for a complete list of final scores and for more information on the Territorial Marshals. 🤠



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Aneeda Huginkiss,  
SASS #23798



# OUTLAW TRAIL

## Four Corners

### Regional MOUNTED Shoot

or

### The Huginkiss Sisters' Most Recent Adventure!

By Aneeda Huginkiss, SASS #23798

**I**t came! Yup, the invitation to shoot Mounted at Outlaw Trail found its way to my mailbox... My email box that is! The date was August 23 and 24 at Founders Ranch in Edgewood, New Mexico. I hurried and filled out my entry form and sent it back. I had to do a bit of persuading, but got Helda Huginkiss (SASS #23799) talked into make the trek with me and I couldn't wait! I have to add that Helda loves to shoot, but her shooting horse, Tempest, is getting old and is lame so she can't ride her anymore. She decided she could ride and shoot off of TopHawk. He's 22 and close to being retired as well.



Helda and Toppy.

I started riding my trusty pony Teaser to get him ready for the competition but he was "off"... and by "off," I mean he tried to BUCK ME OFF! TWICE! What's up with that? He isn't usually like that... I thought maybe he

needed to be adjusted by my horse chiropractor (yup they have them for horses!), but just before I left for Outlaw Trail I figured out what was up... my husband, Cannonball Charlie, informed me when he was loading my hay in the trailer that he had been feeding him alfalfa! OH NO! He gets HOT when he eats alfalfa... hence the bucking incidents. You really should have seen the first time he bucked. If someone would have videoed it, we could have won \$10,000.00, I'm sure! I was working on getting him to run FAST and rounded a corner and he dropped his head and bucked... I being such an accomplished rider went right over his head and was headed for the ground thinking to my-



Icelady and Aneeda,  
ready to shoot!

self, "I AM NOT FALLING OFF!" So I did what any cowgirl would do... I started grabbing anything I could to stop my quick descent towards the dirt! I grabbed his ears, forehead and then around his neck with my arms and wrapped my legs (what little I have of them!) around his neck as well. That made him stop and put his head up, causing me to slide down his neck and stop when I hit the saddle. When he brought his

head up, he saved me! Maybe he thought a boa constrictor had gotten ahold of him. Didn't matter, I was still on a part of the horse, anyway! I tried to dismount and get back into the saddle but couldn't get my leg (remember they are short!) over the saddle horn so I was stuck! What to do? I finally folded my legs under me and hoisted myself up over the saddle horn back



Aneeda and Teaser.

into the saddle. Then I proceeded to have a "discussion" with my horse about his behavior... and we loped a lot of circles! I also had a "discussion" with Cannonball Charlie about feeding Teaser alfalfa!

Helda called me Thursday, really sick with a cold and a bad cough, and said she was feeling puny and didn't think she had the energy to go. I was so sad, but understood. I did tell her I would take care of her all weekend if she decided to go. She called later and said she was feeling better and would go... woohoo. Then Friday she

*(Continued on next page)*

## Outlaw Trail Four Corners Regional Mounted Shoot . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*



*Stuttering Wayne and Blair.*

called and had coughed all night, but being the tough cowgirl she is, she said she was going anyway!

Unfortunately we both had to work Friday so we had to leave *after* work. I have decided work is a four letter word and it sure gets in the way of our playing! It was raining when we loaded the ponies and hit the road on our most recent adventure to Outlaw Trail! It rained on us all the way to Albuquerque and then we ran

into road construction and sat for a half hour in it... just our luck. We pulled into Founders Ranch around 11:00 p.m. and were met by a worried Stuttering Wayne (SASS #71602), who helped us get our ponies in pens, watered and fed. We didn't even unhook the trailer we were so tired. We went straight to bed.

Saturday dawned cool but clear with a little breeze! NO WIND! Wow, that is unheard of. We always have



*Chili Cowboy.*

LOTS of wind to blow the arena dirt around so we are all covered with it by the end of the day! We were up early, moving the trailer and making a pen for the horses. Founders Ranch was greener than I have seen it in years, there were wildflowers blooming everywhere and the sunflowers were eight feet tall and the horses had

grass everywhere! We dressed up in our cowboy clothes and got our ponies warmed up for the four stages we were shooting. We had Rifle stages too!

It was a small gathering of Mounted Shooters. I wish more could have made it, because they missed a really fun match with great stages and even greater people! There were 11 of us shooting, Helda and I;



*Aneeda on Teaser, giving shotgun a go.*

Chili Cowboy (SASS #59663) and Sassy Susie Q (SASS #59662); Stone Cone Killer (SASS #87476); Wild Kat Karson (SASS #90430); Sunset Kit Karson (SASS #90431); Stuttering Wayne and Icelady (SASS #71603); El What (SASS #93967) and Pokie Honus (SASS #98879). Painted Lady (SASS #74481) was responsible for the great horsemanship stages we ran... they were challenging.

Stuttering Wayne had the grounds and arena in tip-top shape for the shoot... he did a great job!

After the shooting Saturday, we had time to go to SASS Town and check out the vendors, yes vendors! Helda and I found

some great accouterments to buy. We walked back to the Mounted Camp and had lunch with Stuttering Wayne. There was a potluck planned for 6:00 p.m. with all the Mounted Shooters so we kicked back and relaxed for a couple of hours. Actually, I cleaned our guns while Helda took a little nap... she needed it!

At 5:30 we all gathered at Chili Cowboy and Sassy Susie Q's trailer for our fajita potluck. Let's see, Helda and I were there, of course. Chili Cowboy and Sassy Susie Q; Painted Lady and Gettysburg Cowboy (SASS #74480); and El What and Pokie Honus, who made us a most awesome drink called a Goom Bay Slammer and brought empanadas (my favorite was the pump-

*(Continued on page 30)*



*Stone Cone Killer on Snowman.*

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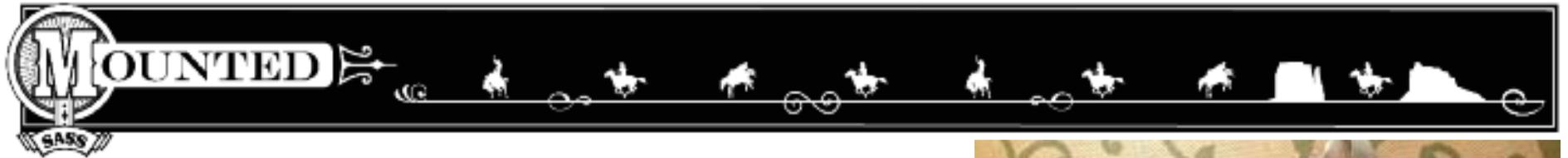
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## Outlaw Trail Four Corners Regional Mounted Shoot

(Continued from page 29)

kin one)! It was a fun evening filled with good food and good friends.

Sunday morning brought high fluffy clouds and it was warmer than Saturday, but the breeze was light as we got ready for our second day of shooting. We had two stages to finish the match and then Shotgun and the Extreme Team Stage. After our last two stages and all the smoke cleared, I couldn't believe it, I shot the entire match clean! I don't do that very often! Helda tried her best but two of those darn balloons ducked and eluded her eagle eye!

It was time for Shotgun. I tried my hand with the Shotgun at END of TRAIL and loved it. Scared me to death, mind you, but it was FUN. Let me explain Rifle and Shotgun shooting to you. You have a pattern with five light-colored balloons and then a rundown (a straight line of balloons) with dark balloons. For Rifle and Shotgun, you shoot the first five light balloons with your revolver, holster it then draw either your rifle or shotgun, round the rundown barrel and start shooting the rundown balloons. (For shotgun the balloons are grouped in a group of two and another group of three because you only have two shots... so you have to pop all the balloons in the group with that one shot!) When you go around the barrel and start shooting with your rifle or shotgun, you drop your horse's reins and hang onto the gun. Your horse has to run straight so you can hit your targets, *and* you have to trust that! Then at the end you have to retrieve your reins and stop your horse... kinda scary—actually *really* scary—but as I said FUN, FUN, FUN. I did really well at Outlaw Trail. I knew my horse was gonna run

Outlaw Trail Hay Bag Award.



like the wind when I dropped the reins so I let him go and concentrated on hitting my targets. I missed the first two balloons (shot too soon) but popped the last three balloons with my second shot! *Woohoo...* and I got my horse stopped! We shoot two stages with both rifle and shotgun, so I reloaded and went in for my second stage. I missed a light balloon with my revolver, darn it, but only missed one dark balloon. My horse ran straight and did really well for his second time and he stopped, which is very important! I talked Helda into doing a Shotgun time only. I put my scabbard on her saddle and loaded the shotgun for her, gave her a few pointers, and out into the arena she went! She got the first five balloons with her revolver and then pulled the shotgun, she slowed down and aimed and hit one balloon with her first shot then hit two out of the last three balloons with her second shot. Wow, she did great for her first try. She came out of the arena all smiles and I asked her what she thought. She said it was the scariest thing she had ever done but she loved it! I think she's hooked!

The shoot was almost over, we only had the Extreme Team Stage left. Darn, it went so fast! They pair

(Continued on next page)

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### Division Winners:

- L1: Wild Kat Karson
- L2: Stuttering Wayne
- SL1: Icelady
- SL2: Stone Cone Killer
- SL3: Helda Huginkiss
- SL4: Aneeda Huginkiss
- S1: Sunset Kit Karson
- S3: El What
- S4: Chili Cowboy

### Rifle Results:

- First Stuttering Wayne
- Second Chili Cowboy
- Third El What

### Shotgun Results:

- First Aneeda Huginkiss
- Second El What
- Third Stuttering Wayne
- Fourth Wild Kat Karson

### Extreme Team Results:

- First Stone Cone Killer & Helda Huginkiss
- Second Chili Cowboy & Wild Kat Karson
- Third Stuttering Wayne & Sunset Kit Karson
- Fourth Pokie Honus & Aneeda Huginkiss
- Fifth Icelady and & El What

Clean Match: Aneeda Huginkiss





## Outlaw Trail Four Corners Regional Mounted Shoot . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*

the slowest shooters with the fastest shooters and announce the teams. I got Pokie Honus and Helda got Stone Cone Killer. Gettysburg Cowboy assisted with stage set up and the Extreme Team Stage, as did Painted Lady. We walked through the obstacles, there was a jump, cactus to maneuver through, a snake in the grass to shoot (that's a balloon stuffed inside a knocked down cone) and lots of twists and turns. One partner started the course and shot five balloons, went to the hand off area and touched hands with their partner, who then shot the last five balloons and crossed the timer. Competition was fierce and everyone was doing their best to win, but when the last team had shot, Helda and Stone Cone Killer beat us all handily. They smoked us!

Awards were 20 minutes after the team stage so we untacked our horses and took their pen down, packed up the trailer and hurried back for the awards. All division winners got really nice black hay bags with the

Buffalo Range Rider logo on them and there were buckles for the Men's Overall and Women's Overall winners.

I was surprised when I actually came in first overall... that never happens. So I won Women's Overall and El What won Men's Overall (he came in second overall). Helda came in fourth overall and won Reserve Ladies bragging rights.

We said our goodbyes, gave everyone hugs and kisses, loaded our ponies and started the long drive back home to Colorado. We had so much fun we hated to go, but the shoot was over, the dust had settled, and we would have to wait until next year to shoot Outlaw Trail again.

I want to give kudos to the Buffalo Range Riders. The whole shoot ran like a well-oiled machine. We had lots of help announcing and the balloon setters did a top-notch job. They know how to put on a wonderful, entertaining Mounted Shoot. You can be sure we will be back for Buffalo Stampede in the Spring! 🐾

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



# DISPATCHES FROM CAMP BAYLOR

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

## Ringer's Bullets, Black Powder, and the Desert

**L**ead Ringer (SASS #87957 Life) with his wife Miss Behavin' (SASS #88511) own and operate Ringer's Bullets (<http://ringersbullets.com>, 270-331-2386). At END of TRAIL he mentioned he had been using a lube that worked with black powder



*Ringer's Bullets that are shipped in USPS flat rate boxes are packed in these sturdy boxes. Most black powder bullets cannot be bulk-packed this way because their lube melts.*

and smokeless and could be shipped in bulk. Lead Ringer shot Frontier Cartridge in SASS at championship level before moving to smokeless, which he now shoots at championship level. He won the shoot-off at END of TRAIL 2014 in one of the most spectacular finishes ever. He used to live in Oregon and learned black powder lore from Ol #4 (SASS #41004) and other hardcore black powder shooters.



*This is how most black powder bullets, lubed with SPG, are shipped, in Styrofoam cartridge box inserts. This makes them expensive and time consuming to load.*

## Black Powder Fouling

Black powder leaves a residue in the barrel that will get hard if it dries out, essentially turning the barrel into a smooth bore. If it is kept wet, this will be delayed or eliminated. Waxy bullet lubes cause the fouling to get hard quickly, destroying accuracy and making gun cleaning difficult.

The trick is to keep the fouling soft. This is naturally easier in a damp climate. It's also helpful to run a wet patch down the bore occasionally.

### Black Powder Bullets are "Different"

Generally bullets that work with black powder have a lube that is very "runny." This makes them difficult to ship. Put them in a bullet box and stick them in a flat rate shipping box, and they arrive a gooey mess with the lube in a blob on the bottom. Consequently, bullet makers who use SPG, the most common commercially available black powder bullet lube, normally put them in Styrofoam cartridge box inserts. This is labor intensive and adds considerably to the cost. Very few bullet makers do it, so the selection is limited. Mike Venturino coined the term UPS bullets for bullets that could be shipped in bulk boxes.

Lead Ringer's bullets qualify as UPS bullets. The melting point is about 20°F lower than the most common commercial lube, but it still stays solid when shipped. They worked with black powder where he lives, in Kentucky, but he didn't know how well they would work in a dry climate, like, say, Phoenix. So he asked me to test five different bullets. This meant loading 100 rounds with each bullet using black powder.

I also loaded Ringer .38 bullets in ammunition for a test of American Pioneer Powder Premium Grade (July 2014 *Dispatches From Camp Baylor*). They worked quite well in that test, contributing to the small groups obtained. I consider them all good general-purpose Cowboy Action Shooting™ bullets.

*(Continued on next page)*



## Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*

### Test methodology

The test was designed to see how long you could go without cleaning the bore before it “fouled out.” Six stages was the goal. Normally, that’s the most you shoot in a day at a SASS match. The test methodology made it more demanding than shooting six stages at a match. You might shoot a stage every 45 minutes at a match, and the gun cools between stages. I shot 10 rounds at a 15" x 15" SASS target at 25-30 yards through one rifle, picked up the brass, and shot the other rifle. So 5-10 minutes between stages was max. The barrels were often still hot when I started the next string. When fouling occurs, you know it almost immediately. Center hold, perfect sight alignment, slow fire shots start missing. Each test stopped when I was convinced the barrel was fouled or after 60 rounds.

The barrels got very hot, which contributes to hard fouling. I didn’t run any patches or Windex (with Vinegar) through the barrels until a test was done. Then I sprayed Windex down the bore and ran a wet Bore Snake through the barrel until it was clear of fouling. I started each test with a clean barrel, chamber, and shell lifter.

Black powder also causes fouling in the chamber and the action. This occurs sooner with straight-wall cartridges than bottlenecked such as .44-40. If you can’t work the lever, it’s hard to shoot the rifle quickly. Cleaning the chamber was a separate issue. I spray a little lube on the shell lifter after every stage in a match. If the action gets sticky, I do a quick cleaning with Windex and a little more lube. In this case the lube was Ballistol.

The .45s were tested on a Cimarron ’73 carbine with 19" barrel. The .38s were tested on a Taylor’s ’73 rifle with an 18.5" barrel. Longer barrels would become fouled faster because the fouling will be at the muzzle end. The lube runs out in long barrels; hence the need for “Big Lube” bullets.

The test took place in November at Cowtown in the Phoenix area. The temperature was in the low 70s, and humidity was 39%. I should also note no effort was made to “season” the barrel. Black powder works best if you don’t shoot anything but black powder in the gun.

### .45 Colt 200-grain Big Lube RNFP Bullets

Big Lube bullets, strangely enough, have a big lube groove to hold more lube. This is really important with .45 Colt. The case holds a lot of powder, and



200-grain RNFP .45 Colt bullets.

*The one on the left has normal smokeless-sized lube grooves. The one on the right has a Big Lube groove to hold enough lube for shooting black powder in rifles.*

fouling is common. In the old west, of course, Winchester used bottlenecked .44-40 or .38-40 cartridges to keep fouling from the chamber and the action.

The load was 35 grains of Goex Cartridge. All loads had a good roll crimp. That’s a compressed load, about 1/16<sup>th</sup> to 1/8<sup>th</sup> inch. This is hotter than necessary (or desirable) for SASS, but my theory is if it works, then lighter loads will work.

On the fourth string the action became very gritty. On the fifth the lever became very hard to move, and the shell lifter was black and sooty. So I cleaned the shell lifter with the Windex/Ballistol routine until the action was slick again. On the sixth string the last two shots missed, indicating fouling was beginning.

Verdict: Acceptable. If I were shooting this load,

*(Continued on page 34)*

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## Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

*(Continued from page 33)*

I would clean the chamber lifter every stage and run a Ballistol-lubed patch down the barrel at least every other stage.

I mention Ballistol because most black powder shooters use it. Many are convinced it is the only lube to use with wholly black. It is a very good lube.

### 200 gr. RNFP .45 Colt bullets

This is the same shape and weight bullet but with a normal lube groove. The difference in lube showed pretty quickly. The lever was sticky during the second stage. I did the Windex/Ballistol routine. On the third stage the last four rounds were misses. I decided this was due to fouling and terminated the test.

Verdict: Use the big lube bullets for real black. Use these for smokeless and American Pioneer Powder and Triple Seven.

I will note that 15 grains of most black powders will pass the smoke standard. Fifteen grains-plus

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*Two popular .38/.357 bullets for Cowboy Action Shooting™. On the left is the 125-grain TCFP. It worked very well in the test. On the right is the 105-grain TCFP. It worked very well with American Pioneer Powder but not so well with Goex Cartridge.*

of Goex FFG with filler (such as corn cob polishing media to just below 1/8" of the case mouth), compressed by the bullet, make an acceptable SASS load that will not foul the bore or the chamber and lifter nearly as quickly. The filler will scour the bore and lengthen the number of rounds that can be used without cleaning.

### 158 gr. RNFP .38/.357 bullets

The load was 15 grains of Goex Cartridge, another slightly compressed load with this bullet. On the fourth stage misses started, eight on this stage. Despite this I tried once more and had six. After that I terminated the test.

Verdict: Acceptable but not the best of the Ringer .38/.357 bullets for CAS. If I were using it I would do the Windex/Ballistol routine after every stage (I do on all my loads), and run a wet patch down the barrel after every stage. Most .38 shooters keep 158-grain full power loads in their gun carts for knockdowns. These would be excellent for that. My knockdowns are 158-grain Ringer bullets over full charges of American Pioneer Powder FFG.

### 105 gr. TCFP .38/.357 bullets

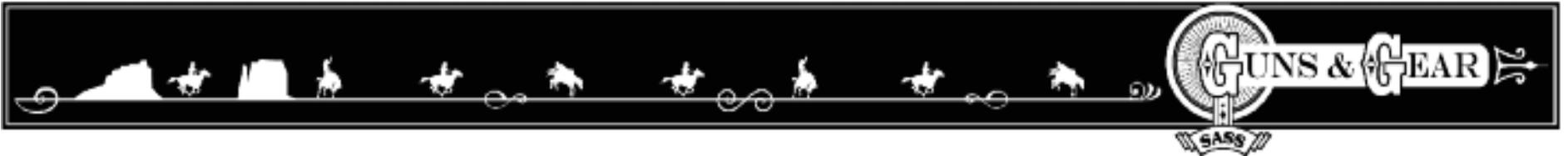
I used 17.5 grains of Goex Cartridge. Misses started on the third stage, and I terminated the test. This wasn't surprising. The round has a short bearing surface and small lube groove. It also allows room for a lot of powder. So there's a lot of powder without much resistance. This leads to a lot of fouling, and there's no lube to soften it.

Verdict: This is an excellent bullet for smokeless and American Pioneer Powder. Ringer sells it in 4000-round bulk packs in a flat rate box, making it economical. But don't use this for wholly black. Use:

### 125 gr. TCFP .38/.357 bullets

The load was 17 grains of Goex Cartridge. The lever was really sticky during the fourth stage, so I cleaned the shell lifter with Windex with Vinegar but didn't use any oil. The fifth and sixth stages were

*(Continued on next page)*



## Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

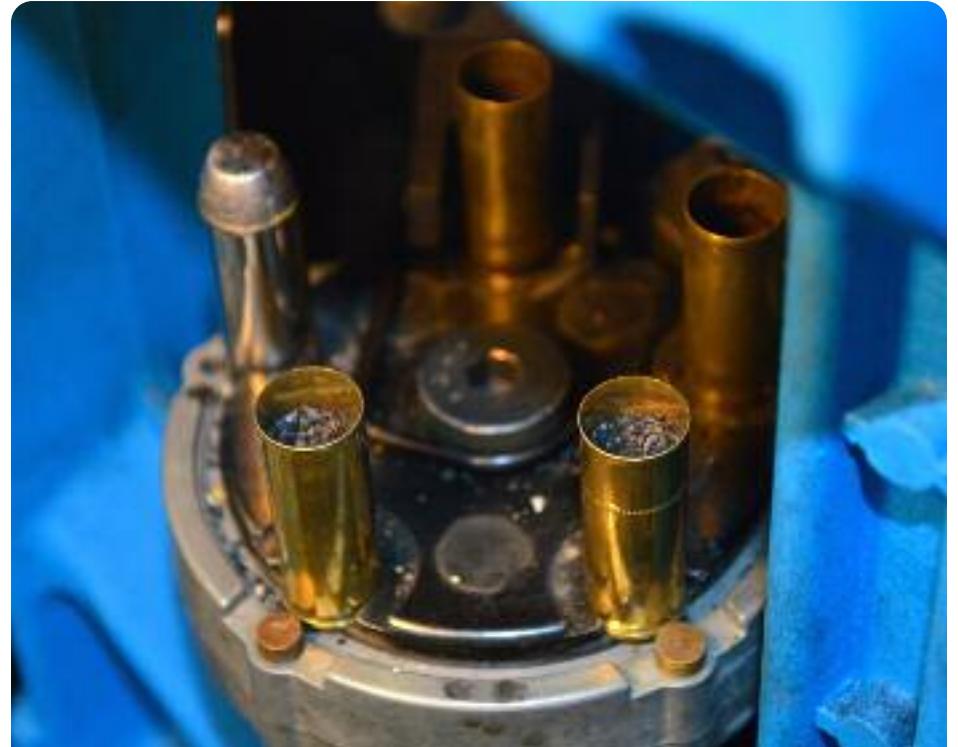
*(Continued from previous page)*

good, and there were no misses. The bore was very hard to clean, leading to the conclusion that a seventh stage would have been a stage too far. Even though it went six stages, I would run a wet patch down the bore every other stage or so. This is an excellent all around .38/.357 bullet for SASS, whether using black or smokeless or substitutes. Ringer's offers 3500 round bulk packs in a medium USPS Flat Rate box.

Current thinking on lead hardness is that cowboy loads should be "softer" than full-power loads such as IPSC. The Brinell hardness of these bullets was 12. Lead Ringer said his 9mm, .40 caliber, and .45 ACP bullets are harder at 15.

Ringer's Bullets are all priced competitively. On-line ordering is simple, and credit cards are accepted, making purchasing easy.

This test also reminded me why I use American Pioneer Powder for cartridges. It works with smokeless bullets. It also works with this lube. All



*Here 35 grains of Goex Cartridge is loaded under 200-grain bullets in .45 Colt cases. This is a slightly compressed load.*

of my APP loads will go 12 stages in practice with nothing but spraying the shell lifter with Windex, and I wind up much cleaner. It's all smoky. 🤔

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Larsen E. Pettifogger,  
SASS Life #32933



# SHOTGUN BOOGIE

## UBERTI 73 TRIGGER

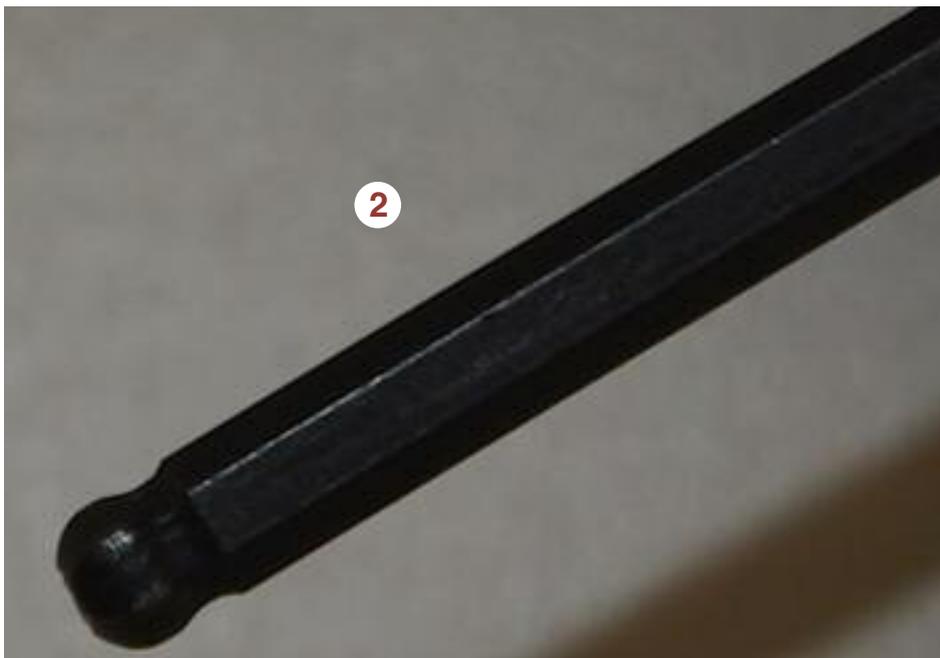
*By Larsen E. Pettifogger,  
SASS #32933 Life, Regulator*

Shotgun Boogie is from Germany and you know the Germans. All his go-fast parts are ingenious, well thought out, and they are precision made. Lots of folks have seen or own Boogie's short stroke kits for Ruger revolvers. He has just started making a new and innovative trigger replacement for the Uberti version of the Winchester 73. The kit consists of nine parts as shown in **Photo 1**. There are, left to right in the photo, a sear and lower trigger; a



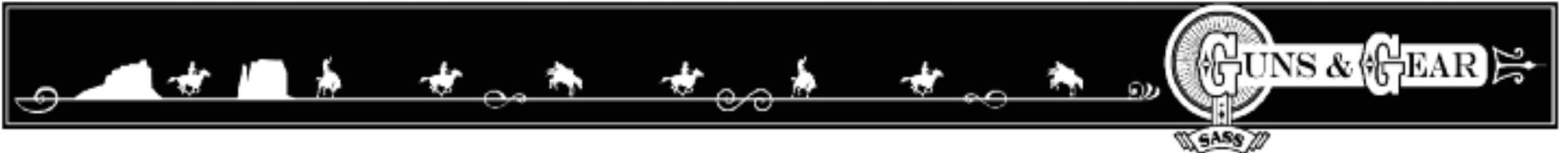
new trigger pivot pin and three adjustment screws; a trigger spring spacer and trigger spring; and a new safety lever spring. Aside from a quality set of hollow ground gun screwdrivers

(not screwdrivers from the dollar bin at Wal-Mart) and punches, the only other tool needed is a 1.5mm Allen wrench. **Photo 2**. One of the things in the parts list is a new safety lever spring. Yep this kit is designed to retain the safety. Why is that?



**Photo 3** shows a very early original Winchester 73. **Photo 4** shows an Uberti version of the 73. Behind the trigger on the Uberti, and on all later model original Winchesters, is a safety plunger. The trigger cannot be pulled until the lever has depressed the safety. This helps prevent premature or out-of-battery discharges. The .44-40 cartridge for the "new" Winchester 73 was more powerful than the .44 Henry cartridge used in the Model 66 Winchester. More power required a more secure lockup of the toggle mechanism. More importantly, the new center fire ammunition was much easier to ignite than the older rim fire ammunition. On the "new" ammo there was an anvil built into the primer so everything needed for ignition was in the primer. On rim fire ammunition, the case had to

*(Continued on next page)*



## Shotgun Boogie • Uberti 73 Trigger . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*

be crushed in order to ignite the primer charge. The breech served the purpose of an anvil for rim fire ammunition and it was much harder to induce an out-of-battery discharge on a 66. Early on, there began to be problems with out-of-battery discharges with the new center fire ammunition in the newly introduced Model 73. This was before the days of product liability, yet Winchester nevertheless decided the problem was severe enough that it could be damaging to its reputation, so it redesigned the trigger on the Model 73. In addition to the trigger block, the new safety system



used a two-piece trigger, with the sear being able to pivot independently from the trigger. This creates a problem for speed tuning a modern 73 for SASS competition. **Photo 5** shows the trigger at its rearward

position. **Photo 6** shows the trigger at its forward position. On this particular gun there is almost 3/8ths of an inch of trigger flop at the tip of the trigger.

The Boogie kit is designed to mimic a one-piece trigger and eliminate trigger flop, yet still retain the trigger safety. To install the trigger, the action has to be completely disassembled. Remove the stock, the slide plates and all the internal parts. This is as far as most people go for routine maintenance of their 73s. However, the trigger mechanism has to be removed for the installation. Remove the two screws at the rear corners of the receiver.

**Photo 7.** Pull the lower tang downward and

*(Continued on page 38)*



# The Cowboy Chronicle SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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

**Please submit articles in MS Word or something compatible.** Open Office and Apple Pages (saved as MS Word) are also fine. A count of 800-2500 words is a good target to shoot for, but shorter pieces are also fine, and we can accommodate larger reports in our virtual magazine, if the material warrants it. We may choose to break very lengthy articles up into two or more parts, to run in consecutive issues, however.

**Please do not embed your photos in the Word document.** They can be extracted for use in the *Chronicle*, but it can be a chore to do that. Instead, send your photos separately, in one or more emails, as attachments. Three to six photos per email usually works best. It's best to send JPEGs, but other formats are acceptable, and it's best to keep them at about 100 dpi and 1000 pixels (10 inches) on the short side. That will allow us plenty of leeway when it comes to cropping and adjusting them for publication. If you're unsure of how to size your photos, send what you have and we'll adjust them.

**Usually, a dozen or fewer photos are sufficient for an article, but we will consider using more for a "big" event, if provided.**

Photos need not have captions, but captions always make photos more interesting. Ideally, the caption would consist of one or two sentences that say something about the picture that is not obvious and/or is not implicit in the body of the article. "Sam making smoke" is a title but not a caption. "Sam, SASS #XXXXX, shooting his first black powder match; after much deliberation, he decided to give it a try and now he's hooked" is much better. A caption may also serve to let everyone know why the picture is worthy of being published in an international newspaper.

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

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### Shotgun Boogie • Uberti 73 Trigger ...

*(Continued from page 37)*

separate the trigger housing from the receiver. **Photo 8.** **Photo 9** shows a close-up of the trigger safety. Note the block hanging down behind the trigger. When the safety is depressed, the block behind the trigger swings up and the trigger can then be pulled. **Photo 10.** Next, remove the mainspring screws and mainspring. **Photos 11 and 12.** Knock out the hammer pivot pin and remove



the hammer. **Photos 13 and 14.** Next, in the lower part of the trigger housing is the trigger spring and beneath it the



safety lever spring. **Photo 15.** Remove the trigger spring screw and lift out the trigger spring and safety lever spring.

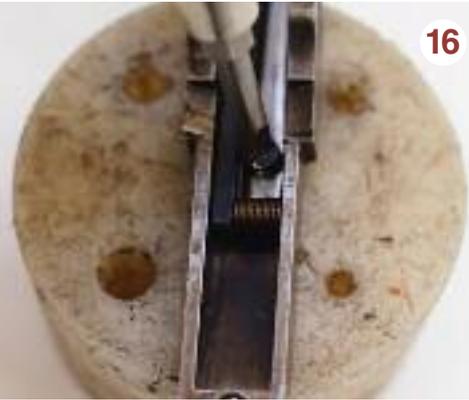
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## Shotgun Boogie • Uberti 73 Trigger ...

*(Continued from previous page)*



16



17

**Photos 16 and 17.** (For those with sharp eyes they will notice this particular gun has a coil safety spring installed.) When assembled, the safety spring is below the trigger spring. **Photo 18.** We need to keep the order of these parts in mind for proper reassembly. Next drive out the safety lever pivot pin and remove the safety lever. **Photos 19 and 20.** (These are the only parts that will be reused, so don't lose them.) Fi-



18



19



20

nally, drive out the trigger pivot pin and remove the trigger and sear. **Photos 21 and 22.**

Now we can begin installation of the kit. Locate the trigger. The trigger has three tapped holes in it. Looking from the FRONT of the trigger the lower hole, **Photo 23,** is for adjusting the rearward travel of the trigger. Pick a LONG setscrew and screw it into the

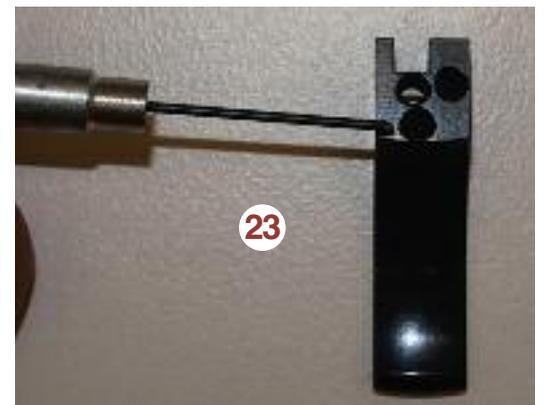
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21



22



23

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### Shotgun Boogie • Uberti 73 Trigger ...

(Continued from page 39)



hole from the FRONT of the trigger. **Photo 24.** The upper hole on the right, **Photo 25,** is for adjusting how far the trigger can travel forward.

Find a LONG setscrew and install it from the REAR of the trigger. **Photo 26.** Finally, the hole on the upper left of the trigger, **Photo 27,** adjusts sear engagement. Install the SHORT setscrew into this hole from the FRONT of the trigger. **Photo 28.** **Photo 29** shows the shoulder that this screw presses against to adjust sear engagement. Now we are ready to start installing the



parts into the trigger housing. First, locate the safety bar spring and install it and the safety bar into the trigger housing. The short hooked end goes over the safety bar and the safety bar pivot pin goes through the coil spring. **Photo 30.** Next take your old trigger pivot pin and shorten it to use as a slave pin for installing the trigger and sear. The new precision ground trigger pivot pin that comes in the kit and the slave pin are shown in **Photo 31.** Assemble the sear and trigger using the slave pin. **Photo 32.** Now you can see the difference between the two triggers. The Boogie trigger is flatter and wider than the stock trigger. **Photos 33 and 34.** (NOTE: the final production triggers will be slightly more curved than the trigger in the photos.) Install the trigger,



(Continued on next page)

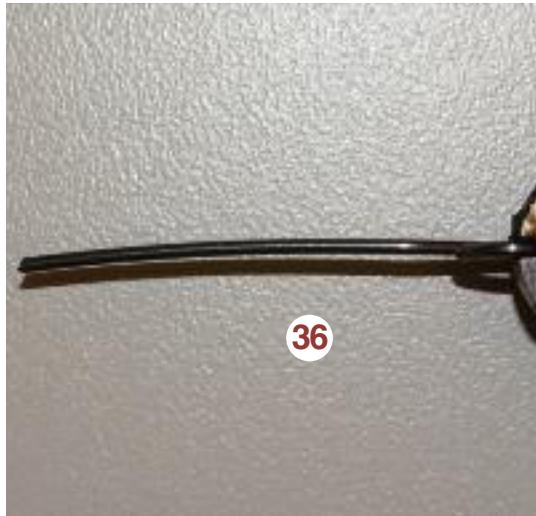
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**Shotgun Boogie • Uberti 73 Trigger . . .**

*(Continued from previous page)*



in the notch and tighten the trigger screw. **Photo 38.** Now that the new trigger parts are installed, it is time to adjust them for proper operation.

A word of caution, the parts **MUST** be adjusted in a precise order. The screws are visible only a portion of the time so they must be adjusted as follows. First,  
*(Continued on page 42)*

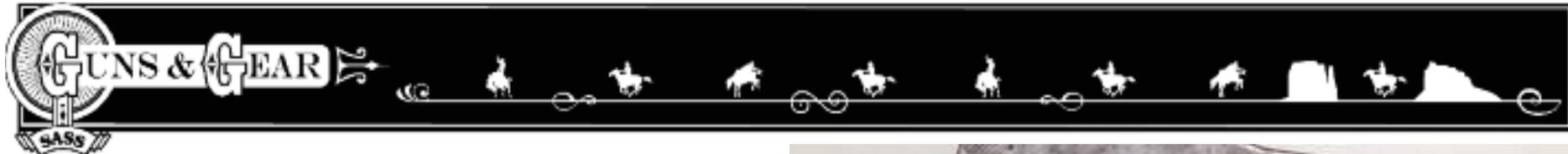


align the holes in the trigger and housing and tap the trigger pin in one side and the slave pin will come out the other side. **Photo 35.** Next, look at the new trigger spring. It has a downward curve. Make sure to install it with the tip of the spring facing down. **Photo 36.** Remember that when we disassembled the trigger housing the old trigger safety spring was underneath the trigger. **Photo 18.** There is a spacer washer in the kit to make up for the elimination of the old spring. Install the screw through the new trigger spring and make sure the washer is placed under the spring. **Photo 37.** The back of the sear has a shelf with a notch in it. Make sure the tip of the trigger spring is

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**Shotgun Boogie • Uberti 73 Trigger ...**

*(Continued from page 41)*

adjust the rearward travel of the trigger. Insert the Allen wrench into the upper Allen screw that is visible from the REAR of the trigger. **Photo 39.** This is where the ball end Allen wrench comes in handy. There is very little clearance between the screw and the safety bar. When the adjustment is begun there will be a space between the back of the trigger and the front of the safety bar. **Photo 40.** Turn the screw until the safety bar just clears the trigger and moves freely up



and down. **Photo 41.** Next install the hammer and mainspring. Move the hammer back and forth a little, push up the safety bar and pull the trigger until the



two trigger screws on the front of the trigger become visible. **Photo 42.** Insert the Allen wrench into the UPPER screw and adjust sear engagement. **Photo 43** shows the sear fully engaged in the full cock notch.

*(Continued on next page)*

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**Shotgun Boogie • Uberti 73 Trigger ...**

*(Continued from previous page)*



(The large notch higher up on the hammer is the half cock notch.) After sear engagement is set, pull the trigger to make sure the safety bar stops the trigger and the hammer does not fall. **Photo 44.** If the hammer falls, readjust the sear and/or trigger rear travel screw(s) until everything operates properly. Finally,



push in the safety bar and pull the trigger until the lower adjusting screw is visible in the front of the trigger. **Photo 45.** Insert the Allen wrench (try using the short end of the Allen wrench as it provides more clearance for this screw) and adjust the forward travel of the trigger. **Photo 46.** You want to adjust the trigger so that when the trigger is pulled the sear tip just

*(Continued on page 44)*

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**Shotgun Boogie • Uberti 73 Trigger ...**

*(Continued from page 43)*

clears the full cock notch. **Photo 47.** It should be noted that when everything is adjusted properly the half-cock notch will not engage or will not fully engage. This is normal; it should not engage and will not affect operation of the trigger. Remember, SASS rifles are staged with an empty chamber and the hammer down. The half cock



is never used. If you want to go full BOOGIE you can weld up the half cock and grind and polish the front of the hammer to a smooth, clean surface. **Photo 48.**

What does all this work get us? It gets us a very crisp, precise trigger while maintaining the trigger safety block. **Photo 49** shows the trigger with the hammer cocked. **Photo 50** shows the trigger pulled



and the hammer down. The amount of trigger travel to release the sear is reduced and there is virtually

*(Continued on next page)*



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**Shotgun Boogie • Uberti 73 Trigger ...**

*(Continued from previous page)*



no trigger over travel.

A final note: I would advise first time installers to put all the parts in the trigger housing and literally play with it for a while. Move all the screws in and out to become familiar with what they do and how they affect the motion of the trigger. After you are thoroughly familiar with the kit parts and how they operate, THEN take everything apart and apply blue or purple Loctite to the setscrews and install everything and adjust them. After the Loctite has set, you will have virtually a single-piece trigger and it should stay in adjustment indefinitely.

The kit sent express from Germany is \$189.00. It can be ordered directly from Shotgun Boogie at [booogie@shotgunboogie.de](mailto:booogie@shotgunboogie.de).

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# APACHES VICTORIO AND GERONIMO KEPT THE MILITARY ON THE MOVE

*By Craig Springer*



*Three of these men were at the 1879 and 1885 ambushes and raids around Hillsboro. The Apaches were imprisoned in Alabama before going to Ft. Sill OK. Courtesy Alabama State Archives.*

The date, September 11, is seared in American memory. It is a date perhaps not forgotten by those who lived in and around Hillsboro, New Mexico, from 1879 through the mid-1880s.

In August 1879, the Apache leader Victorio launched a rampage that made its mark in history. Victorio, followed by tens if not hundreds of disenchanted Apaches, raided ranches and isolated military outposts in southern New Mexico, west Texas, and northern Chihuahua. On September 11, a

posse of armed citizens from Hillsboro led by town pioneers, Joe Yankie and Nicholas Galles, confronted Apaches at H.D. McEver's ranch 15 miles south of Hillsboro. McEver's ranch would shortly become the first town site of Lake Valley (not the current site) following a significant silver strike.

The number of Hillsboro men engaged in the battle vary, as do the number killed, depending on which report you read. The event has been referred



*Markers for men killed on September 18, 1879, at Massacre Canyon. The site is 22 miles from pavement in the Gila National Forest northeast of Hillsboro, NM.*

to as the Hillsboro Massacre, perhaps owing to the fact no other towns existed then; Hillsboro being only two years old itself, and that all of the deceased lived in the nascent community. A review of the literature reveals that anywhere from a half dozen to 15 men were killed in action. The 1880 Secretary of War's report to Congress offers some insight as to the geographic extent of the Apache depredations. As for those known to have been killed at McEver's in September 1879, the report recognized: "Steve Hanlon, Thomas Hughes, Thornton, Preissier, Green, Dr. William, killed in action at McEver's Ranch. Refugia Arvies and Jose Morena, killed in action at [nearby] Arroyo Seco; I. Chaves also killed in action at McEver's Ranch." The num-

*(Continued on next page)*

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## Apaches Victorio and Geronimo Kept The Military On The Move . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*

ber of Indians killed, if any, is not documented.

Apache historians of renown, Dan Thrapp, Edwin Sweeney, and Joseph Stout make mention of an entire ranch family murdered and mutilated on Jaralosa Creek a mere mile or two from McEver's ranch that same day. The names of those victims are not reported, but those who witnessed the carnage and who probably helped bury the dead reported what they saw at the time.

McEver's would see more action. Apaches attacked McEver's ranch again in October, and



*Nick Galles, survivor of ambushes on September 11 and 18, 1879.*

tag given to the enterprise. The original "operation Geronimo" went down in southern New Mexico 129 years ago, with there being significant U.S. Army and Apache activity. The threat of loss of life and property by Apaches around Hillsboro was significant on a number of occasions from 1877 until 1886, such that commerce and travel were conducted at great risk. Observers at the time commented that Apache depredations prostrated the mining industry at Hillsboro and Lake Valley.

The Apache named Goyakla, or "One Who Yawns," was nicknamed "Geronimo" by the Mex-

ican military when he escaped injury in gun fire, the Mexican soldiers evoking the name of St. Jerome for the Apache's remarkable luck in cheating death. "Geronimo" became an American war cry during World War II.

The U.S. Army put considerable resources on the ground to capture or kill the Apache paladin and his lieutenant, Naiche, the son of Cochise. Geronimo's last outbreak from the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation occurred in 1885 and lasted until his surrender in the fall of 1886. Some of those U.S. Army resources were at Camp Hillsboro, the named later changed to



*Men at a heliograph (mirror station) at Camp Hillsboro (later called Camp Boyd) about September 1885 during the Geronimo Campaign. Mirrors were used to communicate long distances. Courtesy Black Range Museum.*

*(Continued on page 48)*



*Site of September 11, 1879, battle near Hillsboro, New Mexico.*

burned down its buildings. Because of its location, central to Ft. Cummings to the south and Camp French located in Hillsboro the summer of 1880, and then Camp Hillsboro/Camp Boyd in 1885-86, McEver's ranch site would be occupied by the U.S. Army for much of the Victorio and the Geronimo campaigns. The beleaguered site found on period maps is today a pleasant ranch on a small open plain along NM 27, on private property.

As coincidence would have it, September 11, 1885, would be another dark day. Unless you live a hermit's life, you no doubt heard that Navy Seals evoked the name of Geronimo in its designs to kill Osama bin Laden. "Operation Geronimo" was the

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## Apaches Victorio and Geronimo Kept The Military On The Move . . .

(Continued from page 47)

Camp Boyd to honor fallen officer Orsemus Boyd. The camp was located about a mile north of today's Hillsboro post office, now a private ranch.

Companies of infantry and cavalry were stationed for about a year—mid-1885 until September of 1886—at Camp Hillsboro. “Operation Geronimo,” the one that unfolded in Pakistan, was criticized as being insensitive to Native Americans for relating the Apache to bin Laden. Understandably, Native Americans, especially those who have proudly served in the U.S. military would rather not be viewed as in league as with an avowed enemy of the U.S. Witness New Mexico and Arizona's own Navajo Code Talkers who were vital in the Pacific theatre in World War II.

But you cannot ignore the historical significance that Geronimo had locally—and nationally. Thousands of soldiers, both American and Mexican, were put on the ground in his pursuit. Hundreds of people died in the Geronimo campaign and other notable conflicts with Apache men, both his contemporaries, and in the years before him: Ulzana, Chihuahua, Victorio, Nana, Cochise, Mangas. Civilians, soldiers, and Apaches were victims of the violence. Geronimo was not only an enemy to the U.S. military; he was an enemy of some of his own Apache people. Companies of enlisted Apaches, led by U.S. Army officers chased after Geronimo,



*Eighth US Cavalry on patrol from Camp Hillsboro (later called Camp Boyd), about September, 1885.*

*Courtesy Black Range Museum.*

some of whom were stationed in Hillsboro. Geronimo murdered and kidnapped White, Hispanic, and Apache people—men, women, and young children. He kidnapped Chief Loco's band and ensured that eventually all of the Chiricahua Apaches would be treated as prisoners of war, and removed to Florida, and eventually Oklahoma by way of a stay in Alabama. The condition of the then imprisoned Apaches at Ft. Sill is surveyed in the recently published book, *Chief Loco: Apache Peacemaker*, written by a descendant of the Apache leader. Geronimo lamented late in life that he had no friends among his own people. Though the *Geronimo Trail National Scenic Byway* slices through Kingston and Hillsboro, perhaps the man's most significant presence was made near Lake Valley.

On September 10, 1885, Geronimo's band moved over Macho Canyon and shot rancher Brady Pollock twice, then crushed his head with a boulder. Onward the Apaches went, north to McKnight Ranch on Berrenda Creek where they stole horses. Geronimo made it over the Mimbres Mountains to the west, probably going over the pass at the head of today's Pollock Canyon and down Gavilan Canyon.

On September 11 more would die. By noon, Avaristo Abeyta, George Horn, and 17-year-old Martin McKinn were dead, just over the Black

*(Continued on next page)*

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## Apaches Victorio and Geronimo Kept The Military On The Move . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*



*Site of September 18, 1879, battle at Massacre Canyon. The flag is Craig Springer's. Three black Buffalo soldiers and two Navajo Scouts are buried here. There could be other unknown soldiers or Apache buried here.*

Range from Kingston. The teenager's younger brother, nine-year-old Santiago "Jimmy" McKinn witnessed Geronimo crush his brother's head and then don his brother's jacket. With little Jimmy McKinn, Geronimo headed into the Black Range, chased by cavalry and a militia from Hillsboro, headed by Nicholas Galles and Frank W. Parker, the latter a future Supreme Court justice.

As a testament to endurance and just plain pluck, Victorio and Geronimo evaded capture. Victorio died in battle with the Mexican military in October 1880. Geronimo was the last to give in to the concentration policies of the U.S. government. The McKinn boy remarkably survived and was returned to his parents when Geronimo surrendered when the original "operation Geronimo" came to a close in September 1886, many lives lost, many lives ruined.

(Craig Springer is the co-author of *Around Hillsboro*. He and his wife own the [HistoricMillerHouse.com](http://HistoricMillerHouse.com) formerly owned by Justice Parker, and built by Nicholas Galles, both participants in the Apache wars.)

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## 2014 Scholarship Recipient

### Pujo the Kid, SASS #84148

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



**D**eRidder, LA. My name is Cody Dean Eaves, alias Pujo the Kid, SASS #84148, and I am honored to have been selected to receive a SASS Scholarship Foundation Grant for the 2014-2015 academic year. My parents are my Dad, Graybow Slim (SASS #58739) aka Darrell Eaves, my Mom, Sharon Eaves, and my sister, Ashley Eaves. The rest of my family who supported me through the years includes: paternal grandparents, James M. Eaves, Sr. and the late Maxine Eaves; and maternal grandparents, Dean and Cathy Burns. My home SASS club is the Up the Creek Gang, located in Lake Charles, LA, and I also shoot with the Orange County Regulators located in Orange, TX.



*Justice Lily Kate,  
SASS #1000*

I recently completed my third year of college at McNeese State University located in Lake Charles, where I am pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemical Engineering. Additionally, I am gaining experience in my field of study by interning with an environmental consulting firm. My future plans are to obtain my degree and acquire additional experience for the first few years, and then I plan to work out of the country in various locations such as Saudi Arabia or Germany, so I can have the opportunity to see other parts of the world. After a few years of exploring different countries, I plan to return home, get hitched, find a nest, and start a family down here in the Great South. Once my future kids get old enough, I want them to live life like my parents taught me: good work ethic, good thinking skills, and guns in hand.

The most influential person in my life is my Dad, the not-so-swift Graybow Slim. He has taught me many lessons throughout my life, such as how to shoot; however, the two most important lessons in life that I have learned from him are to work hard for what I want and to be able to think for myself. Graybow has always told me I have the ability to control my life, and while there certainly are many situations that will be out of my control, I am my own person and no one else's. He has often told me, "If there's something you want in life, figure out how to get it, work hard to get it, and do not rely on a handout." This is not just a quote I like to tell people, this is a belief by which I live my life. Over the years, my father has helped me become a well-rounded individual who can work hard as well as work smart.

Another person who has supported me in all of my decisions is my girlfriend (and future wife) Delaney Dupin. She is very eager to start joining me in SASS as she has always had the desire to shoot but hasn't had the chance yet. I can't wait for her to accompany me throughout the rest of my life and the rest of my SASS matches. I would also like to give a shout out to Cajun Queen (SASS #75177), Possum Skinner (SASS #60697), Crosscut Hardy (SASS #54701), Chattahoochee (SASS #39557), Texas Gator (SASS #74485),

*(Continued on next page)*

## 2014 Scholarship recipient • Pujo the Kid, SASS #84148 . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*

and the rest of the gang for all of the support and great advice they have given me over the years.

SASS/Cowboy Action Shooting™ is much more than a hobby to me because not only has it helped out financially during my college career, it has enriched my life with some of the kindest people I have ever met. The people I shoot with are always willing to help one another out with more than just their guns. My fellow SASS members are very welcoming and easy going, and they have always been there to help me, on and off the range. Cowboy Action Shooting™ has taught me discipline and patience because becoming a better shooter takes lots of practice, without getting too frustrated since you never want to be short-tempered while holding a gun. Above all that, Cowboy Action Shooting™ is a chance for me to escape all of the negativity and relax. Something about shooting those

western guns in my cowboy attire brings me peace because “a bad day at the range is better than a good day at work.”

Some of the academic accomplishments that I am most proud of are making the honor roll at McNeese State University every semester and being selected for Alpha Lambda Delta, a National College Academic Honor Society. I am also proud and thankful to have been selected to receive a SASS Scholarship Foundation Grant for four years.

The SASS Scholarship has played a key role in helping me achieve my educational goals. Attending college is expensive with the rising cost of fees, books, meals, and housing. Receiving this scholarship lightens my financial burden and allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of college, learning. Thank you to all who have supported the Fund and continue to make SASS Scholarships possible. [↵](#)

# Would Banning All Guns Work?

*By Pujo the Kid, SASS #84148*

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

**Y**es, a gun ban *would* work in an ideal world. Then again, in an ideal world there is no crime and no need for protection. Yet anyone with a little bit of knowledge and intelligence knows that this is not how the real world works. Many gun control activists believe that banning all guns would lead to no crimes being committed with guns; however, this is not the case as it would create a huge black market for the illegal sale of guns and lead to an increase in crime.

If it became a crime to own a gun, then only criminals would own them; therefore, a gun ban would result in more crime. This is partly because a gun ban would create an imbalance in the ownership of guns between criminals and law-abiding citizens. Since most criminals do not own legal guns, a ban on guns would not encourage them to turn in their weapons. If law-abiding citizens were forced to turn in their guns, they would become “sitting ducks” for the armed criminal because the citizens would be perceived as unarmed and defenseless. Some law-abiding citizens would see no alternative but to keep their guns and be in violation of the law, making themselves criminals too. In my own case, I would

have to make a choice to keep my gun and be viewed as a criminal because of living in a rural area far from law enforcement where a gun is needed for protection. Speaking of law enforcement, would the gun ban apply to them? If this ban extended to law enforcement, their option to protect themselves and the community would be at a great disadvantage. According to a recent article in *The New York Times*, Chicago had over five hundred homicides from gun violence (and more than seven thousand illegal guns were seized) in 2012, even though it has some of the strictest gun control laws (Davey). Consequently, there would be an increase in crime from a ban on guns because all of the guns would be in the hands of criminals, leaving law-abiding citizens and law enforcement unarmed and vulnerable.

Since there would still be a demand for guns, a gun ban would create a massive black market for the sale of illegal guns. Looking back in history should keep us from repeating mistakes. For instance, during Prohibition in the 1920s, alcohol was made illegal, resulting in an enormous black market and a huge

*(Continued on page 52)*





## Goose Creek Jack, SASS #61353

~ May 7, 1937 – September 28, 2013 ~

Wayne T. Miller, alias Goose Creek Jack, was born in Harrisonburg, VA, May 7 1937, the only son of a cattle farmer. He went to school in Harrisonburg, and after graduation he enlisted in the Navy, where he served for six years. He then held various jobs around Harrisonburg, including Carpenter, store clerk, and truck driver. He played a base guitar and went professional with a Nashville singer, Red Selvine. He traveled with the band for fourteen years and went practically everywhere. You could not mention any place he had not been.

After he retired from the band, he moved to Staunton, VA. He worked at Dominion Outdoors gun shop and sports center. That's where I first met Goose Creek. I was looking for a gun and mentioned Cowboy Action Shooting™. That was enough to get him talking about Cowboy matches. He was shooting with the Blue Ridge Regulators in Lexington, Virginia. I went with him and began Cowboy Action Shooting™ in 2006. Goose Creek showed me everything. He had more cowboy equipment than anyone I knew.

He also did leather work and was good at it. He made me a set of double holsters and belt, loading block, shotgun

shell belt, cowboy cuffs, spur straps, and even gave me a Jesse James .45. We went to Cowboy matches every third Sunday for about three years.

His health declined over the years, and on October 4, 2009, he went to the Veterans Hospital in Martinsburg, WV. To my knowledge, Goose Creek never won a match, but he always said it's not about winning, it's about having fun. He did have a lot of clean matches, and a lot of fun.

After he got *real* sick, he wouldn't answer his phone. You would only get his message: "Leave your number and call you when I get back." He never made it back. He died September 28, 2013, a victim of bone marrow cancer, along with other complications. To my knowledge, he had one daughter, but he didn't know where she lived. He left behind a lot of Cowboy friends and good time memories for us all.

Gone, but not forgotten.

—Mekpique Bill, Sass#43274 ♀



### Would Banning All Guns Work?

*(Continued from previous page)*

shooting in SASS and Cowboy Action Shooting™ where you have someone watch you load, shoot, and unload, has brought gun safety to an even higher level for me. For example, when moving on a stage with my open and empty shotgun, I must watch the muzzle so that I do not break the 170-degree rule. Thus, because of a gun ban, people would no longer be able to enjoy hunting and shooting sports and learn the value of properly handling firearms, which would further destroy the traditions of our great country.

To sum up, stopping all gun related crimes is what gun control activists expect with a gun ban, but in reality, it would increase crime as well as create an enormous black market for the illegal sale of guns. Being able to protect one's home and family would be in jeopardy because of a gun ban leaving the guns only in the hands of criminals, and in order

for law-abiding citizens to defend themselves, they would have to illegally obtain a firearm and be considered criminals themselves. Our forefathers fought the Revolution against a government that would not listen to the people and trampled their rights, and then they established the foundation for our country with the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Will banning all guns erode the individual rights our forefathers fought and died for, and cause us to repeat history again with another revolution?

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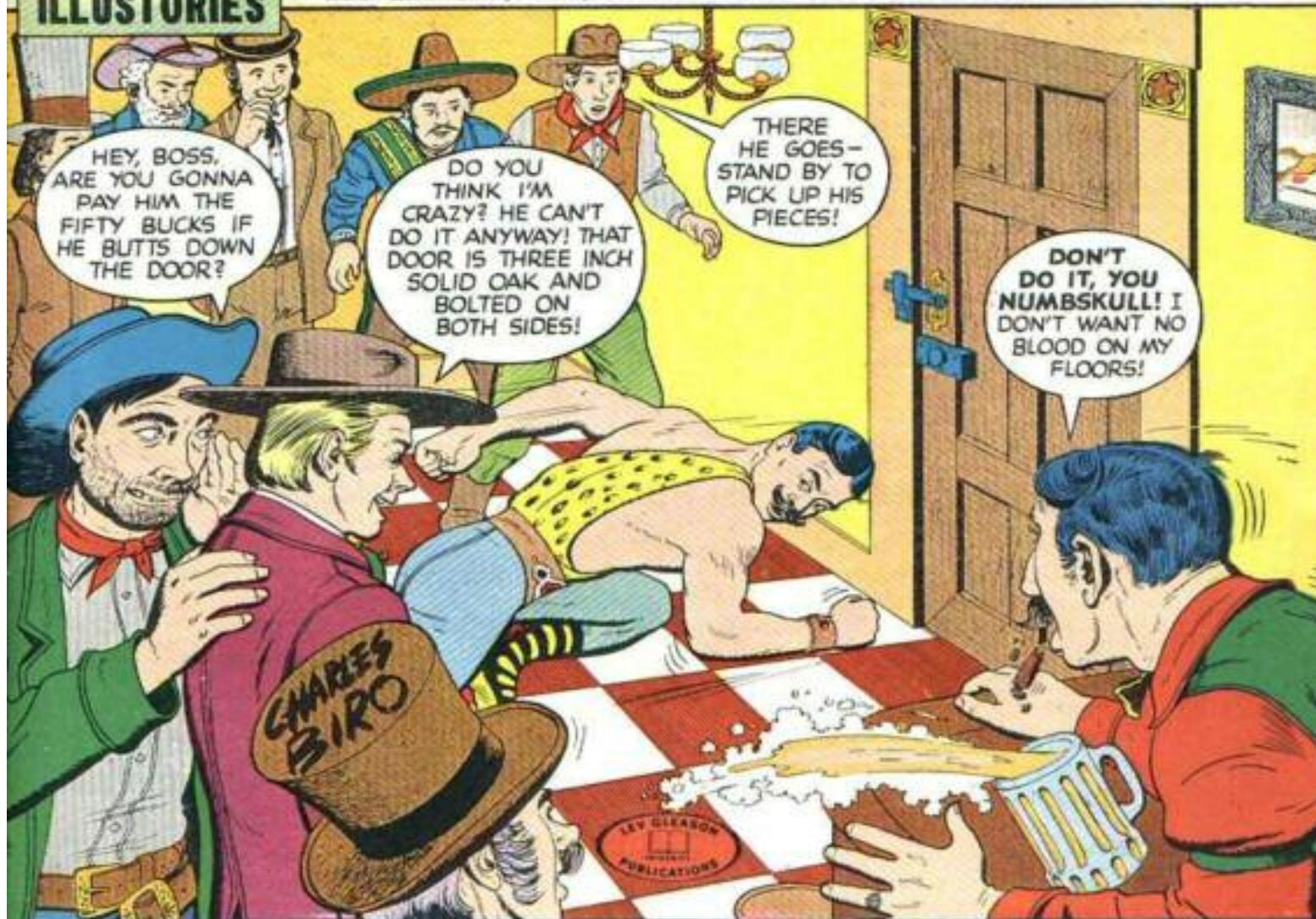
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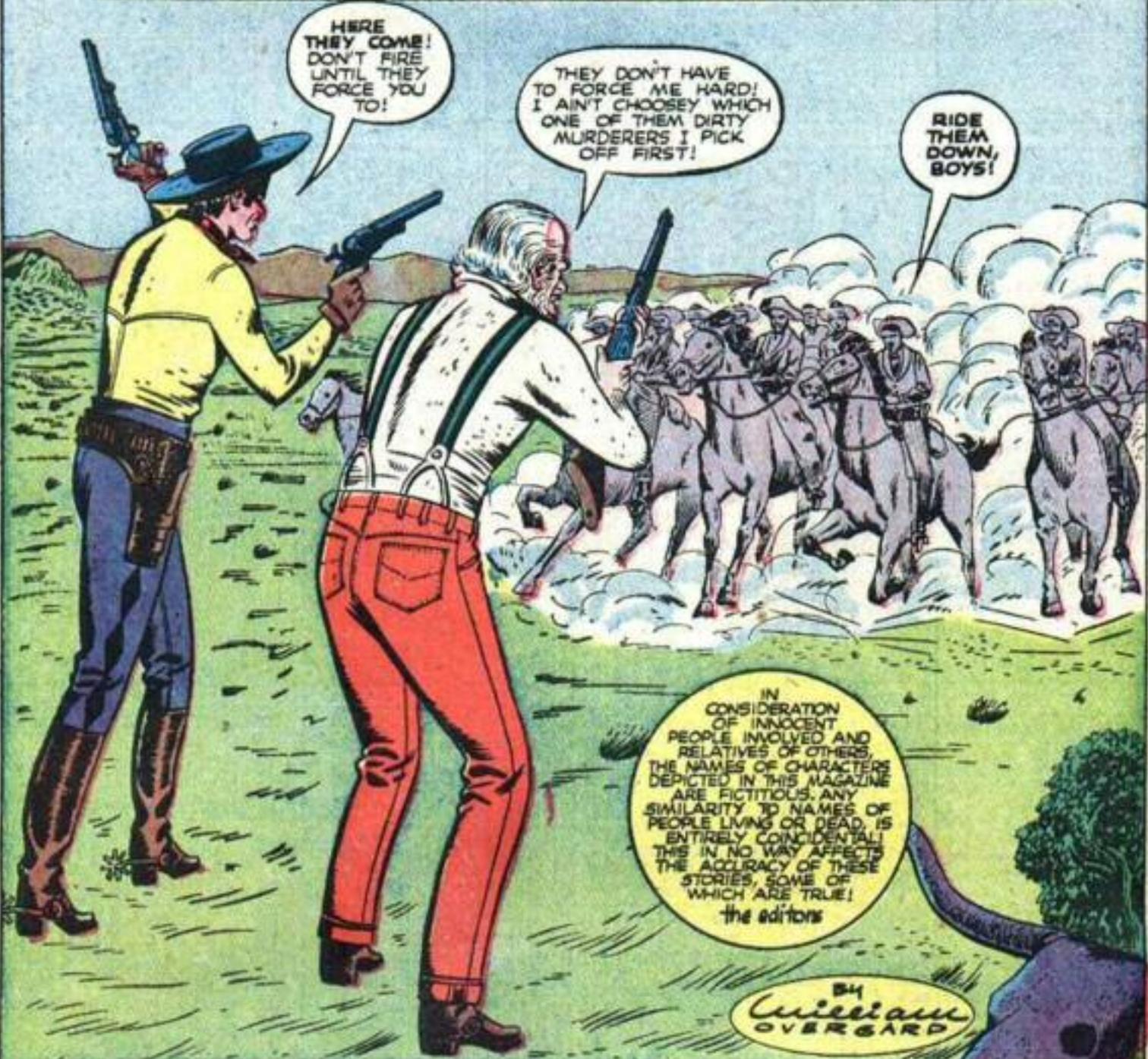


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HERE THEY COME! DON'T FIRE UNTIL THEY FORCE YOU TO!

THEY DON'T HAVE TO FORCE ME HARD! I AIN'T CHOOSEY WHICH ONE OF THEM DIRTY MURDERERS I PICK OFF FIRST!

RIDE THEM DOWN, BOYS!

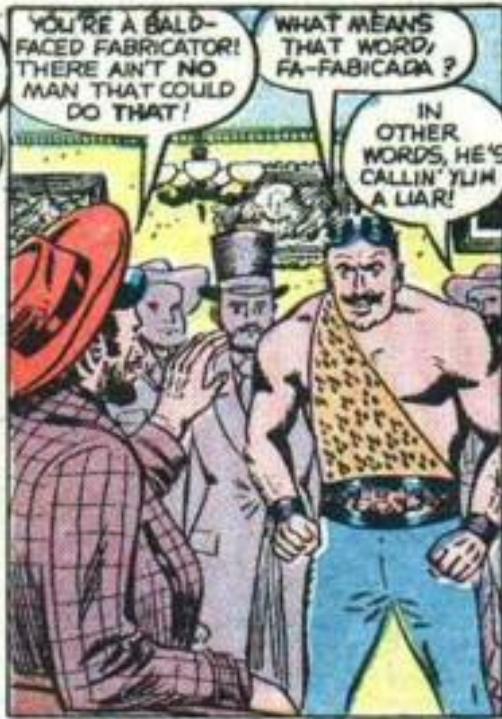
IN CONSIDERATION OF INNOCENT PEOPLE INVOLVED AND RELATIVES OF OTHERS, THE NAMES OF CHARACTERS DEPICTED IN THIS MAGAZINE ARE FICTITIOUS. ANY SIMILARITY TO NAMES OF PEOPLE LIVING OR DEAD, IS ENTIRELY COINCIDENTAL! THIS IN NO WAY AFFECTS THE ACCURACY OF THESE STORIES, SOME OF WHICH ARE TRUE!  
the editors

BY William OVERGARD

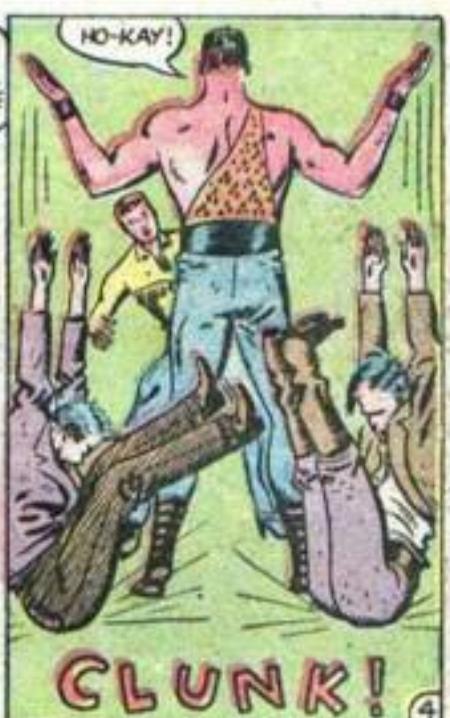
WHEN HIS FOSTER FATHER FELL UNDER THE GUNS OF A RENEGADE, YOUNG BOB VALE SWORE A SECRET OATH TO GIVE HIS LIFE, IF NECESSARY, TO RID THE TERRITORY OF BADMEN! TO PROTECT HIS FAMILY FROM PERSECUTION, HE DONNED A MASK AND DISGUISE, AND RODE OUT TO STRIKE TERROR INTO THE HEARTS OF THOSE WHO HAD CAUSE TO FEAR THE VENGEANCE OF THIS MASKED MARSHAL, FAMED IN LEGEND AS THE BLACK DIAMOND!



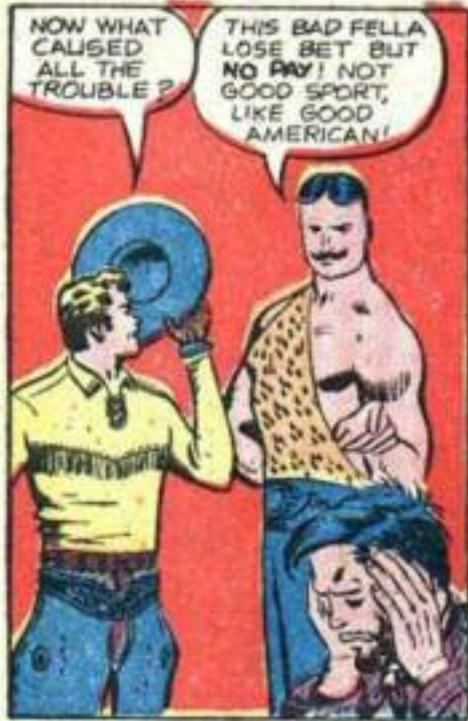
ARTICLES



# ARTICLES



# ARTICLES



# ARTICLES



WHAT'S OUR JOB, MR. CRACKEN?

JUST CIRCULATE AMONGS THE CROWD. WITH YOUR GUN HANDY AND KEEP AN EYE OPEN FOR TROUBLE-MAKERS... SOME OF OUR CUSTOMERS TAKE THEIR LOSSES PRETTY SERIOUSLY!



HEY, LOOK— THERE'S BELLE! YOO HOO— BELLE!!

SHH, QUIET! WHO'S BELLE?



SHE WAS IN THE CIRCUS WITH ME! HERE SHE COMES! HEY, BELLE— IT'S ME, BUMPINOVICH!

STATISTOR! YOU BIG APE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, ALL DRESSED UP?



I WORK HERE WITH MY FRIEND! BELLE, THIS IS BOB!

I'M GLAD TO MEET YOU, MISS BELLE!

SAME HERE, KID! BUT YOU'RE BOTH IN ON A BUM DEAL! THIS IS A MEAN WAY TO MAKE A LIVING!



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, MISS BELLE?

JUST THIS, KID— MONTHS BACK, THERE WAS A BIG GOVERNMENT LAND DRIVE! SINCE THEN, THESE CROOKED TABLES AND SHARP DEALERS HAVE TAKEN NEARLY EVERY PIECE OF LAND THOSE POOR DEVILS EARNED WITH SWEAT AND BLOOD!



THE TRAIL'S GETTING HOTTER! MARSHAL BONNER MENTIONED THAT IN HIS WIRE!

WHO WOULD YOU SAY IS BEHIND IT ALL? THIS FELLOW CRACKEN?

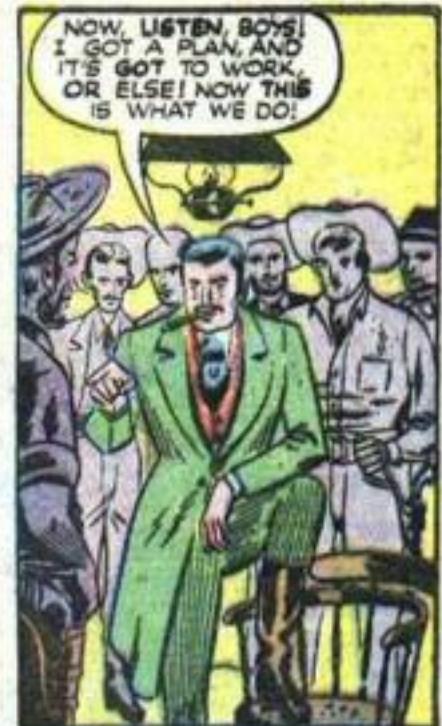
NO, O.O... I'D SAY SOMEBODY REALLY BIG IS BEHIND IT— SOMEBODY WHO WANTS ALL THIS TERRITORY AND WANTS IT BAD ENOUGH TO STOP AT NOTHING! WELL, I'VE TALKED ENOUGH! I'D BETTER GET GOING BEFORE CRACKEN COMES DOWNSTAIRS AGAIN!



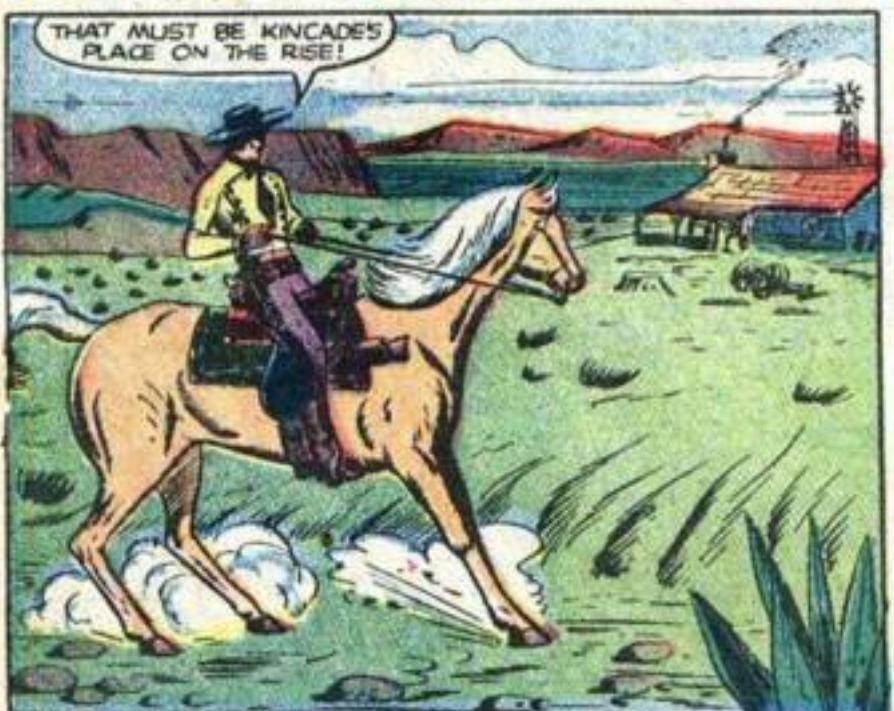
WELL, BOSS, WE JUST GOT HOLD OF ANOTHER LAND DEED! THAT GIVES YOU ALL BUT ONE HOLDING!

CRACKEN, I THOUGHT I MADE IT CLEAR THAT I WANTED ALL THOSE RIVERS AND STAKES— NOT ALL BUT ONE! I OWN ALL THE CATTLE LAND IN THIS TERRITORY, PLUS A MILLION OR MORE CATTLE TO GRAZE ON IT, AND I DON'T WISH TO BE IRRITATED BY ONE MISERABLE SQUATTER! UNDERSTAND? AND DON'T CALL ME 'BOSS'!

# ARTICLES



# ARTICLES



# ARTICLES



I'M A FRIEND! DON'T SHOOT, KINCADE! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!

I'LL DO THE TALKIN', MISTER, WITH THE BUSINESS' END OF THIS WINCHESTER! GET OFF THAT HORSE!



I'M A UNITED STATES MARGHAL! I'M HERE TO HELP YOU, BUT YOU'VE GOT TO MOVE FAST!

MARSHAL, EH? HELP ME EH? NOTHIN' DOIN'? YOU'RE ONE OF KINGSTON'S MEN! YOU CAN'T FOOL ME! TAKE HIS GUN, BOY!



KINGSTON & WHO'S KINGSTON?

YOU DURN WILL KNOW WHO HE IS! HE OWNS THE TOWN AN' EVERYONE IN IT, AND EVERY SQUARE FOOT O' LAND FOR A THOUSAND MILES EXCEPT MINE, AN' HE'S TRIED HARD ENOUGH TO GET THAT!



BUT WHY SHOULD A BIG MAN LIKE THAT WANT YOUR LITTLE 'STAKE?'

OH, IT AIN'T CAUSE HE NEEDS IT! HE'S GOT SOME SORT OF IDEA HE'S A BARON, OR KING OUT HERE! FOLKS SAY HE'S TETCHED ON IT, AND I AGREE WITH THEM! THERE AIN'T NOTHIN' HE WON'T DO TO GET WHAT HE WANTS!



THEN YOU'D BETTER WORK FAST AND REMOVE YOUR CLAIM PAPERS FROM THE BANK BEFORE THEY'RE FORGED OVER TO HIM!

WHAT? ARE YOU TELLING THE TRUTH?



WHAT REASON HAVE I TO LIE? THIS U.S. MARSHAL'S BADGE SHOULD SHOW YOU WHOSE SIDE I'M ON!

A MARSHAL! SON, SADDLE UP THE MARE AND GET INTO TOWN, FAST! I'LL WATCH THIS FELLA IN CASE HE'S LYIN'!



SORRY SON, BUT THOSE MORTGAGE PAPERS HAVE BEEN SIGNED OVER TO MR. CRACKEN ON DEFAULT OF PAYMENT!

OH, THEY HAVE, HAVE THEY? WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!



BOSS! BOSS! KINCADE'S KID! IS ON HIS WAY UP HERE WITH TWO 44'S IN HIS HAND AN' BOILIN' MAD!

WHAT?'



ALL RIGHT, CRACKEN, YOU TIN-HORN CHISELER! HAND BACK THOSE PAPERS BEFORE I BLOW YOU INTO THE NEXT COUNTY!

SURE, KID. SURE! I NEVER ARGUE WITH A GUN - MUCH LESS TWO GUNS! HERE THEY ARE...

# ARTICLES



# ARTICLES



HEY, LOOK! THE BLACK DIAMOND IS WITH HIM!

CONFOUND IT! NOW YOU'VE DONE IT! BUMPER! BREAK FOR THE TRAIL TO TOWN! WIRE FOR MARSHAL BONNER, AND LEAD HIM BACK HERE DOUBLE-QUICK! WE'LL TRY TO HOLD THEM OFF TILL YOU GET BACK!

SURE, KID!

THIS WAY, BLACK DIAMOND! TAKE COVER IN THE SHACK!



THE BOYS AIN'T RUSHING IN THERE, BOSS! THE BLACK DIAMOND'S FIRE IS TOO DEADLY! WE CAN'T FLANK 'EM, 'CAUSE THEY'RE ON THE RISE AND THE GROUND AROUND 'EM IS BARE!

WHO CARES ABOUT THE BLACK DIAMOND? RUSH THEM!

YEAH? AND WHAT'LL WE USE FOR COVER?



WHY DOESN'T BUMPER COME? HE'S BEEN GONE FOR HOURS! WHEN IT GETS DARK, WE'RE THROUGH!



OKAY BOYS! GET READY TO RUSH 'EM! IT'S ALMOST DARK!



THEY'RE CREEPING UP, KINCADE! STAND BY!

I AIN'T AFRAID! LET 'EM COME!



BOSS! BOSS! THE MARSHAL AND A POSSE ARE COMIN' UP THE ROAD!

MARSHAL? POSSE? SHERIFF! HEY, WHAT'LL WE DO?

MAYBE ALL THIS IS LEGAL AN' MAYBE IT AIN'T, BUT I'M HIGHTAILIN' IT BACK TO TOWN! I AIN'T GOT NO HANKERIN' TO BE SEEN HERE BY A GOVERNMENT MARSHAL!



KID! KID! YA OK?

YOU'RE A GOOD GUY, BUMPER! YOU JUST MADE IT IN TIME! DID YOU GRAB CRACKEN?

BONNER AND MEN RIDE HARD AFTER HIM, WHEN I SEE!



HAIL UP, THERE, MISTER! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!

THAT DON'T GO BOTH WAYS, MARSHAL!

# ARTICLES





## COMIC BOOK CORNER

**B**umper, introduced in this story, would be The Black Diamond's sidekick for years to come. Observant readers will note that our hero's horse has not yet been referred to by name, and that is part of the \$1,500 prize contest announced on the cover. Readers were encouraged to submit a name, with the grand prize being \$1,000—a not insignificant amount in 1949. Runner-up prizes totaling \$500 in value were also up for grabs. The winning

name was Reliapon (get it?).

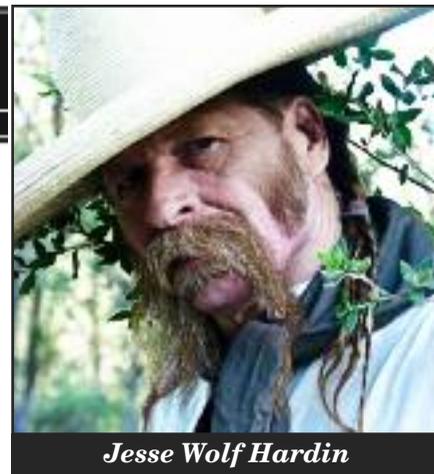
In our next issue, we'll explore a different comic book title from the 1940s. The page images used in Comic Book Corner are courtesy of the website, <http://comicbookplus.com>. Their free site features more than 28,000 public domain comic books of all genres, not just Westerns. 🐾





# THE STRAIGHT SHOT

By Jesse Wolf Hardin  
 Art by Jesse Wolf Hardin



Jesse Wolf Hardin



Welcome to our new column. Kindly check your assumptions at the door, and wear your irons in plain sight.

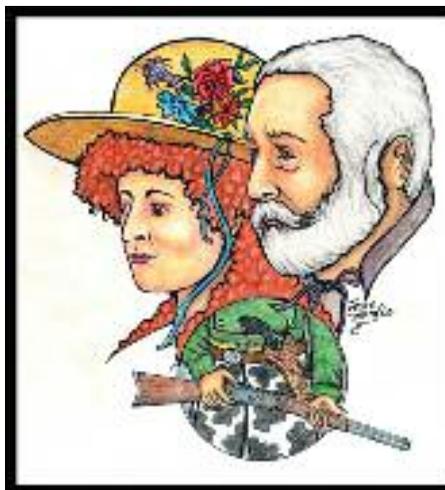
**Part I: Guns Have Stories, So Let 'em Talk**

*"It was a land that had to be seen to be believed, and perhaps it has to be believed in to be seen."*

— N. Scott Momaday

No, it's not just your imagination! Even in the office, the coffee shop, the living room, you can almost hear it if you listen carefully enough: the approach of galloping horses, the distant ring of gunfire and the acrid smell of black-powder residue. It is not hallucination on our parts, but the irrepressible world of our history and of our dreams, what we are made of as people, and the possibilities of what we too can become. It delivers to us not wistful sentiment but inspiration and imperative, the beckoning call to a more authentic, vital and honorable way of being and living made visible as we squinch our eyes and look real hard. It rises forth from the mists of our society's lamentable forgetting, as from the smoky swirls issuing from rock-lined campfires, the steam blown out the bottoms of resting narrow-gauge locomotives, the opaque exhaust coiling upwards from saloon cigars, and those thin white clouds snaking out of the bores of sated Colts and Remingtons and Smith & Wessons.

A majority of our modern civilized kind may have disregarded history and its poignant lessons, relegated the code of the West to video games and books, and surrendered both their right to self-defense and their wildest hopes in order to get by and fit in... but not so, ourselves! As fond as we might be of some of our century's advantages and innovations, we are irresistibly drawn by what we know to be, in reality, a world of adventure, a place of freedom-intolerant fences... and an alternate vision where being a "character" is rewarded instead of punished, where one is fairly tested with an equal opportunity to become a hero in the eyes of the dusty little children following



*The Old West spirit lives on, setting an example for our own honorable lives and wild adventures.*

behind, a place of git-fiddles, sunbonnets, cowboy hats, and fine old arms.

It was, after all, guns as much as courage, will, and determination that won our freedom on the field of battle, supplied the meat that sustained the earliest explorers of this continent's interior, was appropriated by the Native Americans for their own assertive defense, accompanied miners

and gamblers and soiled doves in the "civilizing" of the West. Looking at an ingenious if inaccurate Allen Pepperbox, it's none too difficult to picture the hand-tailored coat pockets it once inhabited, likely silk-lined and worn over a buttoned wool vest. Picture the bumpy ride heading out of St. Louis in the entertainment car of a smoke-billowing train, or in leather lined coaches pulled by a brace of heavy horses. Pick up an old single-shot rifle, and then imagine its bluing being rubbed off on countless belly-filling hunts. Palm a tiny Remington Vest Pocket pistol, and it's immediately clear it was better suited for carry in a garter, being unmanageable in the hands of most men. We wonder what unwanted moves such a minuscule companion might have diverted, inspiring some cad's blood to shift from his less relevant loins, into his racing head and feet.

According to my way of figuring, to disregard or disrespect old guns is to disrespect or disregard the existence and efforts of those who long ago employed them, to undervalue their tears of loss and shouts of joy, their difficult struggles and not always graceful ends. An arm is at worst a telltale instrument of avarice, aggression, or, all too often, governmental oppression. And at best, an old gun is a legible testament to self respect, self defense, and devotion to family, to the process of putting our lives on the line for what we value most

*(Continued on page 70)*

# NEW SASS® MEMBERS

## FROM EACH STATE AND COUNTRY

### December 1 – December 31, 2014

#### MEMBERS BY STATE

SASS # ALIAS

##### AZ

101,601.....Jackalope Kid  
 101,614.....Pocket Derringer  
 101,622.....High Stakes Harley  
 101,623.....Rev. T. Bird  
 101,626.....Harley Reigns  
 101,650.....Deadeye Dan

##### CA

101,580.....Kentucky Ken  
 101,581.....Sara Snodgrass  
 101,592.....Saguaro Kid "The"  
 101,600.....Major Payne N. Diaz  
 101,617.....Bear Creek Belle  
 101,621.....PaPa Traper  
 101,627.....Honey Magnum  
 101,628.....Cool Hand Luke Sorce  
 101,629.....The Pineapple Kid  
 101,630.....Bonita Bandito  
 101,648.....W. W. Saltwater  
 101,662.....Rusty Loads  
 101,668.....Rattler Ben  
 101,669.....Sassy P. Jones

##### CO

101,584.....Longhorn Joe  
 101,641.....Black Jack Donahue

##### CT

101,625.....John Silas Gallup

##### FL

101,586.....Captain Wild Willy McDonald  
 101,593.....Madame Moog  
 101,613.....Doc Coffee  
 101,624.....Paul "Llanero" Lawson  
 101,670.....Defiant Zeek

##### GA

101,595.....Deputy Jim  
 101,666.....Applejack Otis

##### IA

101,579.....Sheriff Bart  
 101,644.....Zee Ellen

##### IN

101,575.....Muley

##### KY

101,638.....Lawdog Jim

##### LA

101,598.....Cletus Trinity  
 101,653.....Red Willie

##### MA

101,574.....Rootin Tootin Boutin

##### MD

101,606.....Sam Cantrell  
 101,632.....Dew Wright Dobbs

##### MI

101,607.....Big I  
 101,609.....Y B Dawg

##### MS

101,612.....Snake Bite Blake  
 101,619.....Mississippi  
 101,672.....Singing J. Rivers

##### NC

101,642.....Deputy Detestable  
 101,661.....Tumbleweed

##### ND

101,610.....Timidator  
 101,647.....101647  
 101,654.....101654  
 101,655.....Sweetie Pie

##### NE

101,573.....Dead Eye Joe Viper, the  
 Scourge of Fort Dix

##### NJ

101,602.....Irish Outlaw

##### NM

101,620.....Dueling Clovis Don  
 101,645.....Zeke Northcutt  
 101,646.....Laura Darlin'

##### NV

101,604.....Fast Fred  
 101,637.....Tombstone Terror  
 101,671.....Stitch Taylor

##### OH

101,673.....Nitro Joe

##### OK

101,651.....Iron Tomahawk Kid  
 101,652.....Calamity Di Bar  
 101,658.....Son Of Bart

##### OR

101,578.....Rapid River

101,643.....Gunsmoke Steve  
 101,667.....Shaniko

##### PA

101,603.....Colt Remington

##### TX

101,576.....Elder Earl  
 101,582.....101582  
 101,583.....101583  
 101,588.....James Bell Doshier  
 101,594.....Outlaw  
 101,611.....Mickey McMean  
 101,633.....Whiskey Willie  
 101,634.....Cockeyed Cathy  
 101,649.....Sugarfoot Lomax  
 101,656.....Utah Mike  
 101,659.....Slick Dale Six-Guns

##### UT

101,577.....D'Animator  
 101,597.....Chiquit

##### VA

101,635.....Butterscotch  
 101,664.....Mersed Jack

##### WA

101,590.....WD Clarke  
 101,608.....Wrangler McDuff

##### WI

101,639.....Yosemite Dan

##### WV

101,591.....Jessie May Belle

#### MEMBERS BY COUNTRY

SASS # ALIAS

##### AB

101,605.....Slick Nard

##### ACT

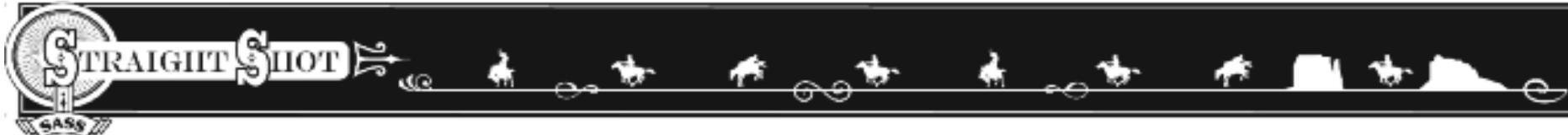
101,589.....Liquidator "The"  
 101,663.....Colonel Jim Gundy

##### NB

101,665.....Shootin' Iron Len

##### ON

101,585.....Bud Ugly



**The Straight Shot . . .**

*(Continued from page 68)*

and the willingness to risk death in order to be fully, responsibly and responsively alive. Guns have served the ways and wiles of men unapologetically for centuries, in the scabbards of horseback riders, in the hands of the hungry young, and next to the kitchen doors of aging homesteaders, in the holsters of lawmen, patriots and scoundrels, in the pockets of timid clerks, and the fur muffs of willful maidens.



*The Winchester Model 1866 conveys not only elegance and efficiency, but America's most personal and heroic histories.*

Handling any old piece, one literally holds history. It is a history of largely common citizens, herders and sod busters, mercantile managers and mule skimmers, townsfolk and country folk drawn to a long arm or handgun that caught the eye and filled the hand, then carrying it for real use in the very real world. Long after the smoke has cleared, we can still hear the echo of rounds expended at measured targets and at game, often in pleasure and occasionally in righteous anger. The reverberations continue still, existing as we do in a land that is the product of its past, largely shaped by human vision, tempered by struggle, and tested under fire. Old guns are stories from a book of living history, held open to the page by the weight of their undiminished presence. They're the accoutrements of our reenactments of more exciting and promising days, and the only tangible guarantors of our personal liberty and family safety today. They're the firsthand witnesses to both personal and global drama, the telltale tools of the evolving human experience, and potentially our inanimate but consequential friends when in need.

You've likely heard the expression, "If only guns could talk, what a tale they could tell." So consider this column but another chance to give those venerable irons their say.

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*Old guns can awaken a love of history in the young.*

*"Perhaps... it's just the simple desire to have some part of our heart remain that of a child's, one who doesn't yet know that you can't always reach the stars, or, at the very least, ride beneath them wherever you want to go."*

**— Emmy Lou Harris**

*(Continued on next page)*



**The Straight Shot . . .**

*(Continued from previous page)*

I suppose a short introduction is in order now. I grew up with a glad ache for the frontier past, for natural places and wagon traces. I wore “cowboy” booties before I knew what either a cow or a boy was. The highlight of all my many trips to the shopping mall came when Hopalong Cassidy showed up to sign enthused children’s autographs. My desire to stay up until 10:00 p.m. came from wanting to be awake to watch an episode of the television show *Bonanza* again. And I never quit straining at the reins, until at age 25 I bought and settled into the kind of special place I’d grown up longing for. It’s here where I’ve learned what it is to be really, fully alive... and it is here that I someday will die.

I am fortunate to live less than 100 yards away from a river made sacred by the ancient Mogollon Indians, that was once stalked by the Apache “renegade” Victorio and hunted by the famous Ben Lilly. It flows past the scene of Elfego Baca’s heroic stand shortly before passing through our property, and only 20 miles further

downstream it irrigates the hayfields of the WS Ranch—one of Butch Cassidy’s old haunts. We’re a day’s ride from hundreds of historic shootouts and battles including the Lincoln County War, Geronimo and Victorio’s raids, the gunfight at the O.K. Corral, and Pancho Villa’s attack on Columbus, as well as the cities of El Paso and Albuquerque, where an aging and impoverished Buffalo Bill performed on his final tour of the West.



*Author Jesse Wolf Hardin now lives on an elk refuge close to the site of the Elfego Baca shootout, Reserve, NM.*

Note that it isn’t called the “Wild West” for nothing! The word “wild” stems from the archaic “wilder,” which means “raw and untamed.” The land and creatures existing outside the proscribed certainty of our early walled urban centers, our original native context—the

*(Continued on page 72)*

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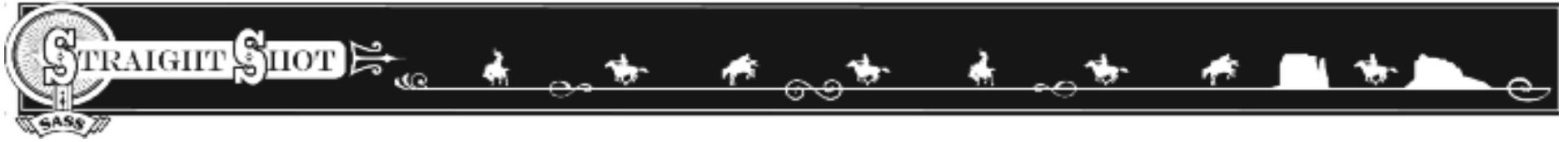
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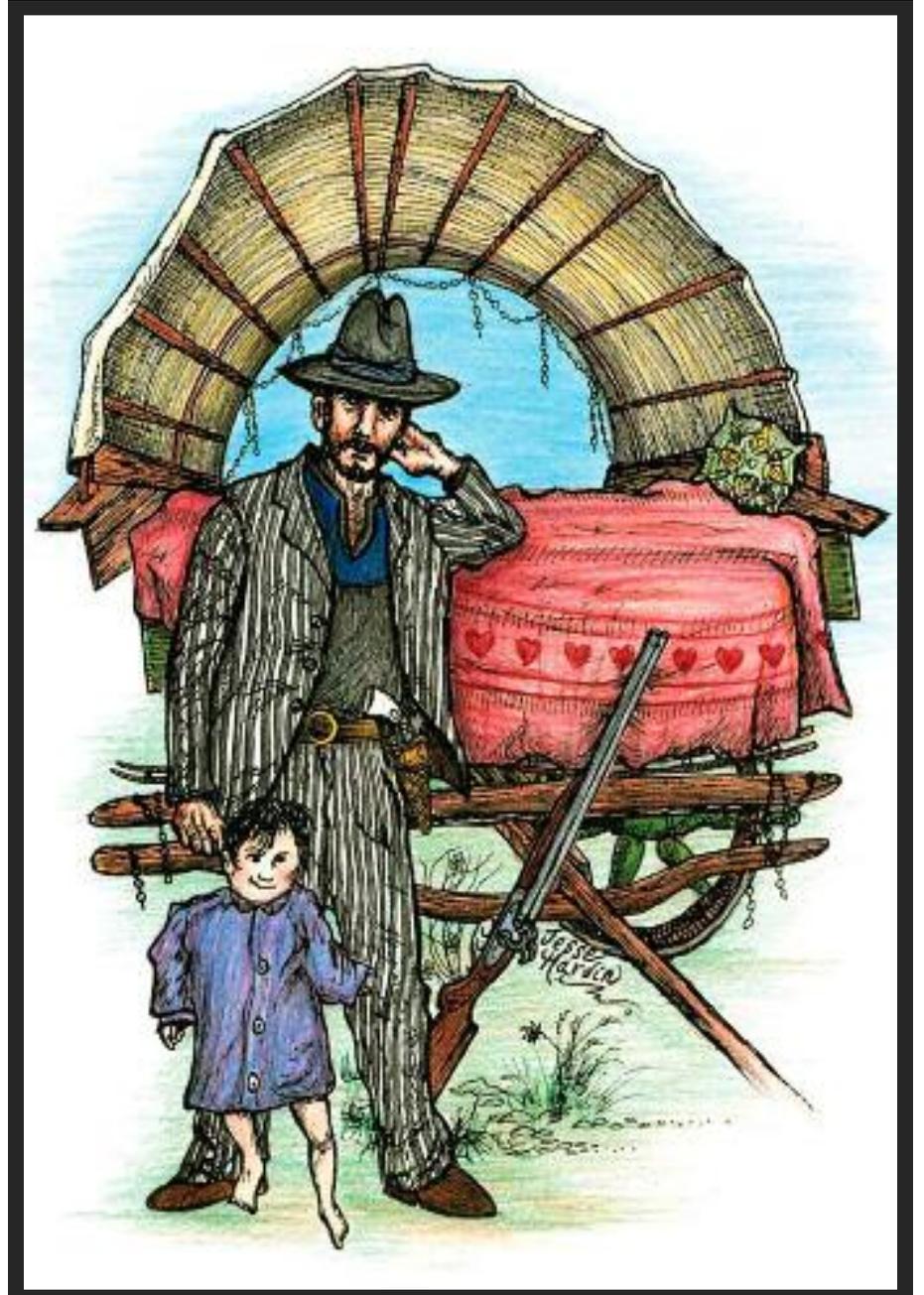
**The Straight Shot . . .**

*(Continued from page 71)*

nurturing, formative and informative wilderness. The intensity and strength of American wild lands were traits readily embodied by native tribes, and emulated by the mountain men and settlers who followed. The original American strength of character was a product of that close-to-nature lifestyle, of the frontiers where few at first dared to tread.

Our predecessors, however, weren't intent on looking back to some previous "golden age," nor were they focused on the artifacts and arms of an earlier era. They lived and fought for the experiences and rewards of an intensely invigorating, adventurous present. And so can we! Cowboys, Indians and outlaws alike were generally outfitted with the best bedroll they could afford, and the most proficient firearms they could find, while paradoxically, we oddballs and anachronisms of the 21st Century are often happiest carrying and shooting the historic arms our forebears left behind. Like most of you fellers, the news that I

hear or read is so depressing that I thirstily seek both refuge and inspiration in the stories, the freedoms and opportunities of those who came before us.



*A man and his daughter, with a shotgun for protection and hunting close by.*

*"Aww, let's just remember the GOOD times!"  
—Merle Haggard (famous country singer whom I overheard, after his bass player pointed out the mistakes in their show)*

When Skinny gave me the go-ahead for this series of articles, I was not only tickled and pleased but verily relieved. Relieved I tell you, because such a large amount of my professional writing these days has been about medicinal herbs. Not that healing oneself and one's family wasn't commonplace on the American frontier, where doctors

*(Continued on next page)*

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## The Straight Shot . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*

were few and far between and drugs to heal you (much like these days) often did as much harm as good. It's just that the good folks who are attracted to herbalism can be a bit on the extreme side of goodly, often deeply sympathetic healers with an aversion to harm, to violence, and hence to the unthinking firearms that are too readily blamed for the acts of thinking men. To maintain some balance in my often-unbalanced life, I spent the last year simultaneously writing books on both *The Healing Terrain*, for the students of herbalism, and *Lawmen of The Old West Unmasked*, for the aficionados of true Western characters and events. Every quarter, as my wife and I work on producing another issue of our *Plant Healer Magazine*, I try to make sure we have at least one contributor who is an omnivore and hunter, or a certain gun-savvy, bald headed ex-military herbalist who sends us pieces on medical self sufficiency and service in a post-disaster and post-meltdown scenario. And every month when I have penned a full meal of words on the importance of nature's medicine for our free *Herbaria Newsletter*, I will now have benefit of this SASS counterbalance, putting together another gun-happy "Straight Shot" column for you faithful Cowboy Chronicle readers.

Note that while I do insane amounts of research in order to come up with new information and angles, I nonetheless write not as a scholar but as an impulsive recanter, an obsessive teller of tales who takes inordinate pleasure in exposing the meanders and intersects of the ever evolving human story. And the reason real life makes such a great story is that it isn't "black and white," it involves painful paradox, uncertainty and ambivalence as well as assuredness and righteousness. It is its dramatizing of the benefits, the costs and the unexpected ramifications of every choice made. It is said that one must learn from history in order to avoid repeating its mistakes... and it is in the twists that we inevitably find our greatest lessons.

I'm fascinated by the reasons why people risked their lives to wander with no more than a good shotgun and rifle into unmapped and unpredictable new places. I'm interested in what made

*(Continued on page 74)*

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## The Straight Shot . . .

(Continued from page 73)

one-time outlaws settle down and take jobs as frontier marshals and sheriffs, or what inspired professional “law-dogs” to hang up their badge and enter into a life of crime. In these columns we will explore not only the history and use of specific firearms from the most popular the rare and arcane, but also the lives of the men and women who carried and used them. This will likely include the struggles against the railroads and banks by the under fed and the fed-up poor... and what kind of emotional state might cause a hounded John Wesley Hardin to stand with his back to the barroom door. The necessity and morality of self-defense, and risking one’s life for a belief or cause. Together we’ll take a deeper look at the implications of loyalties and alliances, attitudes and beliefs, prejudice and race, and the mindset of the pistol packin’ prostitute, hiding her sorrows behind her laughter and a thickly painted face. We’ll empathize with what were in some ways a sad and tragic lot: those who moved West to escape the confinement and conformity of swelling seaboard cities, then found they’d inadvertently helped subjugate and tame the very challenges, magic, and wildness that they’d sought.

In the coming issues of the *Cowboy Chronicle*, I’ll be drawing material for this column from two of my many poorly under-distributed but (happily)

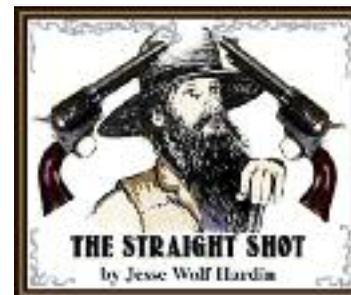
Author  
Jesse Wolf Hardin  
is devoted to  
bringing western  
history to life.



cage-rattling books: *Lawmen of The Old West Unmasked* and *Old Guns & Whispering Ghosts*, with adjustments and additions to keep them edgy and fresh. And for those among you who might already own both, I will be penning some entirely new pieces that I hope you’ll enjoy, not just about history and guns but also what the Old West ways of living can tell us about our own era, situations, values, and purposes.

Now let us quiet for a moment our busied modern minds, halt the mad rush of “progress” long enough to notice the cool touch of a spectral wind on our westward-gazing faces, to perhaps better sense the not always simple or easy lessons resident in our vintage arms, and to realize that things are not always clear cut, not always as they seem. With this column I join you around a common fire, on a grand adventure to learn to be as joyous and irrepressible as kids again, doing whatever it takes to fulfill our dreams, doing our individual best to always be “straight shooters.”

Sssh! There’s a wilder spirit entering the room that some might have thought was missin’. If we’re to discern its whispered tales, it’s always best we stop and listen.



**Jesse Wolf Hardin** is a wilderness-dwelling writer, artist, arms collector, coeditor of *Plant Healer Magazine* for students of herbal medicine (see: [www.PlantHealer.org](http://www.PlantHealer.org)), and author of dozens of books including the full-color *Old Guns & Whispering Ghosts: Firearms of the Old West & Those Who Used Them, 1866-1916*, and the conversation-stirring *Lawmen of The Old West Unmasked*, available through: [www.OldWestScribe.com](http://www.OldWestScribe.com). Hardin’s work has garnered the respect of men like John Taffin, Boge Quinn, Jim Supica, Doug Turnbull, Ned Schwing, Dennis Adler, and Bob Boze Bell, while verily confounding the politically correct. You can send indignant comments or letters of support directly to Wolf at: [Scribe@OldWestScribe.com](mailto:Scribe@OldWestScribe.com) 🐾

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**TO ALL CLUB CONTACTS:**  
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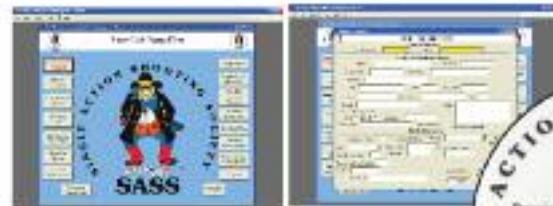
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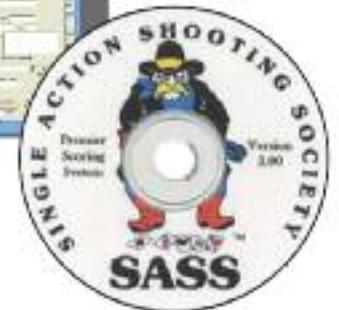
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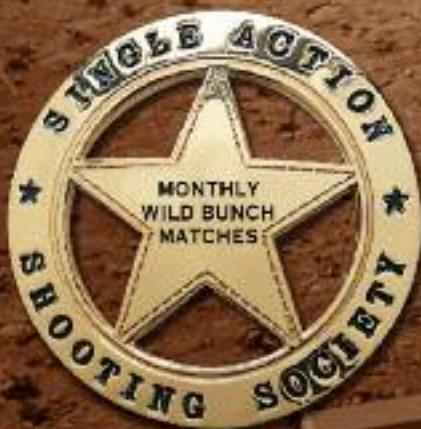
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