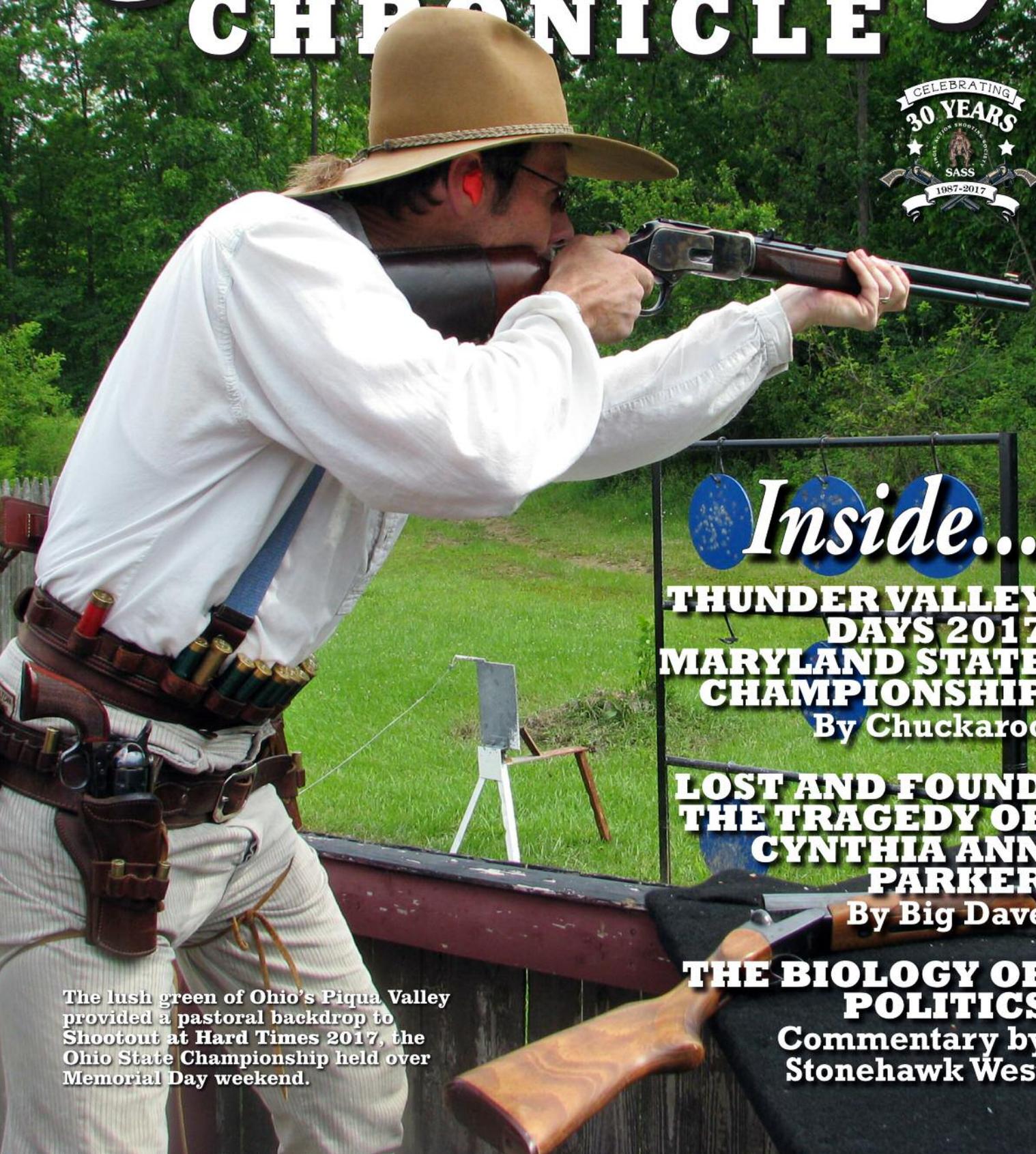


TWED

NOVEMBER | 2017



Cowboy CHRONICLE



Inside...

**THUNDER VALLEY
DAYS 2017
MARYLAND STATE
CHAMPIONSHIP**
By Chuckaroo

**LOST AND FOUND
THE TRAGEDY OF
CYNTHIA ANN
PARKER**
By Big Dave

**THE BIOLOGY OF
POLITICS**
Commentary by
Stonehawk West

The lush green of Ohio's Piqua Valley provided a pastoral backdrop to Shootout at Hard Times 2017, the Ohio State Championship held over Memorial Day weekend.

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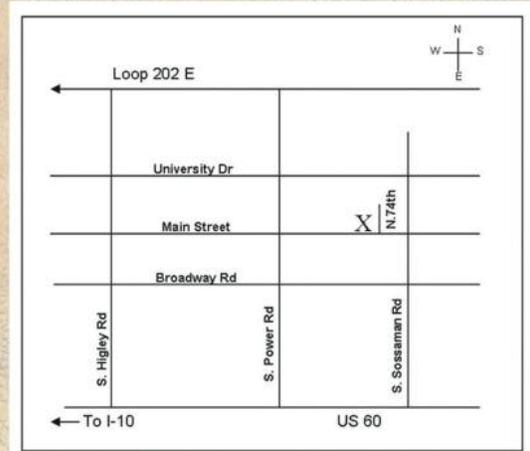
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Poor Tex! He was the center target everyone enjoyed shooting at Billy the Kid's Breakout 2017 in New Mexico! Once again, folks had to pay attention... Nevada Sweeps had to go in a particular order... and these rifle targets were also used for the revolvers!



Big Dave, SASS #55632

Guest Editorial

Taking Down History

THE Confederate Statue Controversy

By Big Dave, SASS #55632



Is this where we're heading?

Sometimes how we view history has more to do with the present than the past. This is the crux of the controversy over Confederate statues. Unless you've done a lot of reading, it's difficult to put what happened more than a century and a half ago in its proper context. Most Americans fall into one of two camps on the subject – they either long for “the good old days” or they want to demolish every trace of an unpleasant era. The truth is,

history evolves—we get new information as well as fresh interpretations and the challenge is to keep the narrative alive. History falls into a sort of gray area that offers few concrete lessons except a nation that tries to erase it does so at its peril. According to the Roman historian Livy, “The study of history is the best medicine for a sick mind; for in history you have a record of the infinite variety of human experience plainly set out for all to see: and in that record,

NEW SASS SHOOTERS HANDBOOK

Dear SASS Members,

SASS is proud to announce there is a NEW version of the SASS/Cowboy Action Shooting™ Shooters Handbook available! For some time, there has been a need expressed from our membership to condense all of the rules and guidelines into one, centralized resource book. Shooters no longer have to go into the RO1 Course materials to receive critical information and guidelines.

Huge Thanks go out to the RO Committee for their hard work and

diligent assistance in reviewing and fine tuning the new format of the Shooters Handbook. Their insight and guidance has ensured this publication is a world-class resource and a reflection of the growing and evolving needs of our shooters.

The new Version of the SASS Shooters Handbook is now available for download on the SASS Website, under Handbooks & Rules. [CLICK HERE](#) for a direct link. 🐾

Happy Shooting!

—Misty Moonshine



Misty Moonshine,
SASS #83232

Taking Down History • The Confederate Statue Controversy . . .

you can find for yourself and your country both examples and warnings: fine things to take as models, base things, rotten through and through, to avoid.”

The Civil War gives us all these things; it is the reason why we continue to find it fascinating. The problem is, we should look at the bad as well as the good. When a few people decide the “bad” things must be removed, we are left a view of our history that is bland and incomplete. The statue controversy encompasses several periods of American history—the Civil War, Reconstruction, the 1890s through the 1930s, the 1960s, and the present. Racial tension hovers in the background of all these periods. The Confederate statues have become symbols of racial tension and some people think if the statues are taken away, racial tension will go away with them. Good luck.

It doesn't help that the KKK and the American Nazis have decided to adopt the Confederate battle flag as part of their own symbolism. The Klansmen and the Nazis think the statues are great. They are white supremacist organizations and the Confederacy was based in part on white supremacy. But wait a minute – so was the Union. Most blacks living in the North during the Civil War were disenfranchised and segregated. How does all this factor in?

Others who demand the removal of Confederate statues cite the “Lost Cause” spin on history as a reason to take them away. The “Lost Cause” deemphasized slavery

as the cause of the South's secession and argued the Civil War was about states' rights. In truth, the two issues were inextricably fused by the time of Fort Sumter. For my two cents, the slavery issue was the bottom line. The argument that tore the nation apart was about a state's (or territory's) right to prohibit or deny the “peculiar institution”—a euphemism for slavery. We southerners need to deal with this and let it go. “Lost Cause” historians also emphasized the valor of the Confederate soldier and the skill of generals like Lee and Jackson. That part of the “Lost Cause” argument is hard to refute. Anyway, the proponents of removal consider the “Lost Cause” to be inaccurate, outdated, and racist. The statues are symbols of the “Lost Cause” and must be removed. Then we'll all embrace the “correct” view, whatever that is. The problem is, interpretations of history are somewhat fluid—what is “correct” today might be “incorrect” tomorrow. Wouldn't it be better to know what the “Lost Cause” was and how it fit in to our national identity?

Another argument for the statues' removal revolves around the era during which they were constructed. They started going up in the late 1880s and it continued into the 1930s. This coincided with the “Jim Crow” era of racial segregation, a period of U.S. history that was justified by the Supreme Court decision, *Plessy v. Ferguson* in 1896. *Plessy v. Ferguson* maintained separate facilities (schools,

(Continued on page 6)

Taking Down History • The Confederate Statue Controversy . . .

(Continued from page 5)

railcars, housing, water fountains, bathrooms and the like) were constitutional if they were “equal.” Yeah, right. . . . However, the Supreme Court sanctioned this at the time. Should we forget this? And if we don’t what should we do? Should we erase the names of those who decided the majority opinion? Should we pick and choose which Supreme Court decisions to study?

It’s true the statues were erected during a bleak period of American history. I’ve read they were meant as a kind of threat, so southern blacks would “know their place.” However, without documentation it’s hard to accept that conclusion. It seems more likely the construction of the statues was part of a statement that said, “We may have lost, but we’re still proud.” Statues and monuments were an attempt to vindicate the Confederacy.

So what is wrong with that? Southerners were the only Americans to be under military occupation. Reconstruction wasn’t officially over until 1877. The South’s economy didn’t recover until the 1940s. The South didn’t just lose the Civil War, it got stomped. Proportionally, it lost far more men than the North.

One of the most potent arguments for the removal of the statues is the fact Robert E. Lee himself opposed any monument that reminded people about the war. He felt the conflict was over and monuments would “keep open the sores of war.” They could indeed do that. However, they also had a healing quality. The monuments reminded grieving relatives their dead husbands, fathers, sons, grandfathers, uncles, cousins, etc., hadn’t died for nothing. Most of them were commissioned by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The statues are beautiful works of art and they remained where they

stood for a long time until they fell under attack by the Culture of Complaint.

I would argue the Confederate statues represent an important chunk of American history for all Americans. Instead of carting them off to some uncertain fate, I think we should leave them alone. A plaque should be added explaining their place in the historical narrative of our country. It would be a heck of a lot cheaper than moving them. Let people decide for themselves whether the Confederate statues are, in Livy’s words, “examples” or “warnings.”

That takes a lot of thinking and reading. Unfortunately, those things are forms of torture for the average person. The easy solution is to simply remove the things that are “offensive.” Just recently, some students put a shroud over Thomas Jefferson’s statue at the University of Virginia. The Sociology Department probably had a hand in this. (I’m joking—historians love to take a dig at sociologists.) Jefferson was decried as a “racist” and a “rapist.” I guess you could make that argument, but there are a few more elements to his story than that. “Minor” things like the Declaration of Independence and the Louisiana Purchase. However, to those people who want to view history through the single lens of their “feelings,” Jefferson’s statue can’t be tolerated.

If we take the time to educate people, maybe they won’t fly off the handle so quickly. However, we threw in the towel with regards to education a long time ago. We made it more important to feel good about oneself than to think. The statue controversy is part of a much bigger problem. Maybe it’s a “Lost Cause” to hope we can fix it. *J.*

— *Big Dave, SASS #55632*



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Letters & Opinions

END of TRAIL Correction

The October 2017 issue of *The Cowboy Chronicle* has Four Bucks listed as the FC Duelist winner for 2017 EOT. I don't think he was even there! **Confederate Colt** was the FCD winner.

Deadwood Blackie
SASS #101925

Four Bucks was the 2016 winner and it appears he was accidentally carried over to the 2017 list. Our apologies to Confederate Colt (SASS #31216) of Bell, Florida.

—Skinny

A Question for SASS

I have been a member of SASS since 2010 with the alias of Biff Mad Dog. In the October issue 2017 of *The Cowboy Chronicle*, page 62, I noticed the entry of new members from Russia and I surprised to see listed SASS #106056, Biff Tannen. Is that use of the enough different to be a SASS legal alias?

Welcome to the new members from RUSSIA.
Biff Mad Dog Tannen
SASS #86924
ITALY

It's acceptable per the alias rules to use a similar name if it incorporates enough of a modification to make it unique. So "Texas Junior Walker," for example, would be legal as well as "Junior Walker." So, I believe both aliases are legal.

—Skinny

The GOP

Hi Colonel Dan,

I just finished reading your well-written article. I voted for President Trump and his policies and I knew once he said he would drain the swamp in Washington that he would get nothing passed by congress. I don't know if this particular comment cemented his election or not, but it never should have been made. One of the first rules in the military is never let your enemy know what you are up to. By making this comment he implied all members of congress needed to go and they all took it as a threat,

even those he may not have been targeting.

You are right when you say the republicans are not on his side, they have now circled their wagons and consider the democrats more their ally than the president.

Congress has become a self-serving entity. Any threat to any entity will cause it to fall back on itself and regroup for protection. All congressional members who follow party rules and decrees are protected by their parties.

For example, let's say the people of Arizona want to choose someone other than John McCain in the next election. How do they go about it? The normal procedure is for those republicans to demand a primary, but if that state's republican party wants to protect McCain they can simply refuse to hold a primary. The only option the republican people in Arizona have then is to vote for the democratic candidate in the next election to get rid of McCain, and we know that won't happen in any significant numbers.

Both parties of congress have circumvented the Constitution for their own gain and protection. Remember when Trump was running for office and he kept claiming elections were rigged? Now we know what he meant.

Our congress consists of two different political entities who are now probably allies working together against President Trump and all his policies. They have no fear of the people, as the people's only constitutional recourse against them has been removed.

It only took 250 years for our politicians to find all the loopholes to take the American citizen out of the political process. The founders must be spinning in their graves!

Col. J. D. Gatlin
SASS #80445

Thank you for that most thoughtful note. I very much appreciate you taking the time to write and express your feelings.

As you might assume, I am in agreement with your view of the battlefield... as is the vast majority of our SASS family.

Soldier on...

—Col. Dan

Letters & Opinions

An Open Letter to SASS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my fellow SASS members for allowing me to serve you through Christ as an active member of the Cowboy Memorial Chapel at Founders Ranch!

These days, my time is starting to be demanded upon more by other things and I must humbly bow out

and leave a spot, hopefully for someone else to step in and serve.

Thank you Mo Lasses and Long Jim for entrusting me, I have enjoyed my work with you. Hopes in seeing you down the road, and on the range! 🐾

Thank you!

Singin' Sue

SASS #71615



Singin' Sue,
SASS #71615



Cover Feature

Shootout *at* Hard Times 2017

Ohio State SASS Championship

By Fletch O Dubois, SASS #14224



— A TRIO OF BUCKAROOS —
the future of our sport—show of their trophies.



— MATCH WINNERS —
*Sage Chick (SASS #48454)
and Deuce Stevens (SASS #55996).*

This year's Shootout at Hard Times was even bigger and better than before... Yeee Haaa!

The Fifteenth State Cowboy Action Championship, hosted by the Miami Valley Cowboys at the Piqua Fish & Game Club in Piqua, Ohio, was held Memorial Day weekend, May 26-28. Buckshot Jones and match directors Mean Gun Mark and Boaz Longhorn put on one heck of a match with more than 190 competitors from 14 different states in attendance for this three day event. The competition was held around the theme of *The Magnificent Seven*. For those not in the know, *The Magnificent Seven* was a 1960s flick directed by John Sturges about an oppressed Mexican peasant village that hires seven gunfighters to help defend their homes against an army of banditos.

Day one was the day to participate in all the side

matches, which were conducted inside the shooting arena. The highlight of the morning was the Wild Bunch mini-match, which drew more than 35 competitors, and the warm up mini-match. Billy the Avenger took top honors in the Wild Bunch match with an overall time of 144.78! Speed events ranged from the pocket pistol and speed shotgun to speed pistol and speed rifle. Not to be outdone, on the long range they held the long range single shot, long range rifle, as well as long range pistol caliber rifle events. This day was set up to allow each of the competitors the ability to participate in all the side matches. Those who didn't partake in the side matches had more free time to participate in local area events or hob-knob with old friends and make new ones. That evening was a wonderful steak din-

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Shootout at Hard Times 2017 . . .

ner at the Piqua Fish & Game clubhouse. The distribution of Side Match awards took place the night of the banquet.

Day two was a very cool and grey May morning as all the competitors and visitors assembled in front of the gallows for the traditional opening ceremonies. Mean Gun Mark welcomed all the shooters; Boaz gave the safety briefing and after the Star Spangled Banner, the Posse Marshals received their last minute range instructions and we were off. I'd like to commend Smokin' Iron and Honey B. Quick for their outstanding job as side match directors, and Blue Hare for research and the Shooters Handbook design.

What is really nice, the Cowboy Action Shooting™ range is in a horseshoe configuration and is held on open level ground so you don't have far to tote guns and gear. And they have twelve Cowboy Action Stages and plenty of room for Cowboys and Cowgirls to stage their carts and equipment. Friendly vendors were on hand to run clothing sales, do leather work, sell ammunition, and there was even a team on hand to make custom laser grips and rifle/shotgun stock engravings. Yours truly partook

of the rifle stock on my Marlin with prancing Mustang configuration... it not only looks fantastic, but offers a much better gripping surface.

The main match was a fast-paced shoot with six stages on day one and the remainder on day two. Posse members kept things moving right along so by the last day of the competition we were finished in time to present awards and still have time for folks to make an exit back to their families at a decent hour.

Mean Gun Mark and Boaz collaborated on stage design and scenario interface. One that was really unique was stage seven, The Alley Cat Distillery. With two pistols holstered and the rifle placed on the table located in the center of the stage, the shooter was positioned to the left of the stage behind a wagon with their shotgun in hands. The call to action was "So Far So Good." At the RO's command they loaded two rounds in their shotgun. ATB they were to shoot their shotgun at two swingers and the popper and flyer in any order, then move to the rifle and engage two targets twice and at least once on the other three and finally, using pistols as needed, engage each of the targets as the rifle. Missouri

(Continued on page 12)





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Keeping the Legend Alive



Shootout at Hard Times 2017 . . .

(Continued from page 11)

Lefty was quick—she managed to shoot this one in 15.44 seconds! That’s right, twenty-four shots from four different guns and three different shooting positions in 15.44 seconds. But if you want to talk about speed, Deuce Stevens had it hands down at stage eight, The Blacksmith Shop. I don’t know how he could even see the targets in that billowing cloud of smoke, but I have to give him a big Yee Ha for a fantastic time of 9.03 seconds. That’s right, two shotgun, 10 rifle, and 10 pistol shots in 9.03 seconds!

Posses ran smoothly and at sunset we retreated to the nearby

Eagles Club where hospitality abounded. The cooks prepared some fantastic entrees for the Saturday evening dinner. Nobody went away hungry, as there was lots of southern fried fish or chicken to pick from! After dinner there were numerous door prizes that had been donated in celebration of this event to include three memberships for the Ohio Rifle and Pistol Association and a beautiful .22 Henry rifle. There was even chocolate and white cake to celebrate the occasion!

Sunday morning—day two—broke early with the final six stages. This allowed plenty of time for shooting, lunch, and the awards ceremony. A very unique stage was The Stockyards. The layout really looked like stockyards as portrayed in so many old western movies. Here the shooter started with their shotgun in hand

with the muzzle touching the top of the corral fence rail. “Yeah, he’s my brother,” and at the beep the shooter had to engage six knock down targets as they moved forward through the stockyard. After placing the shotgun on the bench at the end of the corral and retrieving the rifle they then had to shoot at least three shots on each of the vertically arranged rifle/pistol targets with no triple taps. Finally, after securing the rifle safely in the vertical rack, they then drew their pistols and followed the same sequence as the rifle. Doc Molar was really moving; he shot all 26 shots while moving throughout the stockyard in 21.80 seconds. Folks, now that’s hustling!

And, after two fun-filled and action-packed days of competition, the winners emerged. The low score for the match this year was our perennial favorite Cowboy,



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Shootout at Hard Times 2017 ...

Deuce Stevens! Now listen up, if you ever get a chance to shoot with this speed demon, do it, as he is great to watch! But hot on his heels was Missouri Lefty shooting Cowboy. Top lady was Sage Chick shooting Cowgirl. This year I shot B-Western again with my Marlin model 94, a pair of old Colt New Frontiers and my trusty model 97. I'd like to report I shot clean, but I didn't. On stage one the pistol hammer fell and the bullet went *pfffft* and fell on the ground in front of my target, was only eight yards away. Crud! One miss for a 5-second penalty and the match had just begun. To add insult to injury, I had the same experience, but with my second pistol, on stage two! Two stages and two misses! Needless to say, I became quite concerned with 10 more stages (and

200 rounds of ammo) to shoot over the weekend. But Wilbur Green Rexroat saved my bacon by loaning me two hundred rounds of his ammo. Once the bullet issue was taken care of, things got back to normal. There are not a whole lot of sports where someone will bail your sorry butt out, but it's a tribute to Wilbur and the whole "Cowboy Way" of the SASS community that this kind of generosity happens so often. Despite my issues, 23 other shooters were able to shoot the match clean!

Congratulations to all those who took part in the side matches and main match. You can find the complete match results posted at the Miami Valley Cowboys web site, http://www.miamivalleycowboys.org/recent_match_results.htm.

You can't say enough about the hospitality of the Piqua Fish and Game Protective Association and the Miami Valley Cowboys staff. The Shootout at Hard Times stage designs made this a very memorable event. I encourage everyone to come and shoot with the "Cowboys" next year where they will be able to hob-knob with this gang of cowpokes and have more fun than you are legally allowed.

The Piqua Fish and Game shooting arena is easy to get to from anywhere in the country.

Nestled just about 30 miles North of Dayton, it offers the ideal shooting location for those who love to shoot a multifaceted event. They have recently expanded the number of campsites available right at the Piqua location. There are hotels available in Piqua and there is a campground about 15 minutes away at the Stillwater Beach Campground, 8408 Versailles-Southeastern Rd, Bradford, OH.

Next year will be the eighteenth anniversary of this event and its sixteenth time as the State Championship, and the competition will include side matches, twelve Main stages, Cowboy Trap and Skeet, a Wild Bunch mini-match, a warm up mini-match and whatever else Mean Gun Mark and Boaz can dream up. 🤠



Costuming Corner



Colonel Callan,
SASS #73944 *Life* and
Little Bit Sassy,
SASS #103150



The Making of a Costume How We Won First Place on Our First Try

By Colonel Callan, SASS #73944 *Life* and *Little Bit Sassy*, SASS #103150



Sporran and lady bag with original 1895
Montgomery Ward Catalog listing (*inset*).



The 2017 Texas State Championship was the event. The Texican Rangers annual shoot was the venue. There were going to be world-class shooters and world-class costumers on hand. Texas Flower, Skinny and Doc O'Bay were scheduled to be costume judges. Anyone even thinking about entering the costume contest with any real hope to win, place, or show, had to get it together... and get it right.

We had never entered a costume contest before, but we got a wild hair and decided we should do it. We started our research in May 2016 for the April 2017 event. Our target was to recreate to the best of our ability what a couple would look like who came right out of South Africa between the First and Second Boer Wars –

specifically, a Scottish Highland colonel and his wife, 1895.

Why on earth would we choose such a thing? To be honest, Col. Callan was thinking about a way to wear his kilt, and there just aren't very many kilt-wearing Cowboys around. Not that he blames folks for that. He can see why some men would prefer not to. After all, it isn't everyone who is comfortable being so... comfortable.

The kilt was the only item we had when we started our effort to put the two costumes together. We had a long way to go, particularly since our approach was each piece of clothing and each accoutrement added had to be researched and authenticated with references, photos, and historically accurate descriptions. We had to find an original, find a replica, or make it. It sounds

like a lot of work, but that was where the fun began for us. Don't be discouraged though, if you're not into all that history; we've seen folks win B-Western by diligently recreating a favorite TV character.

Our research began by getting a feel for the period with an historical novel we read together. *The Runaway Horses* by Joyce Kotze is a great story with a blending of British and Boer culture, politics, and warfare. As we read the book we verified her information through other sources. It turned out to be very accurate historically and gave us a feel for the conflict between the Boer effort to protect their homeland and the British imperial drive to control the southern ports and resources of the Transvaal. After the book, we were better able to come up with an



“Official” dispatch for costume judges.

The Making of a Costume . . .

international back-story for the costume judges that would tie South Africa to our Old West. We would tell them Sassy was a Texas widow who'd gone to visit a cousin married to a British officer stationed in Cape Town, and she'd met this dashing Highlander, who was returning to Texas as her husband. We dove into the creation of the outfits.

Research into uniforms of the British Army gave us the framework for the regimental uniform of the Black Watch in use in South Africa at that time. Historically, the Black Watch is one of the oldest of Scottish regiments, dating back to 1725. They are still active today, but they gave up their kilts for combat gear by WWII and now they only don that garment for ceremonial purposes. During the Boer War, they and other regiments were kilted and were required to wear the tartan approved by the high command. My kilt was not a Black Watch tartan. I volunteered that information to the judges at the competition, thinking it would only be fair to do so since it would be doubtful any of them knew anything at all about tartans, kilts, or regimental regulations of the British Army in the 1890s. I explained the difference in my tartan and the Black Watch and I added there were reports some men wore their clan tartans. Doc O'Bay, eyeing my kilt very keenly, agreed. And then he added, when clan tartan kilts were worn by officers it was a violation of the uniform dress regulation, but it was overlooked. This should serve as a warning. Do not assume the judges are not keen observers or don't know all about your seemingly obscure choice... perhaps more than you do.

A couple of months later, at a club shoot at the

Texican Rangers, Doc O'Bay was on my posse. I was wearing my Boer War khaki uniform without the kilt. I was standing next to Doc before the match began.

“You do know your tunic is not correct,” he said. I turned to him, apparently with a quizzical expression.

“How do you know it isn't the correct tunic?” I asked.

“Because,” he said without expression, “you are wearing a tunic cut for a kilt – with space in front for the sporran. With khaki pants you should have a straight cut hem on that tunic.”

“I know. But you didn't answer my question. How in the world do you know which tunic is correct?” I asked again.

“Because,” he said, “when I put my Boer War uniform together, I did the research.”

(Continued on page 16)

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Sassy's hat.

The Making of a Costume . . .

(Continued from page 15)

Clearly he had, and he knew even more details about the uniform and the war, and related the difficulty he'd had finding materials for his outfit.

Again, be warned the judges might know, probably do know, more about your costume than you do. But at least I was not caught unaware, and Little Bit Sassy and I knew about every variation in both of our costumes, and we were prepared to explain any deviation from what would be normal.

Her 1895 dress, for example, did not have a bustle, even though we had originally supposed it would require one. We discovered the bustle disappeared almost overnight mid-1890. It was replaced by a much smaller bunching of cloth that was, obviously, much more practical. We found someone who could make the skirt from homespun fabric that would have been common to the Transvaal in that period (etsy.com, where you can find seamstresses, fabric, or patterns to make your own). The cape was by recollections.com, with some true to period embellishments we added thanks to museum photos online. Do your own research though, as "recollections" covers many time periods.

Of particular interest to both of us was how to

come up with the correct travel "purse" for Little Bit Sassy. We found the use of the handheld bag known as a *reticule* was out of style by 1895. Instead, ladies took to using a *châtelaine*—a stylish belt hook—from which they could hang any number of items, including a small somewhat flat leather bag for travel or shopping which, according to pictures we found and an advertisement from that time, looked remarkably similar to a sporran used by a man on his kilt. We found an antique *châtelaine* but it took quite a while to find a bag to hang from it. It was a formidable task, but Little Bit Sassy stumbled upon a leather-worker in Australia (check Etsy online for craftspeople) who made exactly what we needed—so much so, we could easily defend our selection and we were both ready for a judge to challenge us.

The hat we wanted for Little Bit Sassy was not to be found anywhere, so she set about building one. She purchased a man's hat from London on Ebay (men's hats were a popular style for ladies at the time anyway) and found descriptions and photos of ladies' hats made with that basic foundation. It took a couple of months, but she managed to put together what we thought was a very sharp rendition and one that would lend itself to changing with different costumes down the line. The odd thing about the hats at that time was the propensity to embellish them with birds. Dead birds. We opted for a fake bird. It took a diligent online search more than six months to find affordable kid gloves in a Victorian color. The wig was easier, "American Costumes" on Ebay, if you aren't able to get to a shoot big enough to have its own "hair" vendor.

Going back to Col. Callan's uniform, we learned a great deal about the various highland regiments that served in the Boer War and their uniforms. One fascinating piece of history, particularly for Col. Callan (as he is a former police officer), was the "Sam Browne" used by the soldiers. In police parlance even today, the gun belt a police officer wears is referred to as a "Sam Browne." Col. Callan never knew why, even when he was a police officer. We found out the term actually comes from an original design by Capt. Samuel Browne sometime in 1858. He was serving in India with the Second Punjab Irregular Cavalry during the Indian Rebellion of 1857. As he charged a canon being reloaded he was attacked by one of its crew. He received two sword cuts, one on the left knee and one which severed his left arm at the shoulder. He recovered from his wounds, but he was rendered unable in

(Continued on page 18)



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The Making of a Costume . . .

(Continued from page 16)

subsequent engagements to steady his scabbard in order to draw his sword with his right hand when charging the enemy. He developed a leather harness with rigging that held the scabbard and sword in place during a charge even without the use of his left arm. Now that's a man! With some modifications it became standard issue for Imperial and Commonwealth troops. Col. Callan actually found a reproduction of that exact piece of equipment. Guess where it was made? Pakistan, which during the Boer War was part of India!

We researched each piece and tried to be meticulous in reproducing that time and place in our costumes and we wanted the judges to know about each one. But we didn't think we'd have an hour to talk about it during the judging and it would have taken that long to fully describe the articles and the history behind them. Actually, we didn't know how the judging was to take place at all, since we were first-timers, but we assumed we might at least have a chance to hand the judges a little gimmick. The paperwork we produced appeared to be correspondence from the War Office in London addressed to the commanding officer

in South Africa – with a copy to be forwarded to the “SASS Tribunal” – regarding inspection protocol for the highland troops. Inside we had two pages, front and back, describing each piece of our costumes with references and pictures and historical background information. We didn't know if they would take time to read it, but it was fun putting it together and serves as a nice documentation of our efforts. We'd like to include a detailed description of each item here, but we realize not many folks will want that kind of detail. What is important for anyone considering entering into a costume contest, at least from our experience, is to know how much fun it was to build them, how much fun it was to show them off, and how much we learned along the way.

Next year the Texas State Championship will be back with the Texican Rangers, near Fredricksburg, so we have until April to have our new costumes ready to go and rest assured, the research is already under way. We won't tell you what we're planning. We can tell you, however, we've never seen anyone do it before.

Why not join the fun? Come up with a theme and try to make the past come alive, even more than you already do with Cowboy Action Shooting™. If you have questions, there are plenty of folks who can advise you. We think people like Hawkshaw Fred and Shotgun, who are real experts in period-correct costumes, will be happy to give you some pointers, along with the judges we've mentioned herein. You would also do well to review Texas Flower's June 2017 article in *The Cowboy Chronicle*, in which she, Cat Ballou, and Cathouse Kelli detail costume contest procedures. If you have a hobby, a collection, an heirloom, an antique, something unique about your alias, or an interesting family history moment from the late 1800s, you can probably work it into a costume, and share a little history with the rest of us in the process. 🤠

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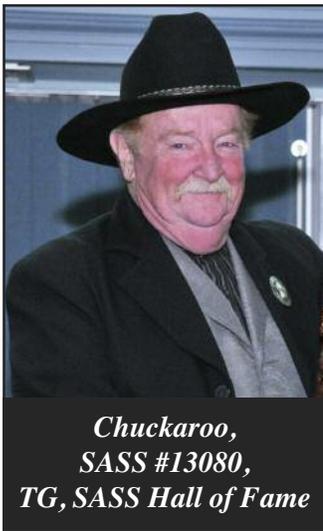
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*Chuckaroo,
SASS #13080,
TG, SASS Hall of Fame*

Annual Reports

Thunder Valley Days 2017

SASS Maryland State Championship

By Chuckaroo,

SASS #13080, TG, SASS Hall of Fame

Photos by Idle Time Photography

Thunder Valley Days 2017 was hosted by the Izaak Walton League's Wildlife Achievement Chapter Inc. Their own Damascus Wildlife Rangers 18th State Championship, celebrated the top ten best stages from previous TVD matches, with 2007 being the newest year. Scaling down from 170 stages to 10 was a daunting task. The Damascus Wildlife Rangers, in their 20th year, is the oldest operating SASS[®] club in Maryland.

Although the match was on the small size, it is viewed by many as the little engine that could, and it did! Stages props included a roulette wheel, dice throwing, cooking on a pot-bellied stove, playing poker, selling elixir from a wagon, playing a guitar



DQ Dave (SASS #39971) about to spin the roulette wheel with Dogmeat Dad (SASS #48563) running the timer.



Sunshine Marcie (SASS #64900) the 2017 Top Lady and Overall Match Winner in action. Long steps!

from a bar stool, a hay wagon, wheel barrow, preachers pulpit, and a pail of beer for your horse. All added to the Cowboy feel on the stages and a refreshing break from ten, ten, and four.

Along with any match director's many worries, you have the weather. The range is located on a weather ridge so predicting the weather is near impossible, as the local forecasters often cheer when they have a 30 percent accuracy rate. Predictions of heavy rain were in the forecast for both days of the main match, yet there was never a drop of rain on the shooters during the match. The temperatures did stay in the low 90s for much of the afternoon shooting. Fortunately, we finished early each day.



Jack Sazerac (SASS #97872) getting his mental game on and it worked, he was seventh overall and Top Wrangler.



Stitches In Time vendor and owner Black Hills Barb (SASS #34171).

Thunder Valley Days 2017 • SASS Maryland State Championship . . .

The match banquet and awards presentations had a 90 percent attendance. Our club chefs did an outstanding job on the most tender beef tenderloin I have ever tasted.

This match was bitter sweet for me as it is my last State Match

as Match Director. After 18 years at the state match helm and 20 years as the club's match director, it's time to step down and let a younger, healthier, and fresher Cowboy take over. Dogmeat Dad (SASS #48563) has graciously

volunteered to take over the Damascus Wildlife Rangers as well as the job of Match Director for the SASS Eastern Divisional, the Mason Dixon Stampede. I could not be more confident with my replacement. Look for exciting things ahead!

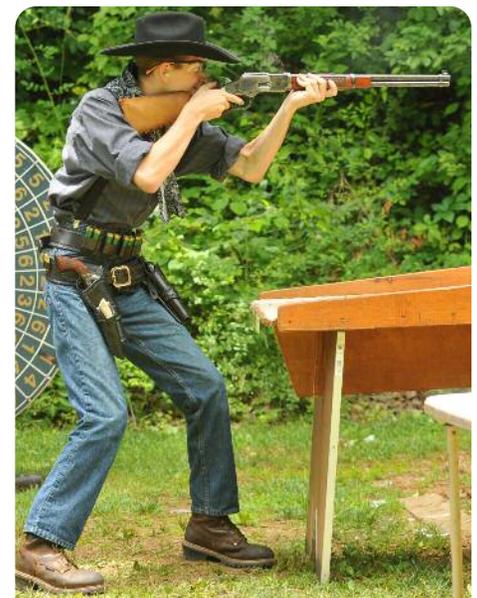
Again this year, for the thirteenth year in a row, Kiddo Caldwell (SASS #55504) is the Ladies' Maryland State Champion. Sagebrush Kid (SASS #42525) is the Maryland Men's State Champion, it is his second win.

Overall match winner was Sunshine Marcie (SASS #64900), her first ever overall match win. Overall Top Men's shooter was Gunfighter Walker Colt (SASS 3035). Please visit <http://www.damascuswiwa.org/DWR/Scores/TVD2017scores.htm> for complete scores and results.

(See more HIGHLIGHTS on page 22)



Sagebrush Kid (SASS #42525) preparing to win his second Maryland State Championship.



Shorty Black (SASS #95268) shows why he is this year's top Young Gun.

Thunder Valley Days 2017 • SASS Maryland State Championship . . .

(Continued from page 21)



Webb McAlister (SASS #69349)
on the move.



Kiddo Caldwell (SASS #55504)
going for her thirteenth Maryland State championship in a row!



Annie Jean Oakley (SASS #84504)
rolling the dice to determine which targets to shoot first.



Walker Colt (SASS #3035)
shooting his way to Overall Top Man and first place Gunfighter.

Winners			Senior			Cattle Baron		
In order of Overall Finish			Cowboy			L B-Western		
Cowgirl	Sunshine Marcie	VA	Lady 49'er	Cody Conagher	WV	L. Wrangler	Waco Wayne	MD
Gunfighter	Walker Colt	VA	Lady Senior	SASS #6986	MD	Sassy Patty	SASS #84529	MD
49'er	Sagebrush Kid	MD	Duelist	SASS #78297	MD	Black Hills Barb	SASS #91444	PA
Silver Senior	Vaquero Dan	DE	Lady GF	Kiddo Caldwell	VA	Slowpoke John	SASS #58547	PA
Classic CB	Dutch Coroner	VA	Sen. Duelist	SASS #55504	MD	Buckshot Lizzie	SASS #34171	MD
Wrangler	Jack Sazerak	VA	Young Gun	Misfire Maggie	MD	Lil Feathers	SASS #31171	MD
	SASS #97872	VA		SASS #69350	MD		SASS #45304	MD
				Virginia Kid	VA		SASS #38709	MD
				Happy Valley Harlot	MD		SASS #48564	MD
				SASS #84435	MD			
				Chilliwack Buck	MD			
				SASS #57645	MD			
				Shorty Black	PA			
				SASS #95268	PA			

Thunder Valley Days 2017 • SASS Maryland State Championship . . .



With both hammers back, MT Chambers (SASS #76185) is about to take on the bad guys.



Dogmeat Dad making lots of smoke while TO Tug Hill (SASS #15764) holds the timer and his breath.



Misfire Maggie (SASS #69350) 100 percent focused.



Smitty Black (SASS #82591) going Gunfighter.



JR Gomez (SASS #98837) staring the target down before he pulls the trigger.



Chilliwack Buck (SASS #57645) lookin' good, as usual.



Tex, SASS #4

Annual Reports

BILLY THE KID'S BREAKOUT

By Tex, SASS #4

Ruidoso, NM – New Mexico is literally the last of the Old West. Texas cattlemen came to the Tularosa Basin (now White Sands Missile Range) soon after the 1850s precisely because there was lush grazing land and no people. That area in central New Mexico was one of the most isolated places in the country at the time. Ranchers made a living by “borrowing” cattle from their neighbors and from Mexico. Outlaws enjoyed nearly unfettered freedom due to the scarcity of law officers. New Mexico’s predominately Catholic Hispanic population (frowned upon by Eastern Senators), low income, and rampant graft and violence kept it from becoming a state until 1912!

Nowhere was this more evident than in Lincoln County, encompassing the community of Lincoln as well as Ruidoso, Fort Stanton, and White Oaks. A mercantile war between Tunstall/ McSween and the Dolan boys vying for the beef contract with Fort Stanton and the influence of the Santa Fe Ring headed by Thomas Catron led to a shooting war with reverberations all the way back east to Washington DC. The legend of Billy the Kid and his pursuit by Sheriff Pat Garrett were forged



An electric-powered set of “wig-wags” (upper right corner) provided a challenge for many shooters.

The rifle and revolver sequences on the standing targets weren’t that hard to remember, but were easy to mess up. The shooters had to pay attention!

by this cauldron of fire.

The modern-day Lincoln County Regulators have built an impressive range just outside of beautiful Ruidoso featuring building façades from Lincoln. In mid-August, one can be assured of cooling monsoon showers nearly every afternoon with green mountains and Ponderosa pines providing a picturesque alpine environment.

The match started Friday after-

noon with the standard side matches and a short Wild Bunch mini-match. The main match began on Saturday with six stages and finished after church on Sunday with the final four stages and awards. Everyone was on the road home shortly after 2:00 p.m. Saturday evening featured dinner in a big tent on the range followed by side match awards and dozens of raffle drawings for some really neat stuff.

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Match Winners were El Diablo and Texas Tiger, both from New Mexico. They were fast AND accurate! Congratulations!



Once the buying frenzy set in the tickets were selling like hotcakes! The raffles, side match awards, and Saturday evening dinner were all held in a big tent on the range. The evening temperatures were an absolute delight!

Billy The Kid's Breakout . . .

The Regulators managed to round up some really nice sponsored gifts, including a '73 rifle and a pair of Taylor's revolvers.

From its inception, the Breakout has been known for quirky scenarios and small targets. Moving targets and wig-wags have always been a staple. This year was no exception... some of the target placements would have made Wild Bunch Action Shooters smile... but there were plenty of make-up targets available. While there were some excellent stage times, this match has never been a speed-demon's match. All the targets are hittable, but you best be using that "bumpy" thing on the end of the barrel! (Although Fast Hammer shot the match "Outlaw" style... and did reasonably well!) There was one "Clean Match"... Boggus

Deal, one of our newer Wild Bunch Action Shooting Ambassadors.

Knockdowns... yes, there were knockdowns... lots of them. And many could be made up with the shotgun... and sometimes that was also a chore. Singin' Sue took nine rounds to get her knock-down make up target to go down! Folks who live and die by their super light loads mostly die at this match. Not only are those loads sometimes difficult to score (little feedback from the targets), but they are often too light to topple the knock-downs.

At most matches complicated scenarios, small, distant targets, and heavy knockdowns are a turn-off. Match Directors who insist on scenarios like this see dwindling numbers of competitors year after year. I'm delighted to report that's not the case for the Breakout.

The shooters from Texas (and there are always a BUNCH) and New Mexico go to this match because it's beautiful, it's FUN, and it's a bit of a challenge. There's no grouching or grumbling. Everyone is friendly and carries a smile on their face. AND... they are very generous with their awards. They honor each and every category, even if there is only one in the category. Tex finally received his Cattle Baron Frontier Cartridge Gunfighter award! It's not his fault he was the only one in the category... the rest of his competition has already died!

It was a genuine delight to have so many Tejanos make the trip to Ruidoso. Judging by the license plates in town, you'd think Ruidoso was a part of Texas! Most

(Continued on page 27)

Billy The Kid's Breakout



Fast Hammer shot the match "Outlaw" style, helped run the posse, and is planning the New Mexico Cowboy Action State Championship in Las Cruces later this year. He's also learned how to strike a pose!



The rocking target also presented problems for some shooters. First it was a moving target, and second most shooters were not used to a target suite elevated as high as this. Yes, that's a wobble trap in the lower part of the picture. It threw two out-going birds. Some could hit 'um, some couldn't. There were makeups for the missed birds.

<u>Winners</u>		<u>E Statesman</u>	<u>L F C Duelist</u>	<u>Speed</u>
Overall Man	El Diablo, SASS #90046 NM	Jim Miller, SASS #74828 NM	Singin' Sue, SASS #71615 NM	Shotgun '87/'97 Tumbleweed Dan TX
Lady	Texas Tiger, SASS #74829 NM	Frontiersman Hands, SASS #92687 NM	L Senior Yankee Texan, SASS #56796 TX	Double Man Fast Hammer NM Lady Texas Tiger NM
Categories		F Cartridge Armed to the Teeth, SASS #72801 TX	L S Senior Agarita Annie, SASS #88620 TX	H Double Dragon Hill Dave, SASS #59561 TX
49er	El Diablo NM	F C Duelist Lefty Too Slim, SASS #44564 NM	L Wrangler Two Sip Sue, SASS #90389 NM	Rifle Man Capitan Regulator NM Lady Texas Tiger NM
Buckaroo	Coyote James, SASS #95564 TX	Cattle Baron F C G F Tex, SASS #4 NM	Senior Texas Boden, SASS #19427 TX	Revolver Man Capitan Regulator NM Lady Lawless Lil NM
Cattle Baron	Tango Tom, SASS #80604 NM	Grand Dame Lawless Lil, SASS #80605 NM	S Duelist Dirty Earl, SASS #94084 NM	Pocket Pistol Man Dragon Hill Dave TX Lady Texas Tiger NM
Cattle Baroness	Cat Ballou, SASS #55 NM	Gunfighter Capitan Regulator, SASS #84262 NM	Outlaw Fast Hammer, SASS #60707 NM	Long Range Single Shot (Smokeless) Man Goatneck Clem TX Lady Texas Tiger NM
Classic Cowboy	Bud Guzzlin, SASS #59383 NM	Gran Patroness Lawless Lori Sue, SASS #80852 NM	S Senior Goatneck Clem, SASS #16787 TX	Single Shot (Blackpowder) Man Captain Clark, SASS #89893 NM
Cowgirl	Shooting Iron Miller, SASS #85140 TX	L 49er Texas Tiger NM	S S Duelist Tumbleweed Dan, SASS #48676 TX	Lever Action (Rifle Caliber) Man Alchemy John, SASS #84607 NM Lady Texas Tiger NM
Cowboy	Bucho Cargado, SASS #101070 NM	L F Cartridge Lady Jane, SASS #72857 NM	Wrangler Boggus Deal, SASS #64218 NM	
Duelist	Taos O., SASS #21142 TX		Side Matches Derringer Man Capitan Regulator NM Lady Texas Tiger NM	



Boggus Deal – Newest Wild Bunch Action Shooting Ambassador, Clean Match, and a birthday. Great Weekend!



Dragon Hill Dave made the trip from Lockhart, TX, won a '73, and played MC during the Saturday evening festivities.



Match Director for this event was Gunsmoke Cowboy. His match ran smoothly and all questions were answered with a big, friendly grin. He and his team did a wonderful job soliciting sponsors and prizes for the match. He even managed to get "non-traditional" Ruidoso businesses to help finance the shooters program. He did good!

Billy The Kid's Breakout . . .

(Continued from page 25)

folks living in West Texas make Ruidoso part of their summer vacation plans... and the smart ones

bring their guns along so it's not a wasted trip! If your summer schedule accommodates it, you'd do

well to plan shooting Billy the Kid's Breakout in 2018! 🤠

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Annual Reports

Battle *at* Black Horse 2017

Montana State SASS Championship



By Ranger Six, SASS #94237



Montana State Champions for 2017, Doc Tombstone and May B. Shecann.



Young Gun shooter, Poco Culebra—the proud winner of the Schuetzen Target.

The Black Horse Shootists (BHS) hosted the Montana State Championship Match for the third time July 14-16. Their range is located within the Great Falls Shooting Sports Complex in Great Falls, MT. BHS is in the process of building a range for large shooting events, not only Cowboy Action Shooting™, but for other disciplines such as Multi Gun (Three-Gun). This past year they have continued to enlarge their RV parking lot and added more electrical hookups. Still in the construction phase, the registration building will

be available for use soon. Besides the Registration Office, it will provide room for a Mercantile Shop. Vendors as well as individuals will have space to display their items for sale. This year, vendors included Choice Ammunition of Victor, MT, who sponsored the match.

The days before the match were spent setting up stage fronts, arranging targets and getting props ready. On Thursday, RVs started to arrive, with some guests helping to set up the range once they got their RVs squared away. Friday morning began with shooter check-in and

then a three-stage Wild Bunch mini-match, written by MT Jughead (SASS #76906). Following a lunch break, it was time for a three-stage warm-up match. As in previous years, the warm-up match was hosted by the Rocky Mountain Rangers, a Cowboy Action Shooting™ club located in Noxon, MT. The 54 shooters who participated were split into three posses and shot three stages written by Graydog (SASS #95556) to warm up their trigger fingers, even though the temperature was already well over 100 degrees.

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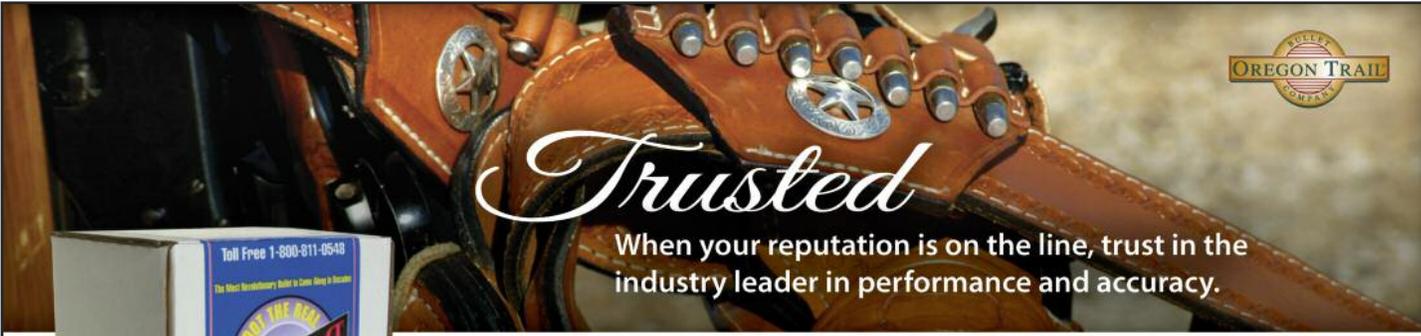


Top Ten Shooters

Battle at Black Horse 2017 • Montana State SASS Championship . . .

Other afternoon activities included Long Range and Side Matches. Along with Long Range Pistol and Lever Rifle in Pistol caliber, Long Range Single Shot Rifle/Lever Rifle in Rifle caliber was offered. These events took place on the Missouri River Shooter's Association (MRSA) ranges. The MRSA and Multi Gun

club, a sub-discipline of the MRSA, are also part of the GFSSC and have been very supportive in helping out the BHS during past matches as well as the 2017 Championship Match. The MRSA provided complimentary breakfasts on both Saturday and Sunday, which was *(Continued on page 30)*



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Battle at Black Horse 2017 • Montana State SASS Championship . . .

(Continued from page 29)

served by the women of the MRSA and their family volunteers.

The Side Matches included Speed Shotgun, Rifle, and Pistol. This event was hosted by Nine Lives (SASS #38211), a shooter from Co-

lumbia Falls, MT. Another Side Match was called Shooter vs Shooter. Basically the same as a Top Gun Shoot-Off, except any two shooters could run the course for bragging rights. Starting with 10 rounds in a staged rifle and five rounds in a holstered pistol, the shooters could start with either gun. Each started on a Texas Star and were required to drop all five plates. Then a Falling Plate Rack was engaged till all five plates fell. Finally a dueling popper target was shot down, with the winner being the first one to drop his or her popper target.

Saturday morning began with Classic Cowboy and B-Western costume checks and also a safety meeting. Co-Match Directors JEB Stuart (SASS #65654) and Jeb's

Lady (SASS #76599) made the welcoming address. Once all the announcements were completed it was time to start the first 7 of 12 Main Match stages, which were written by BHS's Range-Master Smoke Jensen (SASS #87445). The 82 shooters were divided among six posses. Each posse completed two stages at each shooting bay and then moved on to the next one. For 2017, the BHS decided to go full-on Hollywood and use some iconic, or at least memorable, movie characters to create the scenarios. Many were from Clint Eastwood westerns, while other characters were from movies such as *Crossfire Trail*, *3:10 to Yuma*, *Open Range*, and *Tombstone*. Following lunch, some decided to just take a break and



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Battle at Black Horse 2017 • Montana State SASS Championship . . .

socialize, while others prepared to engage the Schuetzen Target and do Cowboy Clays. The Schuetzen Target is a tradition started several years ago by JEB Stuart when the Montana State Championship was held in Simms, MT. A hand-painted target is placed at an unknown distance (the general consensus was about a hundred yards, give or take, for this year) and engaged with just one round. Some years a pistol is used and other years the shot is taken with a rifle. For 2017 a rifle in a pistol caliber was chosen to be the firearm used. Tic's Girl (SASS #102967), a Montana shooter from Great Falls, was the artist who drew and painted the Schuetzen Target. It seems less than a quarter of those who took the shot hit the target. A spotter kept track of who hit the target and where the shot landed. Later the folks who had placed a hole in the target autographed the target next to their bullet hole. The bullseye was the star on the SASS Marshal's chest. This year's winner of the Schuetzen Target was Young Gun Boy, Poco Culebra (SASS #93926). Poco's bullet hole was the closest to the Marshal's star and also, according to JEB Stuart, the closest to the star of all time. Saturday evening, a catered BBQ dinner was served and Side Match Awards presented, along with the announcement of the Costume Contest winners, Prairie Dog (SASS #46666), Holy Ryder (SASS #53115), Lunger (SASS #78045), Tic's Girl and Tillie Dyes (SASS #79511).



After the complimentary breakfast and costume checks on Sunday morning, it was time to start shooting the last five Main Match stages. When the lead was done flying and the smoke had cleared, lunch was served and the scores were tallied up while last minute preparations were made for the Awards Ceremony. Door prize drawings were made, then Warm-Up and Wild Bunch awards were passed out along with Clean Match Tokens that went to 14 shooters. Finally the Main Match Awards were presented. History was once again repeated when last year's Montana State Champions, May B. Shecann (SASS #58075) and Doc Tombstone (SASS #49630) were each awarded the 2017 State Champion Belt Buckle. When the overall match winners are non-residents of Montana, the tradition is to award Top Guns with a complimentary registration for the next year's State Match. Last year's Top Guns were Lunger and Tillie Dyes, shooters from Washington. They repeated history and were again Top Gun shooters. In the spirit of Cowboy generosity, each donated their complimentary registration for next year in a drawing, with the lucky recipients being Lil Bit of Wyoming (SASS #2034) and Bravo Juan Yoas (SASS #14525).

Another tradition, the Traveling Award of the Top Montana Cowboy Action Shooting™ Club, was again presented to the BHS. This is based on each SASS affiliated Cowboy Action Shooting™ club in Montana submitting a five-shooter team of club members. The team with the lowest combined main match score is awarded the trophy to keep and display until next year's State Championship.

SASS has recognized the Black Horse Shootists as being the host club for the 2018 Montana State Championship. This will take place at their range in Great Falls July 13-15 2018. Please visit their website at www.blackhorseshootists.com for scores and more information. 🤠



Wild Bunch

Muster *at* Fort Misery 2017

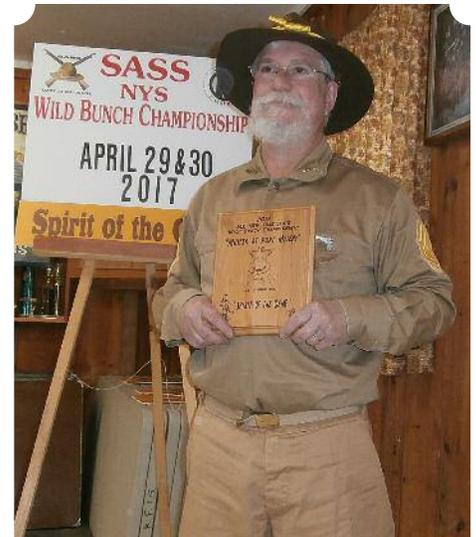
New York State Wild Bunch Championship



By Roy Cassidy, SASS #23458 and Violet Cassidy, SASS #23459



Overall winners James Samuel Pike and Serenity.



Spirit of the Game Recipient Nawlins Kid (SASS #36107).

On April 29 and 30, SASS and the Circle K Rough Riders held their fourth Muster at Fort Misery. This year we had 61 registered shooters, our largest group so far, making us the largest Wild Bunch shoot east of the Mississippi. Once again, the weather was cold and overcast. Happily there was no rain. Sunday was a better day with the sun coming through. Range Master The Dude Bandit

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Muster at Fort Misery 2017 . . .

(SASS #20930), with help from Match Director Roy Cassidy, Lonestar Jake (SASS #13019), Whiskey Brooks (SASS #18852), and Suggs, Jr. (SASS #41525) designed 10 super challenging and fun stages. As always, there were some grumblings about how tough the stages were—there were no clean shooters. Nevertheless, we heard only good things and how much fun everyone had. Stage six had rabbit throwers. This year, any shooter who hit

(Continued on page 34)



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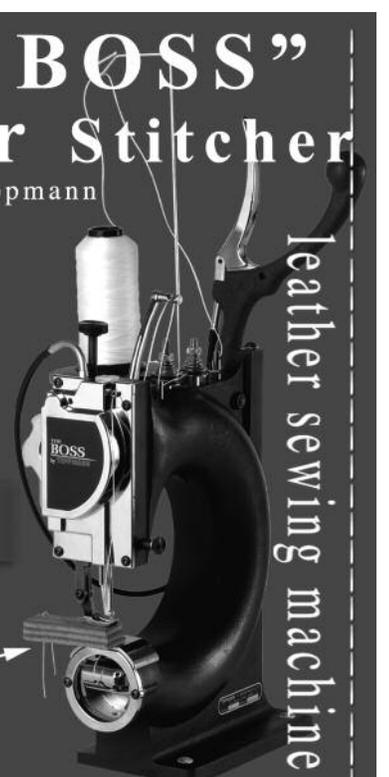
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Muster at Fort Misery 2017 . . .

(Continued from page 33)

a rabbit received a rabbit award. Needless to say, it made for some fun. As always, when there is any match this size, there are many people to thank. First and foremost, our ROs Whiskey Brooks, Suggs, Jr., Yukon Mike, James Samuel Pike, Wheels Cartwright (SASS #14985), Doc McCoy (SASS #8381), Lone Star Jake (SASS #13019), and Willie Misfire (SASS #87652), They all ran great Posses and kept everyone

safe. Thanks also to our chronograph team Stickman Tom (SASS #95720), Feany Valentine (SASS #35024), and Mo'lasses (SASS #65309). Even though he is not a SASS member, we want to thank Fay Detraglia for all his help. A great big YEE HAW to Whistling Micah (SASS #99219). He was our go-to guy and did everything with a great attitude. He really exemplified the meaning of the "Cowboy Way." Cook County Kate and Doe Dancer helped in all ways. Our scorekeeper, Kay T. Ryder. These wonderful Cowgirls were such a help with everything. Our Saturday Night dinner has become very popular thanks to Eric and Dona Ruland. Eric and Dona also provide breakfast and lunch to our shooters. Once all the guns were put away it was time to give the Awards. Congrats to James Samuel Pike (SASS 53331) and Serenity (64982), overall winners. NYS Champions are Yukon Mike (SASS #23165) for Men's Modern, Hawkeye Harry (SASS #91326) for Men's Traditional, and Renegade Roper (SASS #86367) for Ladies Modern. We want to give a great big "Thank You" to all our shooters. They have made us the match we are today. We will be having our fifth annual Muster at Fort Misery NYS Championship on April 28 and 29, 2018. If you haven't joined us yet for our shoot, we hope you will. 🤠



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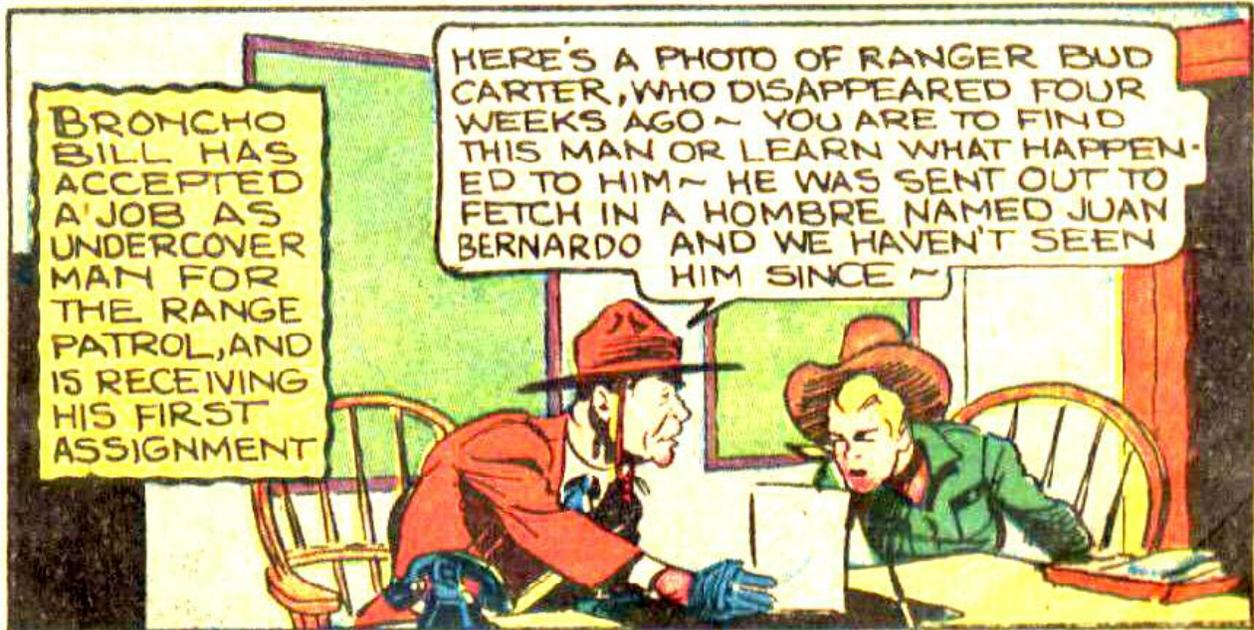
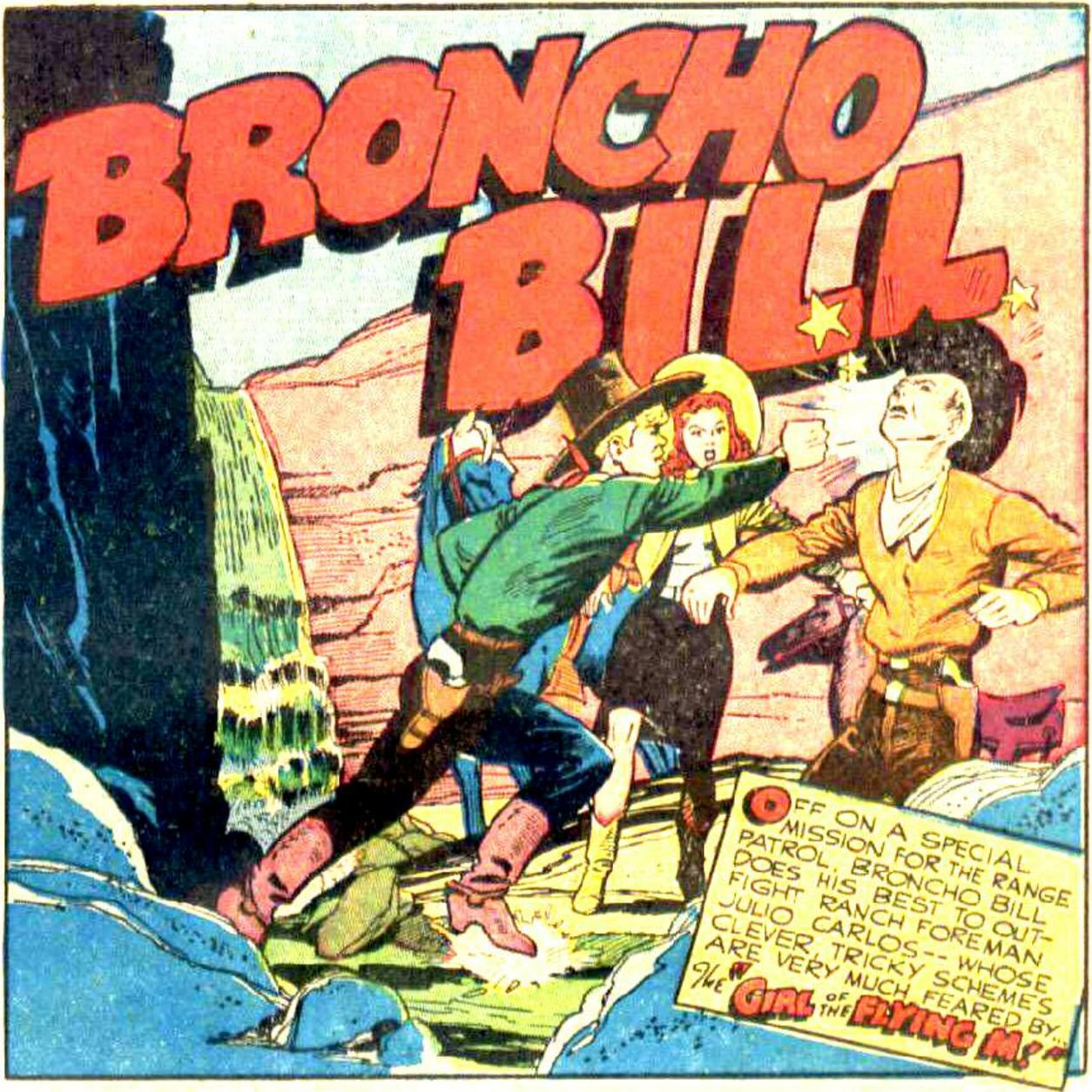
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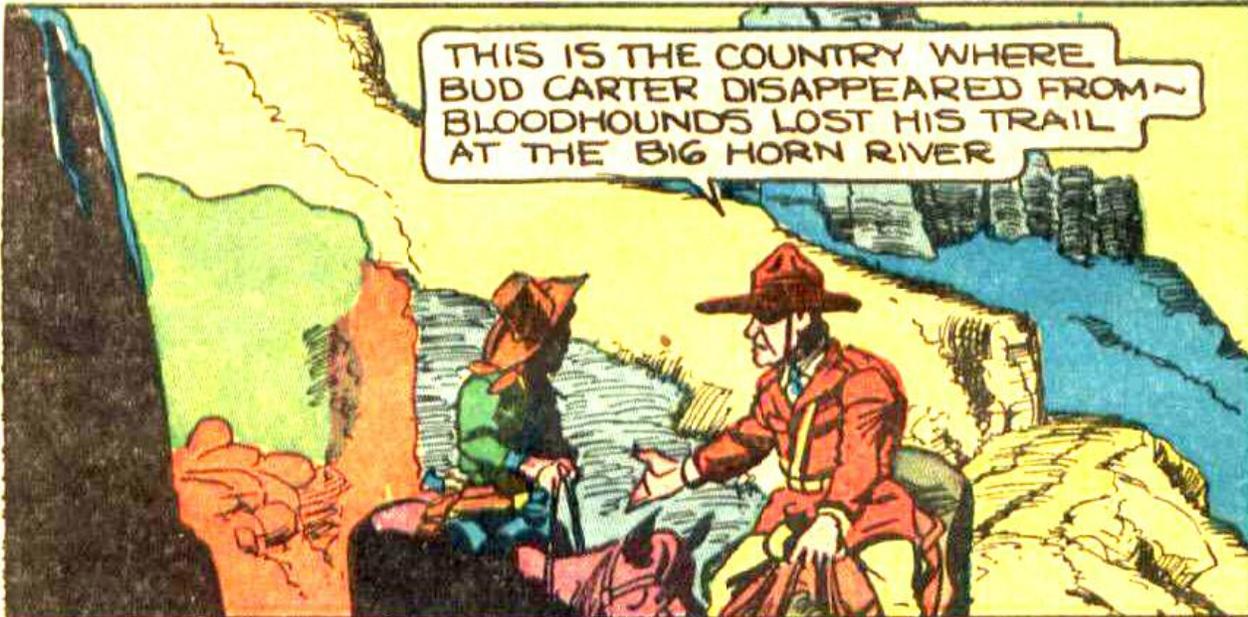


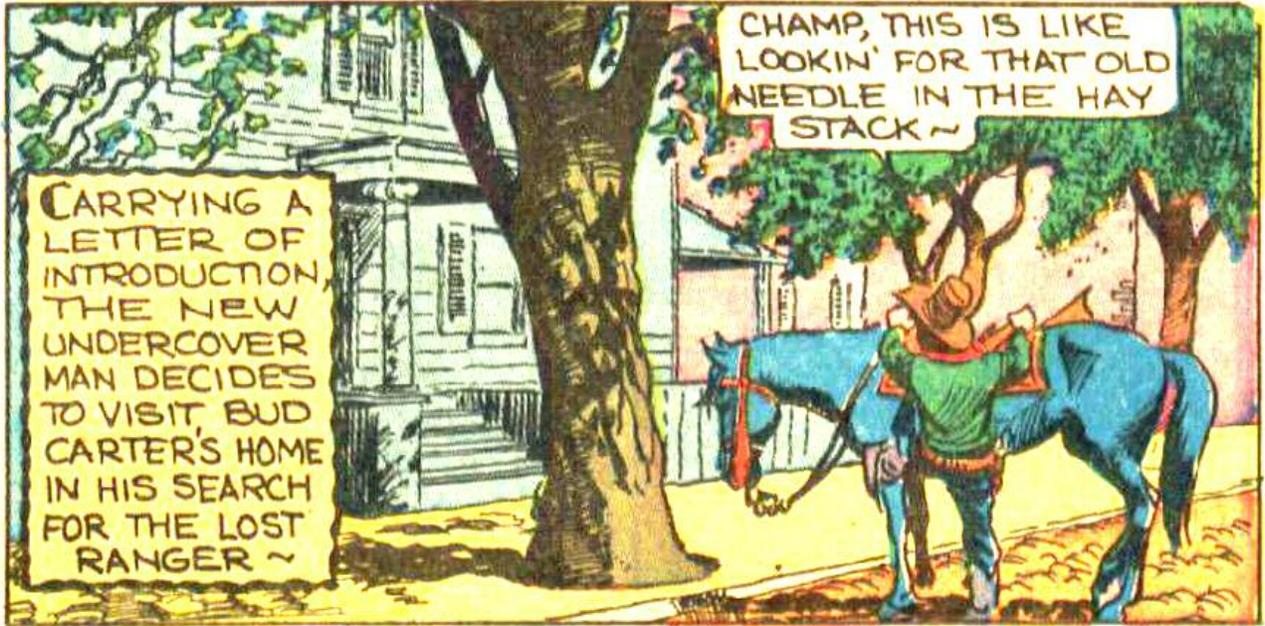
Comic Book Corner



Western Thrills and Action on Every Page!

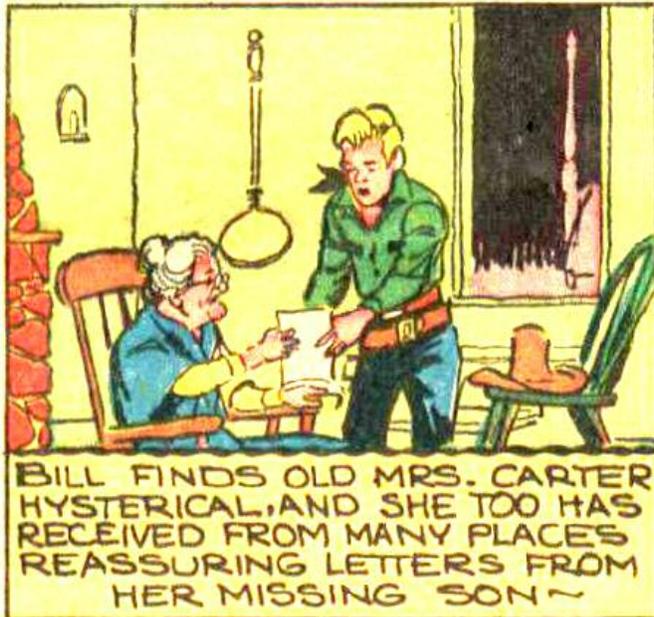






CHAMP, THIS IS LIKE LOOKIN' FOR THAT OLD NEEDLE IN THE HAY STACK ~

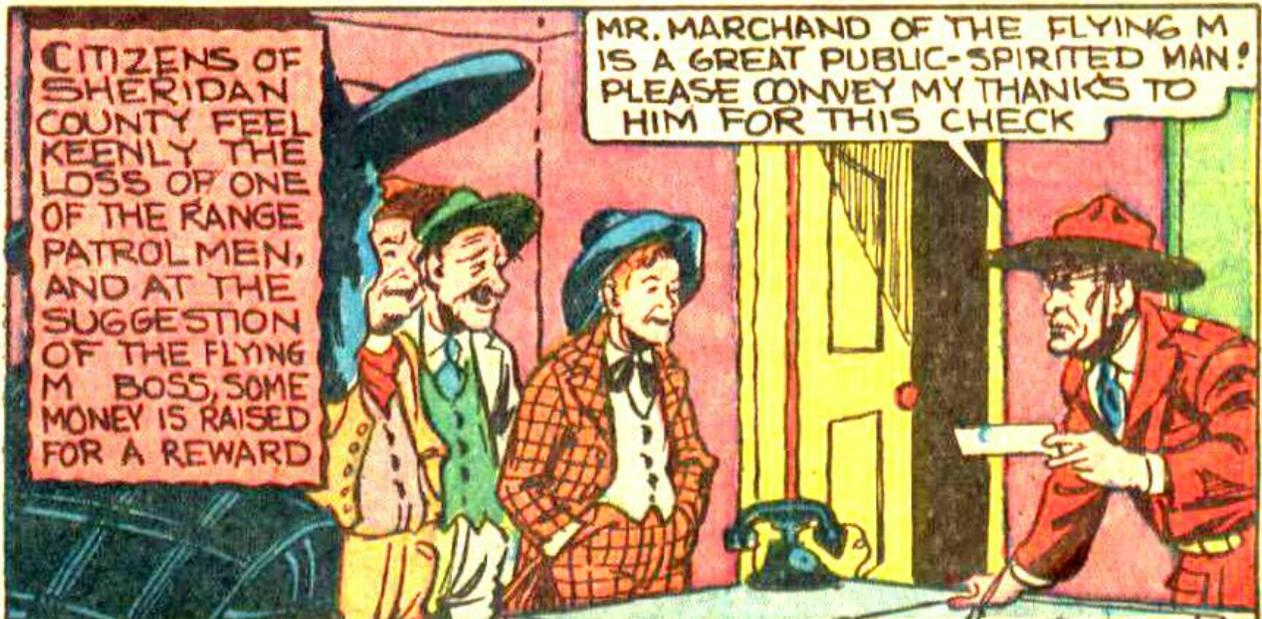
CARRYING A LETTER OF INTRODUCTION, THE NEW UNDERCOVER MAN DECIDES TO VISIT BUD CARTER'S HOME IN HIS SEARCH FOR THE LOST RANGER ~



BILL FINDS OLD MRS. CARTER HYSTERICAL, AND SHE TOO HAS RECEIVED FROM MANY PLACES REASSURING LETTERS FROM HER MISSING SON ~

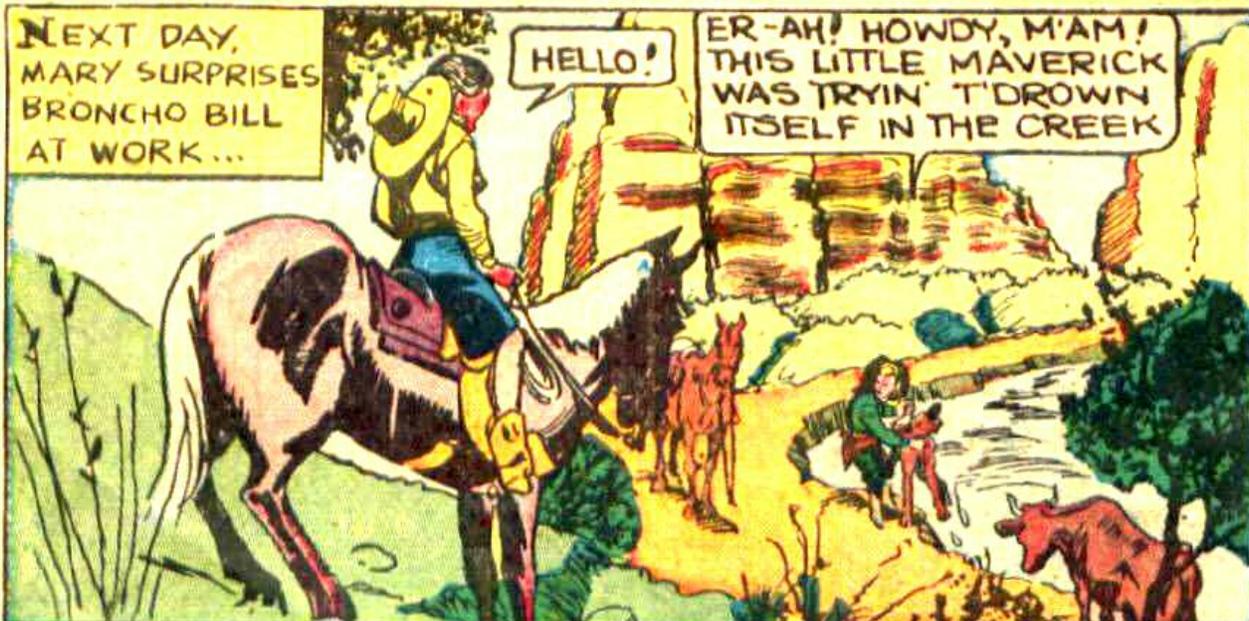
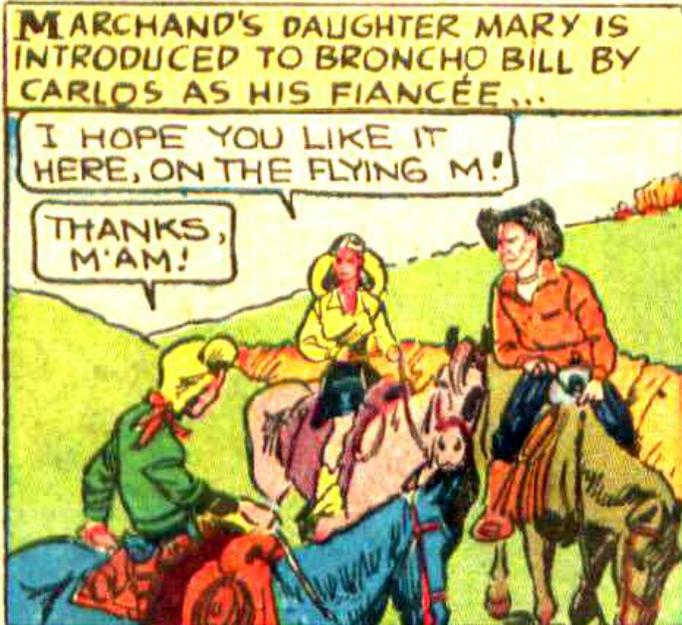
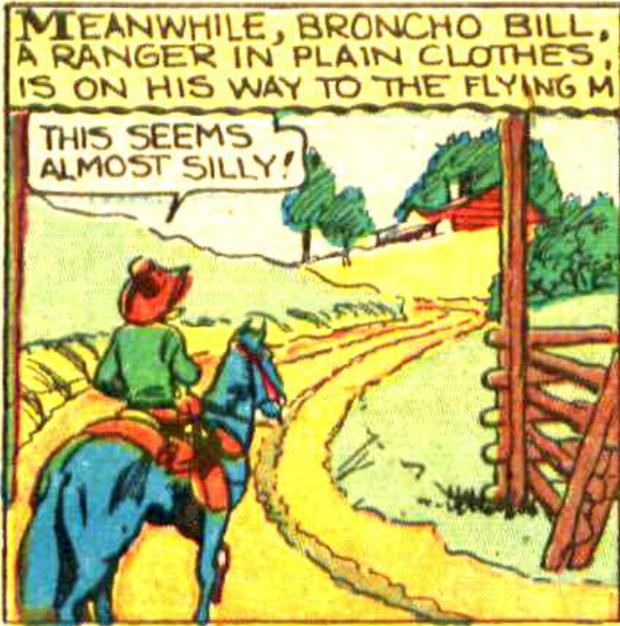


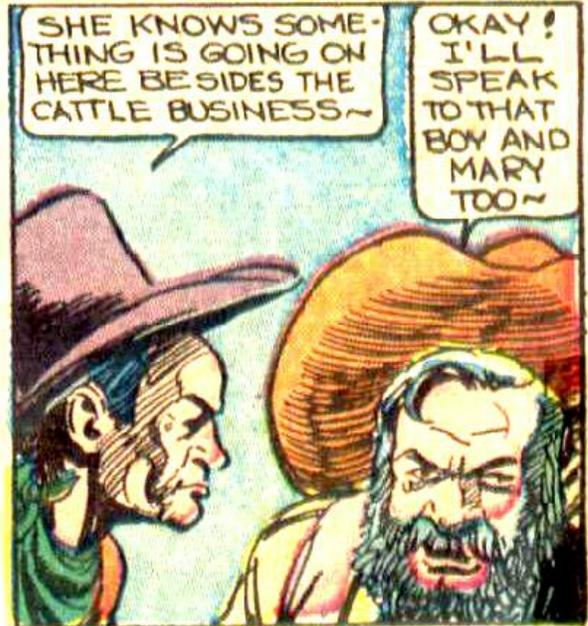
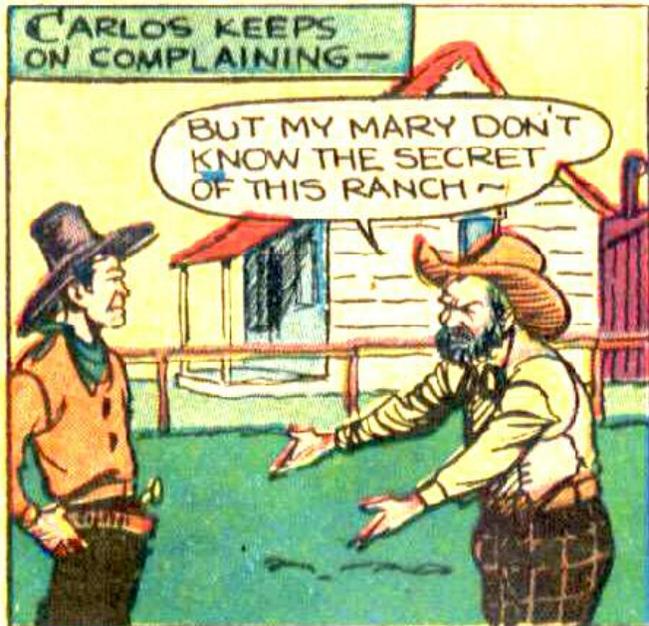
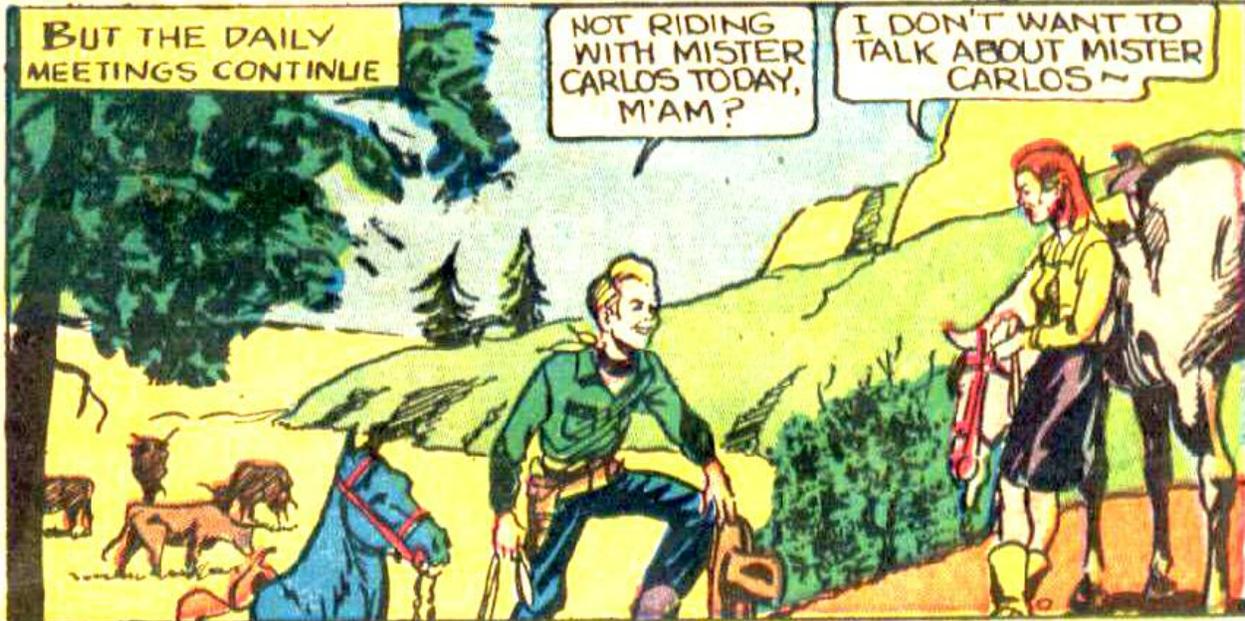
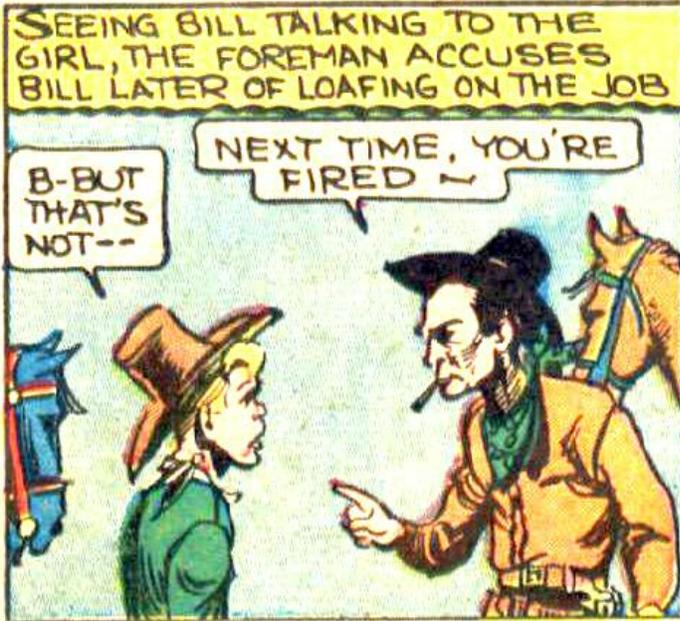
PLEASE, YOUNG MAN ~ PLEASE FIND MY BOY! HE'S ALL I'VE GOT ~

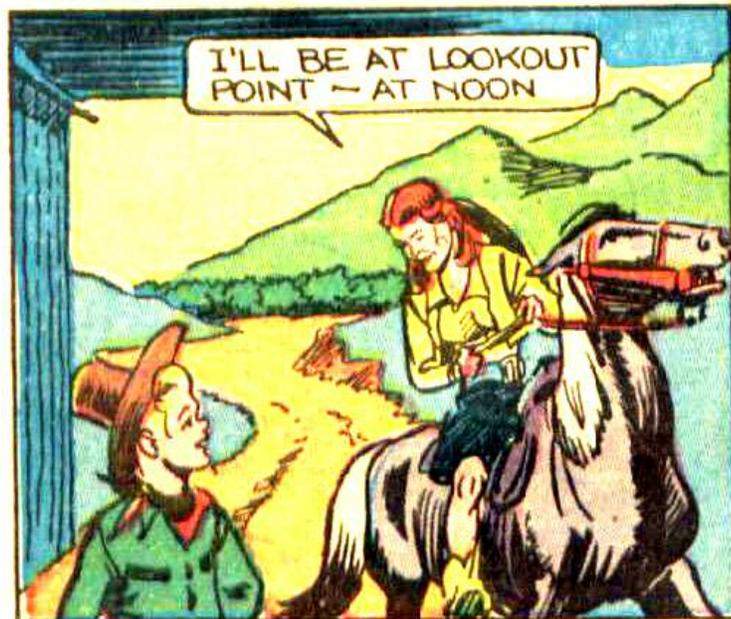
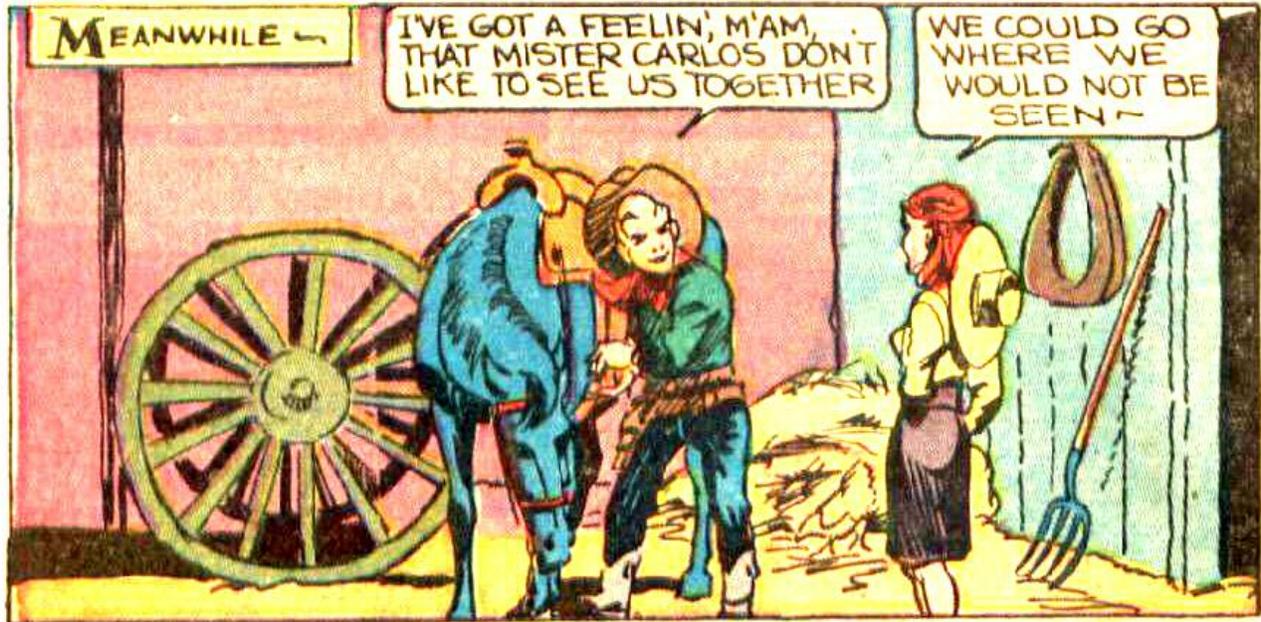


CITIZENS OF SHERIDAN COUNTY FEEL KEENLY THE LOSS OF ONE OF THE RANGE PATROLMEN, AND AT THE SUGGESTION OF THE FLYING M BOSS, SOME MONEY IS RAISED FOR A REWARD

MR. MARCHAND OF THE FLYING M IS A GREAT PUBLIC-SPIRITED MAN! PLEASE CONVEY MY THANKS TO HIM FOR THIS CHECK









LEAVING MARCHAND'S OFFICE, BILL MEETS THE FOREMAN

HOWDY, CARLOS!

GO ON— BEAT IT!



MARCHAND, I'M BEGINNING TO SUSPECT IT'S MARY WHO IS CHASING AFTER THAT NEW COWBOY ~

CHAMP, DID YOU HEAR WHAT CARLOS JES' SAID? HE'S SMART! BUT HE TALKS MORE LIKE THE BOSS, THAN THE FOREMAN!



BY A WATERFALL—

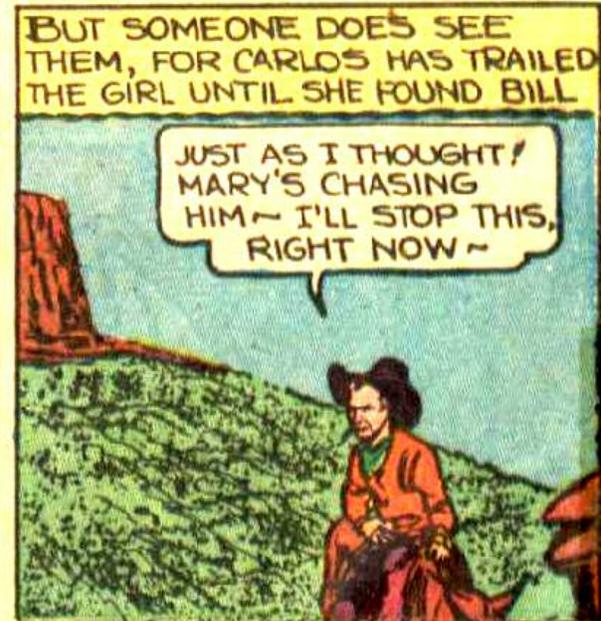
M'AM, WE BETTER STOP SEEIN' EACH OTHER OR ---

YOU SAY DAD SPOKE TO YOU AN HOUR AGO? BUT THAT WAS MISTER CARLOS' FAULT—



TELL ME ABOUT HIM, 'FORE THIS LITTLE CHAT IS BROKEN UP ~

BROKEN UP? WHY, NO ONE WILL SEE US HERE ~



BUT SOMEONE DOES SEE THEM, FOR CARLOS HAS TRAILED THE GIRL UNTIL SHE FOUND BILL

JUST AS I THOUGHT! MARY'S CHASING HIM ~ I'LL STOP THIS, RIGHT NOW ~



YOU STAY AWAY FROM THIS COWBOY, OR I'LL FIRE HIM!

HEY! WAIT A MINUTE, FELLER!



THE LADY DIDN'T SEEK ME ~ I SOUGHT HER ~

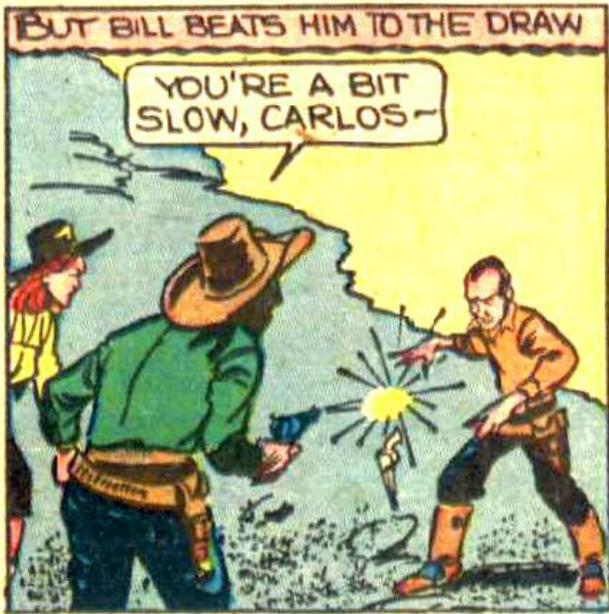
AND I HAPPEN TO KNOW YOU LIE!



CARLOS USED A FIGHTING WORD, AND BILL RESPONDED WITH A RIGHT TO THE JAW ~



SO YOU WANT TO TRADE BULLETS, EH? WELL - HERE'S YOUR CHANCE!



~ TO BE CONTINUED IN THE DECEMBER ISSUE ~



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

Guns & Gear

DISPATCHES FROM CAMP BAYLOR

Texas Tiger and the new Mernickle Quick Cal Ultra System

By Captain George Baylor, SASS #24287 Life Regulator

For those of you who don't know Bob Mernickle, he is owner of Mernickle Custom Holsters. His is a large scale holster making operation with such things as an \$80,000 cutting machine that will stamp and cut leather from a hide both accurately and economically. It's just one of several machines. His employees can concentrate on the artistic parts of making memorable leather gear. "Artistry in leather" is the motto, and it fits. Many of the innovative leather designs in CAS, Cowboy Fast Draw, and World Fast Draw came from his inventive brain. He also does concealed carry, hunter carry, ladies carry purses, and authentic Old West rigs.

At END of TRAIL, Bob showed me a new cross draw rig. I suggested he make one for Texas Tiger and get



*The rig is suede lined, with steel lining in the belt at the cross draw location.
The holsters are aggressively spaced away from the body.*



*Texas Tiger's new Mernickle Quick Cal
Ultra cross draw rig.*

her evaluation. The rig looked a lot like it was inspired, at least somewhat, by the modifications she made to her Quick Cal rig. It was modified by adding a rolled up piece of leather behind the cross-draw holster to push it away from her body.

For those of you who don't know

Texas Tiger (SASS #74829), she's been World and National Champion in Cowboy Action Shooting™ and WBAS several times. She has numerous regional and state wins in both and in long range as well. She has her own shooting style. It obviously works very well for her. She

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Reholstering left revolver with left hand.



*Reholstering right revolver with left hand.
Note, left forearm is in space between left revolver and her body.*

Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

practices a lot and dry fires a lot. She has worked out every little detail in transitions, using economical and efficient movements. She can shoot very fast. She also has an excellent support system—husband Jim Miller (SASS74828), an Englishman who became an American partly because of the Second Amendment. He

shoots very well, too.

I put some pictures of Texas Tiger shooting on Facebook and, as usual, several men immediately commented how she was doing it wrong. She holds the gun closer to her face than “textbook” (Photo 4). My response was, “How many World Championships do *you* have?”

First, some of the comments on the rig from the mernickleholsters.com website

There are a lot of changes from the conventional Quick Cal. The new name for this system will be the (“QCU” REF1)—a system that is not for the meek! [Here Meek means *(Continued on page 48)*

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

NEW “HP series” of Cowboy Action Shooting Holsters.

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

Here are just some of them.

- We have dropped the holster down 1 ½” lower than anything we have done before making for an easier reach for the gun.
- We have cut the front down to allow a full thumb landing on the upper frame for those who do a gun transfer.
- For gun transfer we now do a taper below the trigger guard that tapers to the point where the guard meets the frame allowing the center finger to reach under the guard for a one hand draw keeping the grip frame completely free of the hand. This makes doing a gun transfer easier than ever thought possible. The side has been dropped and then flared out for the easiest re-holster ever!
- The new “WR”™ Wrist Relief! This is designed into the angle of the holster so when you reach for a gun you will not have to flex your wrist back to grab the gun yet you will be able to bring the gun straight up for an extremely fast draw with the quickest accessibility to the front site ever!
- The newly designed “Speed Load”™ shell holder no longer needs a stopper plate under the shells and can be staged at any height you the shooter would like to see them at. Also you no longer have to pull the shell straight up. You are free to choose the angle of grab which suits your shooting style the most.
- Then to finish all this off we have had a new dye lot created called

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Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

(Continued from page 47)

people that just don't think they could use anything that aggressive!]

1. Complete new design Cross draw. Holster is only attached at the bottom and belt fixed. Internal metal goes from the holster pouch over the belt and down the back of the skirt. It is aggressively spaced away from the body at the top. Holster is still fixed to the belt with the strong side holster moveable for two fist adjustments and then locked into position via two T-nut screws below the belt line. This Belt is designed for a buckle back wear (buckle worn in the rear and not the front).

2. A stabilizer plate is incorporated into the belt behind the cross draw to secure the holster and hold solid for years to come.

3. A heavy muzzle forward strong side holster with dual rein-

forced metal in two strategic areas with an aggressive outward cant that is adjustable through bending but will stay put when the end user finds their sweet spot.

4. Belt is suede lined so tightening the belt will stabilize the system with no movement even during turns and stops.

5. Both holsters are metal lined for accurate adjustable retention on the gun.

6. Hammer thong comes with a heavy weighted loop to keep the thong out of the way during competition, yet have an ease of installation to secure the gun when off the line.

Texas Tiger's review

"As advertised, the holster is not for the meek. Far too often do I see cross draw shooters breaking the 170. If you stand square onto the targets and you are not able to draw and re-holster without "doing the dance" then this rig is not for you.

"Now for the (not) meek. The rig is great! The internal metal, going from the holster pouch over the belt and down the back of the skirt, allows the rig to be custom fit to anybody, cowboy or cowgirl.

"When given the the rig by Bob at END of TRAIL, he expressly asked it be evaluated as is and not custom-fitted for the evaluation. So, this evaluation was done with that in mind.

"Being aggressively spaced away from the body provides the shooter the opportunities to minimize movement and maximize performance. It provides the opportunity for the shooter to holster both pistols with their weak hand.

"The rig as evaluated worked well, giving the potential for shooters to manage pistols with as little movement as needed, thus giving the shooter the advantage of minimizing time. This then allows transitions to



Drawing the left (weak side) revolver.



Texas Tiger's unique shooting stance. She has used it to win several World and National Championships.

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Reholstering left revolver.



Transferring right revolver to left hand.



Reholstering right revolver with left hand and picking up rifle with right hand.

Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

the long guns in the most efficient manner. I look forward to adjusting this standard Quick Cal Ultra (QCU REF1) rig to my own requirements.”

Notes

Most people assume moving the holsters away from the body is for a faster draw. It might speed the draw, but it's most useful in re-holstering. It makes the holsters easier to see and to hit. It leaves room for her arm when she's re-holstering her strong side pistol with her left hand. This leaves her strong hand to pick up a long gun simultaneously.

She is (rightfully) very picky about the angles of the holsters. She showed me how she would want the rig to be adjusted in one angle or another to make it more intuitive to re-holster without looking at the holsters. This adjustment is easily accomplished with the steel lined parts and is very personal and different for each shooter.

If your stage times are not as low

as Texas Tiger's, what this rig does is remove all of the hindrances of a more conventional cross-draw rig. The weak hand holster is almost vertical. I was once called for exceeding the 30 degrees from vertical “as worn” rule. The holster was duly measured—and found to be at 31 degrees “as worn.” At most matches most cross-draw rigs violate that rule “as worn.” No “dance” is required. If you're a serious competitor and have to “do the dance” using your current rig, you've got the wrong rig. If you're trying to be authentic with leather that is, say, a perfect copy of the rig on the cover of “Packing Iron,” then enjoy the dance.

The reason good cross draw rigs are (at least theoretically) faster than good double strong side rigs is you always draw the gun with strong hand, no shifting from the weak hand to the strong, and re-holster the weak side gun with your weak hand while draw-

ing your strong side gun. With this rig you can re-holster either gun with your weak hand when necessary. With few exceptions, you want your strong hand free to pick up your long gun as soon as the last pistol shot is fired.

These holsters have big “funnel-like” openings at the top for speed re-holstering. Cowboy Action Shooting™ is rare—if not unique—in shooting sports because it requires re-holstering on the clock.

Conclusion

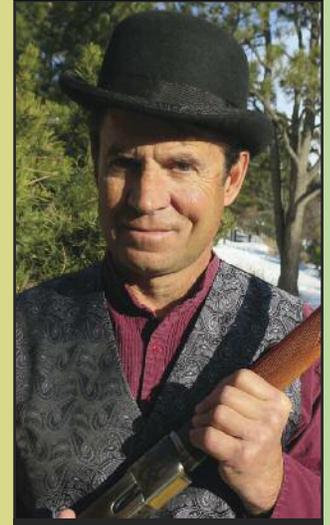
The Quick Cal Ultra is the state of the art of cross draw rigs for Cowboy Action Shooting™ competition with a combination of unique features. The construction and finish are excellent.

Thanks to Texas Tiger. Thanks also to [Gustavo Castilla](#) (Black Paw, SASS 104547) for the excellent photos. [Mernickle Holsters](#) 1-800-497-3166 Mernickle Custom Holsters, 1875 View Court, Fernley, Nevada USA 89408. 🐾

History

Lost and Found The Tragedy of Cynthia Ann Parker

By Big Dave, SASS #55632



Big Dave, SASS #55632



This daguerreotype shows Cynthia Ann Parker uncomfortably clad in her new clothing.

On December 19, 1860, a Comanche woman called Nautdah was peacefully cutting up a dead buffalo when a group of whites attacked her hunting camp. Nautdah, whose name means Someone Found, had been

content. Her husband, Peta Nacona was a respected chief who was greatly feared by the whites. She was the mother of two sons, Quanah and Pecos, and had an infant daughter named Topusanna. All was well in her world until

it was turned upside down by a party of Texas Rangers and U.S. cavalrymen. Nautdah was about to be found again and taken back to white society.

Nautdah had originally been named Cynthia Ann Parker. In 1836, when she was about nine years old, she was carried off by the Comanches and adopted as a member of the tribe. Cynthia Ann was luckier than most. Most whites captured by the Comanches were in for a terrible ordeal. Men were almost invariably tortured to death in unspeakable ways. (The Comanches considered this to be a form of entertainment. They didn't expect to be treated any better by their enemies.) Women were usually gang raped and then either tortured to death in unspeakable ways or made into slaves. Unless they were ransomed, their lives were miserable. Infants were smashed against the ground, hopefully in front of their parents. (What fun! Do you wonder why the Texans retaliated?) However, sometimes captive white children were adopted, given new names, and considered to be full-fledged Comanches. Cynthia Ann was part of this more fortunate group.

By 1860, Cynthia Ann had for-

Lost and Found • The Tragedy of Cynthia Ann Parker . . .



Cynthia Ann would have been proud of her son Quanah.



Peta Nocona, Cynthia Ann's Comanche husband, was killed at the Battle of Pease River.

gotten most of her English vocabulary. She was fluent in Comanche and was in every way assimilated into Comanche life. Even though her family had never stopped looking for her, she had no desire to return to the world of the whites. On a few occasions she had been spotted by traders, but every time she was asked if she wanted to go “home,” she refused. Her “home” was with the Comanches. Cynthia Ann might have lived the rest of her life with the Co-

manches as “Nautdah” had not a particularly gruesome incident occurred earlier in 1860.

A clueless family, headed by Ezra Sherman, had moved to the outermost fringe of territory that was controlled by the whites in Texas. Ezra, his wife



After Cynthia Ann was found again, her uncle Isaac Parker reunited her with her white family.

Martha, and their three children were miles away from any neighbors and Ezra didn't even own a gun. What happened next was sad and horrific, but predictable.

On November 16, 1860, a group of Comanches from Peta Nacoma's



In 1860, Sul Ross, then a Texas Ranger, led the punitive raid that resulted in the recapture of Cynthia Ann Parker. He later became a Confederate general.

band appeared at the Shermans' cabin while they were having dinner. The Indians walked in and asked for something to eat, which was generally a prelude to trouble. (A similar thing had happened when a group of Comanches approached Parker's Fort back in 1836 when Cynthia Ann was carried off and several of her relatives were killed.) The Shermans nervously complied. After eating, the Comanches told the family to get out of the cabin. At first, the Shermans were assured nothing was going to happen

(Continued on page 52)

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Lost and Found • The Tragedy of Cynthia Ann Parker . . .

(Continued from page 51)

to them. However, the Comanches seemed to have changed their minds. After all, there was entertainment to be had.

Ezra Sherman and his three children managed to get away, but his wife Martha wasn't so lucky. She was nine months pregnant and wasn't up to sprinting. The Comanches caught her quickly and took turns raping her. Then they decided she would make a fine target for archery practice. After being shot by several arrows, Martha was scalped while still alive. Presumably, the Comanches decided Martha had provided enough amusement and rode away.

The poor woman lived in agony for about four more days. Unsurprisingly, her child was stillborn. During most of this time she remained conscious and coherent enough to tell what had happened to her. Every Texan who learned of Martha Sherman's ordeal was outraged and demanded retaliation. (Who can blame them? The Texans' attitude toward the Comanches was like our current views towards ISIS.) A group of Texas Rangers, U.S. Cavalrymen, and concerned citizens led by 23-year old Sul Ross rode off to strike a blow against the Comanches.

The group caught up with the Comanches on December 19, 1860 and the result was the so-called Battle of the Pease River. It wasn't much of a battle—it could more correctly

be called a punitive raid. Pease River has even been called a "massacre" because most of the casualties on the Comanche side were old people, women, and children.

There were about three white casualties reported and about 20 Comanche casualties. Among the Comanche casualties was Peta Nacoma, who was shot by Ross and finished off by his manservant, Anton Martinez. (Native American tradition suggests that Peta Nacoma got away and somebody else was killed, but there are holes in the story and I'm sticking with the white version.)

Whether it was a battle or a massacre, one undeniable result of the affair at the Pease River was Nautdah/Cynthia Ann was found by the whites. After the fight, the woman was found covered in blood, guts and fat—she had been butchering a buffalo when the whites attacked. She caught everyone's attention because she had blue eyes. She had an infant daughter with her. Upon closer inspection, it became obvious she was Caucasian.

Anton Martinez, the man who finished off Peta Nacoma, spoke fluent Comanche. He had been a captive of the Comanches like Cynthia Ann, but unlike Cynthia Ann, held no affection for them. Through Martinez's questioning, Sul Ross learned the blue-eyed woman was Cynthia Ann Parker. Her story was quite well known and caused a commotion among the Rangers. Ross became determined to get her back to her white family as soon as possible. The only problem was, Cynthia Ann didn't want to go and tried to escape at every opportunity.

After scalping Peta Nacoma and the other dead Comanches, the whites attended to the business of burning everything of value in the camp. Then they hurried back to civilization. When the group reached Fort Cooper, Cynthia Ann was turned over to the captain's wife, who was given the task of washing her and dressing her in proper clothing.

Cynthia Ann submitted to the bath and the scrubbing. She even allowed her benefactors to button her into a white woman's dress. However, as soon as she got a chance she bolted away, tore off the dress and headed toward a tent where some of her old Comanche clothes had been kept. Her infant daughter Topusannah tottered after her all the while, and there was a lot of shouting and yelling. It would have been pretty funny, except for the fact Cynthia Ann was in obvious distress. She emerged from the tent in her preferred clothing and won a kind of victory. For the time being, nobody else tried to put a dress on her.

From Cynthia Ann's point of view, her one consolation was the fact Topusannah was with her. Her two sons, Quanah and Pecos, had gotten away, but she had

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no idea when would she get to see them again, if ever. Her husband was dead, unless you hold to the revisionist view. (Which could, in fact, be true.) She seemed to be moving further and further away from her old life and she could see little of value in her new situation.

The whites were baffled by her behavior. How could someone actually prefer to live with a band of filthy, Stone Age brutes? Maybe if Cynthia Ann were reunited with her family, this would all blow over.

Her uncle Isaac Parker had never forgotten her and must have been overjoyed when he heard the news his niece had been recovered. However, the reunion wasn't particularly joyous. When Parker arrived at Fort Cooper, he found a disconsolate woman sitting on a box with her head in her hands. She heard her name spoken, pointed to herself and declared, "Me Cincee Ann." She didn't know who Uncle Isaac was at first; he probably looked like another curious white geezer to her. Cynthia Ann was somewhat of a sensation around the fort, and people went out of their way to stare at her.

Isaac Parker wasn't sure who she was, either. After all, he hadn't seen Cynthia Ann for almost 25 years. Several members of the Parker family had been killed and butchered by the Comanches—the meeting must have been stressful for him. Through an interpreter, he asked her about what had happened on the day she was carried away. With a few exceptions, her recounting was spot-on accurate. Parker was convinced that this blue-eyed Comanche woman was indeed his niece.

Cynthia Ann looked and acted strangely, but time heals all things, Isaac must have thought. Then again, he might have had an inkling this might not be the case. The Parkers were a tough, religious, family-oriented people who were going to do their best for this poor woman and her heathen daughter. With Anton Martinez as an interpreter and a couple of Texas Rangers to serve as protection, Isaac Parker set out to reunite Cynthia Ann and Topusanna (whose name means "Prairie Flower") with their relatives.

The trip was a sad prelude to the way things were going to be. All along the way Cynthia Ann was treated like a carnival attraction. Somehow, they'd managed to put a dress on her. When the group reached Fort Worth, Cynthia Ann was placed on a box and tied with a rope, so people could come by and see her without her trying to get away. They were probably hoping she would bite the head off a live chicken. She cried throughout the ordeal. In contrast, little Topusanna played with the white children and everybody seems to have thought she was a charming baby.

It is interesting how people in Texas at that time viewed the situation. Prairie Flower was an innocent and

by all accounts an adorable child. With time, she would be assimilated. In fact, she seemed to be halfway there. The sullen Cynthia Ann, they reasoned, must have been subjected to horrible degradations and cruelties. There were scars on her body – proof of mistreatment. Few people either knew or mentioned the Comanches cut themselves in times of grief or as part of religious observance. Nobody wanted to digest the fact she might have liked being with the Comanches. Whatever was the case, Cynthia Ann was weird, almost feral. Therefore, she could be tied up, perched on a box and treated like a circus geek while her child could run free.

By then, it had been decided Cynthia Ann would live with Isaac's family in Birdville, Texas. It didn't go very well. Cynthia Ann either could not or would not learn English. She tried to escape so many times, Isaac had to lock her up in the cabin when he was gone. Cynthia Ann showed no interest in going to church and maintained her heathen practices of cutting herself as an offering and blowing tobacco smoke toward the sun. People gossiped and the whole thing was a mess, except somehow during it all, Isaac came up with an idea.

Due to all the suffering she had undergone, Cynthia Ann might be eligible for a pension of sorts. Isaac was well

(Continued on page 54)

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(Continued from page 53)

connected and was a friend of Sam Houston, who was probably the most famous person in Texas as well as the sitting governor. In January 1861, Cynthia Ann and her daughter were taken to Austin to observe Texas democracy in action. She didn't understand what was going on and tried to flee because she thought the shouting white people were going to put her to death. It was an especially raucous legislative session because the Texans were debating whether to secede from the Union. At some point, the subject of Cynthia Ann's pension came up. A few months later, the pension was granted.

Cynthia Ann would have agreed she'd gotten a pretty good deal, if she had understood it. The whole concept of a pension and what it entailed was alien to her. But it wasn't alien to her relatives—she got one hundred dol-

lars a year and more than four thousand acres of land. This was to be held in trust, since she was the legal equivalent of *non-compos mentis*. Her cousins were appointed guardians.

The remaining years of Cynthia Ann Parker's life were not very happy. She and Prairie Flower were often moved to live with other relations. Though the child was adapting to life among the whites, it was a different story for Cynthia Ann. It was obvious she was miserable. Though her English became passable, and she had a reputation as a skilled tanner and hard worker, she never really adjusted. When a family member died, she wailed and cut herself, even if she didn't particularly care for that member. Cynthia Ann maintained her aversion to church going and clung to much of her Comanche identity.

Prairie Flower died in 1864 of in-

fluenza. This devastated Cynthia Ann. She had constantly worried about what had happened to her sons, but unsurprisingly, never got any news. She didn't even know if they were alive. They were somewhere out on the southern Great Plains, but they might as well have been on another planet. Prairie Flower was her last link to her old life. When the child died, Cynthia Ann lost her will to live. She stopped eating and succumbed to influenza herself in 1870.

As it happened, her son Quanah, who had escaped on that dreadful day back in 1860, would leave his mark on American history. Quanah would follow in his father's footsteps and become a great warrior. When he was finally defeated, he would become a shrewd leader of his people and help them adjust to a new way of life. However, that's another story for a later day. *A*

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*Joe Fasthorse,
SASS #48769*

LITTLE KNOWN FAMOUS PEOPLE

- Way Out West -

By Joe Fasthorse, SASS #48769

Cherokee Bill was born Crawford Goldsby at Fort Concho in San Angelo, Texas in 1876. He had a sister and two brothers. His father, George Goldsby, was a mulatto Sergeant Major in the US Cavalry. His mother, Ellen Beck, was a Cherokee Indian of African, Indian and English ancestry. Trouble began in San Angelo when Crawford was two years old. A group of cowboys ganged up on Pvt. Elmo Boney, a Buffalo Soldier from Fort Concho. Sgt. George Goldsby and several other black soldiers came to his aid and a gunfight broke out. One cowboy was killed and several wounded. Sgt. Goldsby was blamed, since he held the highest military rank. So the sergeant went AWOL, abandoning his wife and children. Sometime later, Ellen Beck Goldsby took three of her children to Fort Gibson, Indian Territory, where she married a black private named William Lynch. Ellen left Crawford in San Angelo with an elderly black lady named Amanda. In 1883, Amanda sent the seven-year-old to an Indian school in Kansas. At age 12, he joined his mother and stepfather at Fort Gibson. The boy didn't get along with his stepfather and soon moved in with his sister and her husband, Mose Brown. However, Crawford and Mose did not get along either, so the youngster left and began working odd jobs. Crawford's outlaw life began at age 18 when he shot Jake Lewis. Goldsby fled to the Creek and Seminole Nations where he met Cherokee outlaws Jim and Bill Cook. In 1894, Sheriff



Rattling Gourd and his posse got in a gunfight with Goldsby and the Cook brothers in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Deputy Sequoyah Houston was killed.

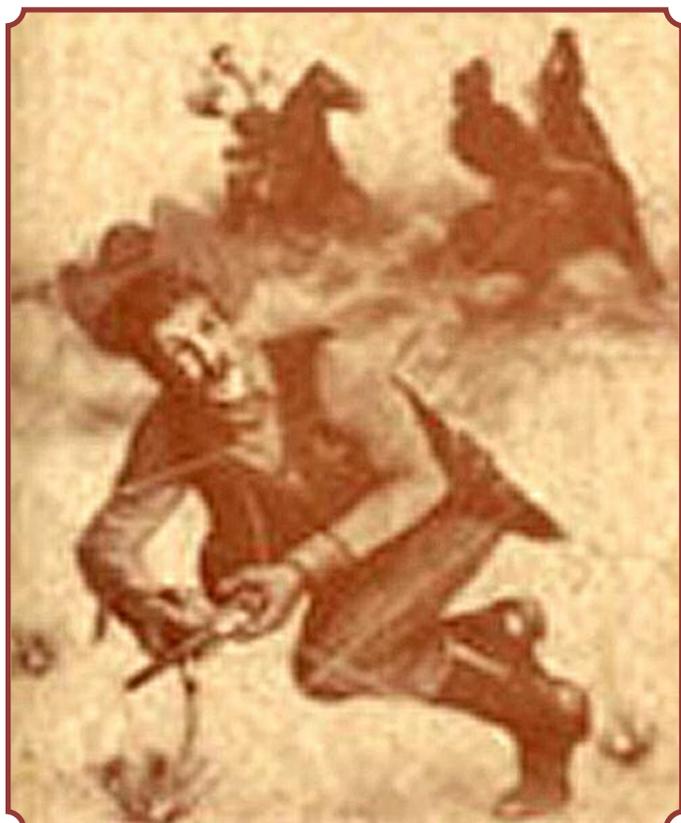
That's the day Crawford Goldsby became Cherokee Bill. The Cook Gang was formed and the outlaws robbed banks, stagecoaches, and stores and killed anyone who got in their way. From June to December the desperados went on a crime spree. Cherokee Bill shot Sam Collins at Ft. Gibson, killed Dick Richards in Nowata, and murdered Mose Brown, his sister's spouse. The renegades robbed Wells Fargo at Red Fork, the Lincoln Bank in Chandler, and killed J.B. Michell. The gang robbed a store at Okmulegee, the Express Office in Chateau, a train at Coreatta, and the Post Office at Watova. Bill held up the Oklahoma Station Agent and killed Ernest Melton. Authorities stepped up their effort to capture the bandits. The bunch split up. Most of the gunmen were caught or killed. Bill escaped but was captured by Ike Rogers and Clint Scales on January 31, 1895. In April, Judge Isaac Parker, the hanging judge, sentenced Bill to death. When asked if he had anything to say before execution Bill said, "I came here to die, not make a speech." Cherokee Bill was hanged on March 17, 1896. His body was interred at the Cherokee National Cemetery in Oklahoma. In 1897, Ike Rogers was shot and killed by Clarence Goldsby at Ft. Gibson, Oklahoma. ♪

History

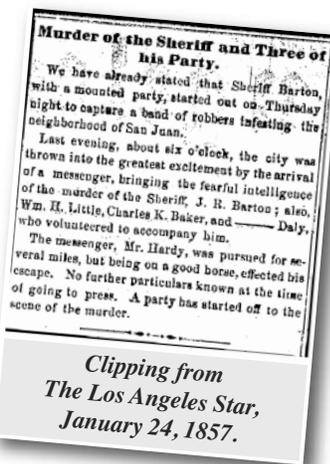
TALES OF EARLY CALIFORNIA

Barton's Mound

By Col. Richard Dodge, SASS #1750



Sheriff Barton's murder.



Col. Richard Dodge, SASS #1750



to Los Angeles to warn the sheriff and call for help.

Six-time Los Angeles County Sheriff James Barton was an effective though sometimes brutal lawman who had sent a number of the outlaw community to reside in San Quinton Prison. Naturally, he had developed a number of dedicated enemies. One, a certain Andres Fontes, was a member of the Manillas and was in Los Angeles waiting for a chance to avenge his own trip to the infamous prison. Loitering around the vicinity of Barton's jail, he witnessed the Capistrano rider bringing the news of Flores' murderous activities. As Barton began the call for volunteers to man a posse, Fontes rode directly for San Juan Capistrano to warn Flores of the sheriff's coming.

Barton made a serious and fateful mistake. Though warned of the large numbers in Flores' gang, he nevertheless confidently rode off to administer justice with only five men, in gross disregard of his perpetrator's capabilities and strength. The posse consisted of William H. Little, Charles Baker, Charles F. Daly, Calvin Hardy, Frank Alexander and a man known only as Swartz.

The little posse rode for San Juan Capistrano on January 21 and shared the hospitality of Don Jose Sepulveda that night at his elegant home *Refugio*, in what is now Santa Ana, before proceeding on to San Juan Capistrano the morning of January 22.

Being from Los Angeles, none of the posse was aware a certain Chola Martina, a sweetheart of the posse's objective, was among the servants at *Refugio*. During the night, it is believed, she managed to sabotage the posse's weapons so

The 1850s were a violent decade in California. It was the "Wild West" before the other Wild West began, almost two decades later. The usurpation of California by the Americans by both legal and illegal means raised the ire of a number of otherwise peaceful and honorable *Californios*, turning them into vicious, dangerous banditos whose names are well-known even today – Joaquin Murrieta, Solomon Pico, Juan Flores, to name a few. Each desperate man staked out his own part of California to terrorize – Murrieta near Mariposa, Pico near Santa Maria, Flores in Los Angeles.

After escaping from San Quinton Prison, Flores joined forces with one Pancho Daniel, another desperate and angry man, and they created a truly bloodthirsty band, calling themselves "Manillas." On January 20, 1857, the Manillas attacked San Juan Capistrano, killing a storekeeper and generally terrorizing the town. A rider managed to escape

Tales of Early California • Barton's Mound . . .

they would not fire, possibly by removing the caps from the nipples of their Colt Navies and Dragoons.

Sepulveda expressed severe misgivings about the posse proceeding further with so few men, adding his warning the Manillas numbered 50 to 60 very evil men, well mounted and armed. Nevertheless, Barton chose to move on to San Juan Capistrano with his little band to render American justice to the despised banditos.

At a spot less than 10 miles from SASS's birthplace at Coto de Casa, at a small hill later called Barton's Mound, Flores' gang waited in ambush. When they suddenly appeared from both sides of the hill, the posse discovered too late their firearms were useless. Unable to defend themselves, Barton and Daly were killed almost immediately. The other deputies fled and were pursued for miles. Baker and Little were overtaken and killed before the chase was abandoned. The last three men then split up. Hardy rode to Los Angeles, Alexander to San Gabriel, Swartz to San Pedro.

Posses were quickly formed under General Andre Pico, James Thompson, and J. Frank Burns; the latter two would later become sheriffs of Los Angeles County. Pico, of course, was already well-known for his military leadership in support of the *Californios'* resistance to the American invasion.

Thompson's posse was the first to arrive at the murder scene. The dead men's bodies still lay where they had fallen two days earlier, mutilated, dismembered, and scattered. The news raised a furor throughout California over the cruel excesses of those who professed to uphold the rights and honor of the *Californios*.

Capture of the Manillas was suddenly of the utmost importance. They were pursued relentlessly into the mountains and wherever they fled. General Pico captured Silvas and Ardillero, two of the band's most notorious, and hanged them on the spot. He managed to capture and arrest fifty-two more and haul them to the Los Angeles jail; eleven of them were hanged and the rest set free for lack of evidence.

Flores was condemned to death and was hanged near the top of Fort Hill in Los Angeles on February 14, 1857. He was only 22 years old and defiant to the end. His execution was attended by virtually the entire population of Los Angeles.

It was almost a year before Pancho Daniel was captured hiding in a haystack near San Jose. He had three trials but legal technicalities forestalled his conviction. A change of venue to Santa Barbara was granted, but he never got to trial. His body was found hanging from a beam across the gateway to the jail.

The people of San Gabriel executed four of the outlaws in their possession. More than a hundred of the

gang were either captured or killed in pursuit.

Andre Fontes escaped to Baja California, where he was later killed by parties unknown. Chico Contreras was the only gang leader who escaped execution. He made a full confession and was deported to Mexico.

Barton was the first law enforcement officer in Los Angeles County to be killed in the line of duty. His death raised an outraged populace. The demise of the Manillas essentially brought an end to the vicious outlawry of California's Old West.

Where was this treacherous hill that shielded Flores' men? What route did Barton take from Santa Ana to San Juan Capistrano? Research reveals the sad truth about that hill, known as Barton's Mound. Alas, it exists no more, having been leveled by the construction of the I-405 Freeway. The actual spot lies just northwest of the intersection of the I-405 Freeway and the Laguna Canyon Road, SR 133. A marker in the area, badly in need of repair, marks the tragic spot where the forces of California's Wild West played out the story of California's turbulent transition to statehood.

Sheriff Barton is memorialized by the California Peace Officers' Memorial Foundation and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. 



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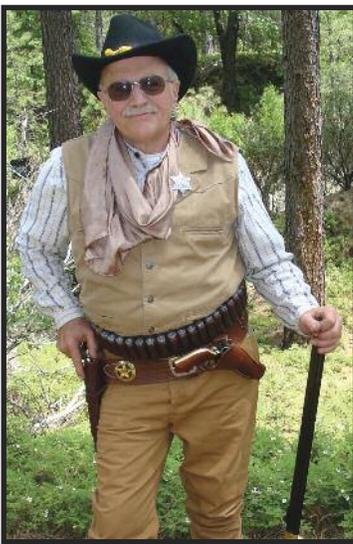
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*Tuolumne Lawman,
SASS Life #6127*

Reviews - Product

Taylor's & Company

Firearms Brings Back the Early West

Part 4

Uberti 1875 Schofield .45 Colt/Schofield

By Tuolumne Lawman, SASS #6127 Life

Prior to about 1994, no one produced a replica of any of the Smith & Wesson top break revolvers that were so prevalent in the Old West. The Italian firm of Uberti was first to introduce one with the introduction of the No. 3, 1875 Schofield Model in the mid-1990s. Val Forgett III of Navy Arms was the first to import these clones of the revolutionary S&W No. 3 top break single actions. They were an instant hit with SASS shooters like me, who wanted “something a little different” from the traditional SAA or its near twin, the 1875 Remington. I actually got one of the first Schofields brought in by Navy Arms in .44-40 and really liked it. Having it in .44-40 instead of .45, though, never felt quite right and I eventually sold it.

Some Schofield replicas were soon produced for various importers by another Italian firm, Armi San Marco. Plagued with extreme quality control issues, however, these Armi San Marco Schofields (and Armi San Marco itself) were doomed to a slow



Taylor's Uberti 1875 Schofield.

and painful death. When the original family-run firm of Aldo Uberti was subsequently bought out by The Beretta Corporation, Beretta wisely kept the 1875 Schofield in the lineup, and even expanded the line to New Model No. 3s and .44 Russian Models.

Through the years, Navy Arms drifted from the mainstream SASS market. Thankfully, Tammy Loy of Taylor's & Co Firearms had already stepped into

the marketplace and became a major supplier of Uberti firearms for the SASS crowd, including the Uberti 1875 Schofield. In addition to the original chambering of .44-40 and .45 Colt, Taylor's is also offering a .38 Special in the Schofield line.

I have wanted another Schofield ever since selling my first one more than 17 years ago. I was very excited when I had an opportunity to obtain another

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Taylor's Firearms Brings Back the Early West . . .

one from Taylor's on which to base a *Cowboy Chronicle* article. Before we talk about the Uberti Schofield, though, we will cover a little History lesson about the original S&W Schofield.

Schofield History

Very few people who are not students of the Old West and its weaponry realize Smith and Wesson's No. 3 top break .44 American Model was adopted as the US Army's first center fire issue revolver in 1870. This coincided closely with the introduction of the 1858 Army five shot .46 rimfire conversions, which also saw limited issue to troops on the Frontier. This was three years prior to the actual adoption of the 1873 Colt as the



Author shooting his Schofield at a match.

standard US Army sidearm.

Initially, Smith and Wesson submitted the No. 3 to the Army for testing chambered in .44

Henry rim-fire. The .44 Henry had a 200-grain, .442" diameter bullet and a 27- or 28-grain powder charge. When the Ordnance Board suggested a center fire round to increase reliability, S&W created the .44 Smith & Wesson round. It was essentially a center fire .44 Henry. Like the Henry, it had an outside lubed bullet (where the bullet is the same diameter as the case, with a rebated bullet base crimped in the case mouth, like a modern .22 rim fire). In the military loading, its .432" diameter, 225-grain lead bullet was pushed by about 25 grains of black powder. As with its progenitor, the .44 Henry round, the .44 S&W (generally referred to as the .44 American) subsequently developed a well-earned reputation as a fairly reliable fight stopper, far superior to the .36 or .44 caliber cap and ball revolvers with their

(Continued on page 60)



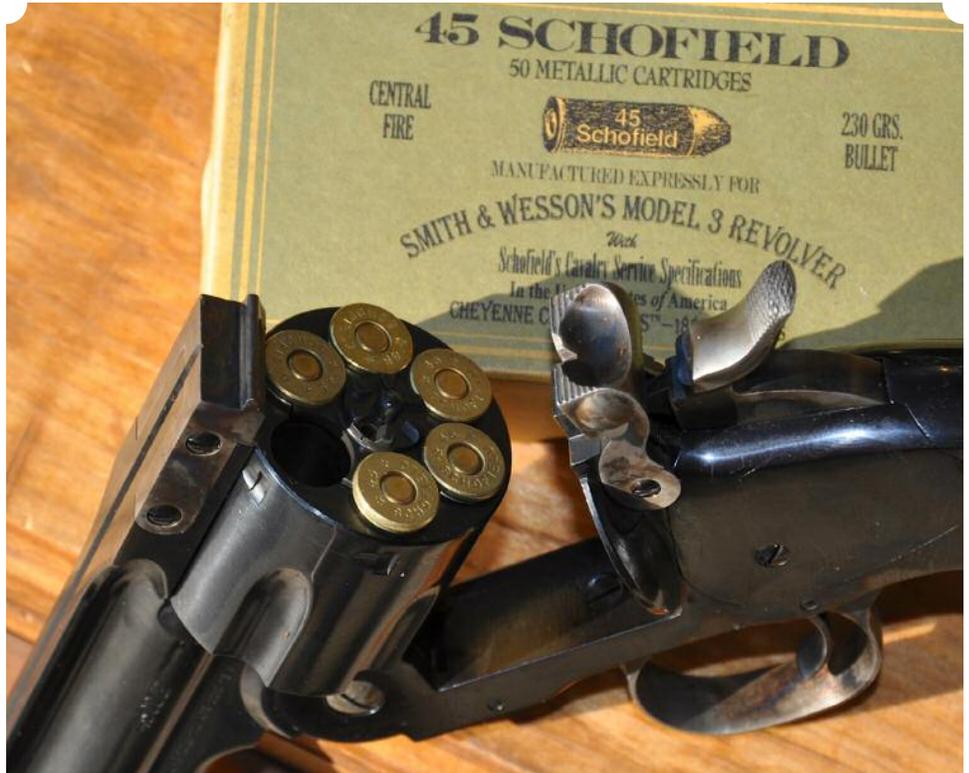
Uberti Schofield in 1881 half flap holster.

Taylor's Firearms Brings Back the Early West . . .

(Continued from page 59)

lighter round ball bullets. When you factored in the tremendous increase in speed and ease of loading, it was impossible for the No.3 S&W to not be a success.

When it was released, many officers and enlisted men preferred the Smith & Wesson No. 3s to the standard issue Colt Model of 1860 .44 percussion revolvers, which were much slower to load and far less reliable. While the US Army bought about 2,000 No.3 Americans for issue, large numbers were also privately purchased by the troops. The No. 3 S&Ws were carried in many engagements against Native Americans years before (and even well after) the 1873 Single Action Army Colt



Schofield ejector star lifting empty cartridges.

was finally issued.

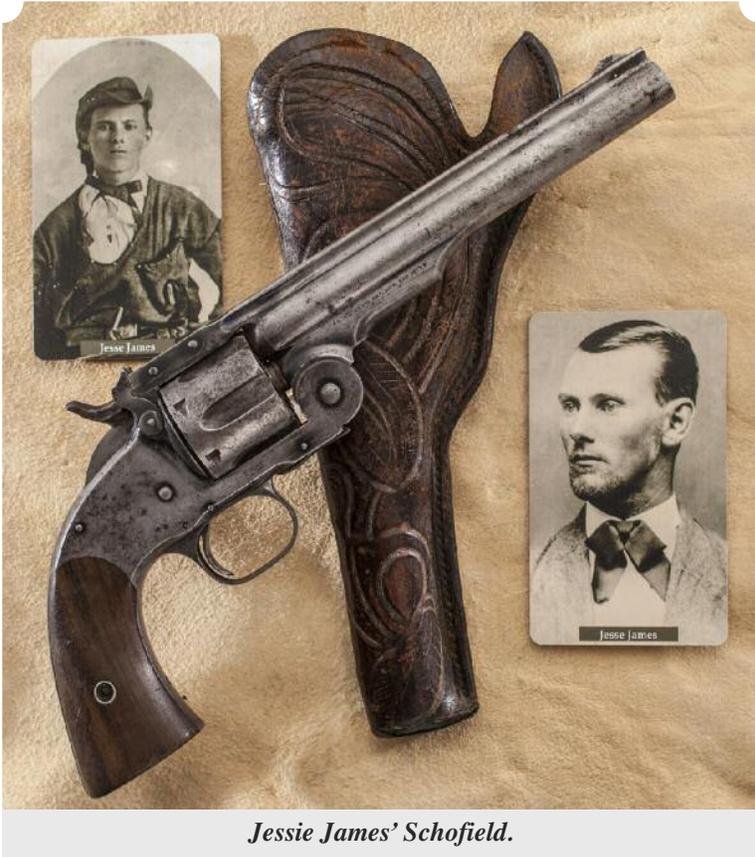
One Cavalry officer, Major George Schofield, was particularly impressed with the Smith & Wesson. He patented several

modifications to the No. 3 to make it easier to reload on horse back while holding the reins. In 1875, Schofield submitted this modified No. 3 to the Ordnance



Wells Fargo model Schofield with 5-inch barrel.

Taylor's Firearms Brings Back the Early West . . .



Jessie James' Schofield.

Board. It was adopted as substitute standard in 1875. The 1875 "Schofield Model" was in a new .45 Smith & Wesson caliber, more powerful than the .44 American.

The .45 S&W round was shorter than the .45 Colt and had a slightly larger rim to aid in the ejection process. It had a 230-grain lead bullet, powered by 29 grains of black powder. The .45 Schofield round approximates the performance of a modern standard velocity 230-grain .45 ACP round. The original .45 Colt round used a 250-grain lead bullet powered by 40 grains of black powder. [Author's Note: The Army later down-loaded their .45 Colt rounds to only 30 grains of black powder with card fillers to make them more controllable. If you have ever tried it, firing a .45 Colt SAA loaded with 40 grains of FFG in an old balloon head case as I have, it is truly an awakening!]

The Smith and Wessons had the advantage of being a break-top design, ejecting all of the empties simultaneously, and allowing faster loading of fresh cartridges. This was much faster than the "eject 'em and load 'em one at a time" Colt 1873. It was especially popular with the Cavalry, as it

was possible to easily load while mounted. You first hold the Schofield in your strong hand, use the thumb to break it open, and eject. Then you move it to your left hand, holding it with your reins, and load rounds in with the right hand from your pouch or a pocket. While I have not done this at a full tilt gallop like the Cavalry of the Frontier, I have done it myself while mounted, riding down the trail at a trot.

Long after the adoption on the 1873 Colt SAA, the new Schofield Model and the earlier .44 American Models were still very popular with the troops. Some people even claim George Armstrong Custer carried a Schofield at the Little Big Horn battle, but recent archaeological finds tend to disprove that. These same digs do reveal, however, at least three different S&W No.3 .44 American revolvers were there. It is not known which side, however, used them. There were numerous .45 Schofield cases recovered at the Little Big Horn. However, due to the Army's sometimes practice of issuing .45 Schofield rounds to troops also armed with 1873 Colt Single

(Continued on page 62)

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(Continued from page 61)

Action Army revolvers to simplify supply, we cannot say there were actually any Schofield revolvers there.

The Army eventually pulled the Schofield Models from service in 1887 due to supply problems with ammunition non-interchangeability with the .45 Colt round. Most were sold as surplus and a large number had their barrels cut to five inches. Many of these 5-inch revolvers were issued by Wells Fargo to their Guards and Agents, who appreciated the S&W No. 3's superior firepower.

The Top-break Smith and Wesson's were even more suc-



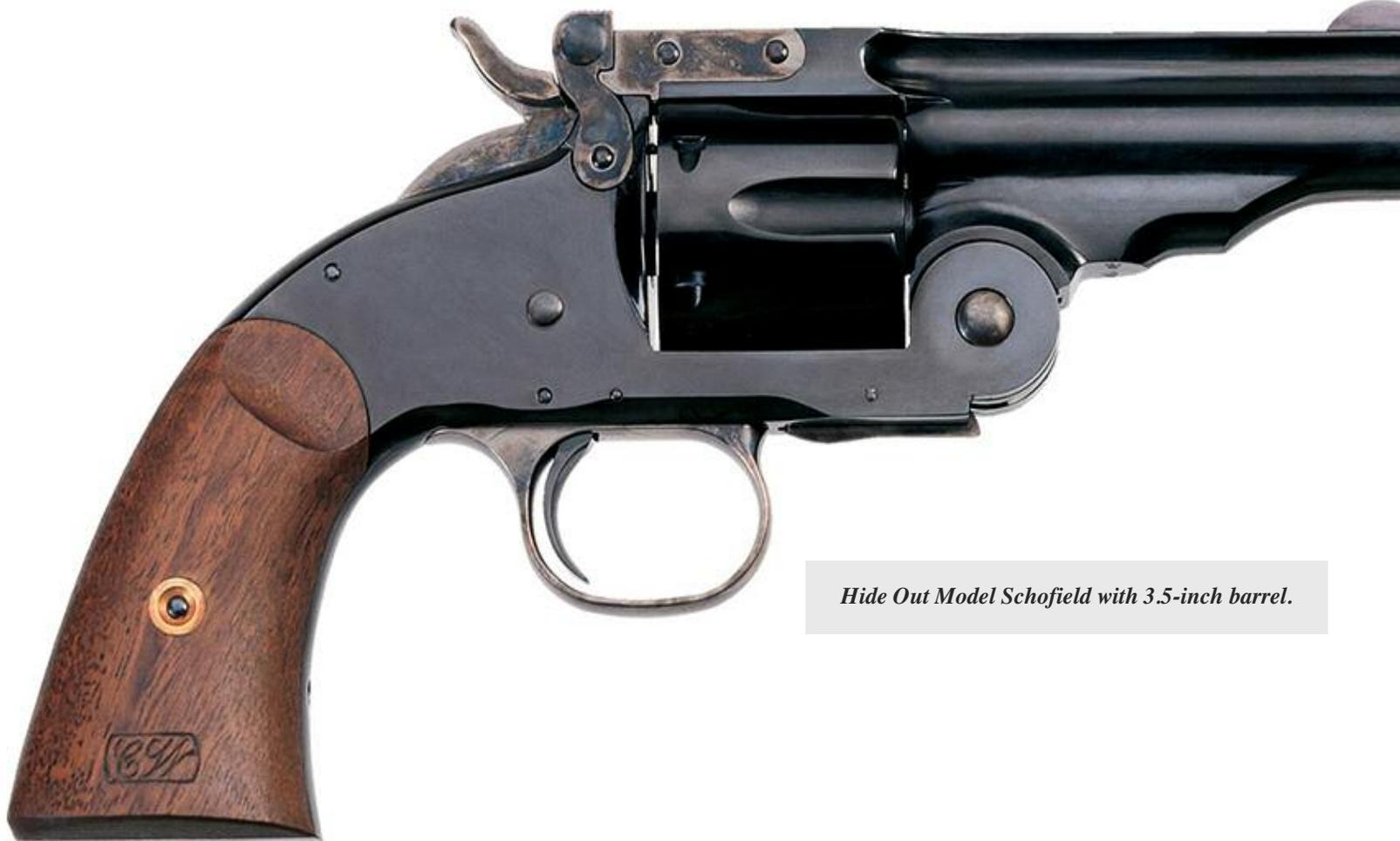
Schofield rear sight.

cessful with the civilian population. The long list of notables on both side of the law that favored the Smith & Wesson is amazing. Of these, the most well-known

Schofield shooter was Jesse James. He liked the fast reloading firepower for which the Smith and Wesson No.3 was second to none.

The final single action incarnation of the Smith and Wesson No. 3 top break was their "New Model No. 3." This was introduced in 1878. It was sleeker, a little stronger, and a little less fragile mechanically than the Old Russian Model. In addition to the original .44 Russian chambering, some new model No. 3s were even made in .38 WCF and .44 WCF!

Smith and Wesson big bore top-break revolvers were second in number produced only to the Colt and not by as much of a margin as you might think. A total of more than 250,800 No.3



Hide Out Model Schofield with 3.5-inch barrel.



Schofield top break action.

Taylor's Firearms Brings Back the Early West . . .

S&Ws (all variations) were produced by Smith and Wesson, and another half million made under license or copied in foreign countries. Their numbers even far out-stripped the total of all the other Colt competitors, such as Merlwin and Hubert, Remington, and Forehand and Wadsworth, combined. Smith & Wesson catalogued the No.3 "top breaks" until 1917, a total of 48 years. During that time, they were offered in a total of 15 calibers. These include .44 Henry, .44 American, .44 Russian, .45 S&W, .44 WCF (.44-40), .38 WCF (.38-40), .32-44 and .38-44, and reportedly even .455 Webley.

Taylor's & Co 1875 Schofield

I was absolutely delighted when I got the 1875 Schofield 7-inch barreled Cavalry Model. The Uberti Schofield is slightly larger and more robust than the original Smith and Wesson. This is in order to handle the full size (and full power) .45 Colt and .44-40 cartridges. While a close copy of the Second Model Schofield, it differs internally from the originals. Taylor's Schofield comes in 7-inch Military Model, 5-inch Wells Fargo Model, and 3½-inch "Hide Out" Model barrel lengths. The barrel, frame, and cylinder are a deep, lustrous dark blue-black. The hammer, trigger guard, trigger, top latch, and frame lug are a nice, bright, color case hardened pattern. The two-piece walnut stocks have appropri-

ate inspector acceptance cartouches on them and the frame is stamped "US," designating it as a US Government issue weapon. The wood-to-metal and metal-to-metal fit on my sample was flawless.

The rear sight is in the frame thumb latch, and consists of a notch in a deep, wide "U," almost like the area above the notch in a semi-buckhorn rear sight. The front sight is a tall semi-circle of what appears to be German nickel-silver in the top of the barrel rib. The thumb latch is prevented from traveling rearward under recoil by the hammer, which when dropped to the firing position, fits snugly underneath the bottom side of the rear of the latch, preventing any movement at all.

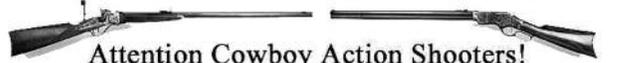
Operation of the Uberti Schofield is simplicity in its self. Because of the locking action of the hammer on the frame thumb latch, it is necessary to first pull the hammer back to the "safety" notch. This frees the thumb latch to be pulled to the rear by the shooting thumb. The frame will then tip down, forcing the extractor star out, ejecting the empties. When it reaches its full travel, the star snaps back

(Continued on page 64)



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Schofield front sight.

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(Continued from page 63)

in. If wanting to only remove a few empty cases, there is an ejector disconnecter lever under the front of the frame. Depress this when opening the action, and the ejector release is deactivated. [Note: .45 Schofield brass has a larger rim than .45 Colt, allowing better ejection. When using .45 Colt cases, it is a good idea to turn the Schofield on its side (minding the direction of the muzzle) and invert the gun (upside down) to eject the cases downward. This prevents the ejector star from “jumping” over the smaller diameter .45 Colt case rims.]

The hammer is located somewhat differently than

on SAA Colt/clones. I do not find this a problem, and actually prefer it to the 1873 Colt hammer/grip. The hammer cocking is smooth and fairly light and can be adjusted by a tensioning spring on the front of the grip frame. The trigger pull on my sample was an absolute joy! Crisp at about 2.5 pounds (maybe a tad more), it can be made heavier by putting more tension on the hammer spring. The let off was crisp, with no noticeable creep.

At the Range

The Schofield is a joy to shoot. I shoot Du-elist, and because of the angle of its “plow handle” grip, I personally feel that the Schofield lends itself very well to this one handed style of shooting. It seems to “hang in the hand” just a mite better for me than the Colt clones, including my 1872 Open Tops. Its hefty weight seems to absorb recoil a tad better than the Colt clones, too.

When shooting, I noticed that using the small rear sight notch in the bottom of the frame latch caused the Schofield to shoot well below point of aim at 7-10 yards. I found if I centered the front blade even with the top of the wider “U” in the thumb latch (which is above the sight notch),

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it was still slightly below POA/POI, but good enough for SASS pistol targets. (I filed 1/16" off the top of the front sight of my Schofield to bring POI up to 2" above POA, my preferred targeting). Using the large "U" in the frame latch is actually quicker than finding the small rear sight notch, and acts like a "battle sight." I tend to "point shoot" across the tops of my pistols, anyway, whether it is a single action, a Glock 19 or 21, or my S&W Shield. This style works very well at a typical SASS match with close range and larger targets. The front sight is not removable, so it would be difficult to replace.

All group size shooting was done off-hand, traditional two hand hold at about seven yards. For factory loads, I used .45 Colt and Schofield ammunition from Black Hills Ammunition. Black Hills .45 Colt ammo grouped about 1¾ to 2 inches at seven yards. The Black Hills .45 Schofield loads did better and shot a nice 1½-inch group, centered on the target.

I have two favorite hand loads for .45 Schofield cases. I use Starline .45 Schofield brass, a RNFP .452-inch 200-grain from Stateline Bullets, a Winchester WLP primer, and 6.0 grains of either Unique or Trail Boss. While not maximum, they are very stout, which is what I prefer. It is a healthy load that approximates the performance of the original black powder Schofield load, though I wouldn't shoot it in an original Schofield. They both will shoot 1½-inch groups from a casual traditional hold at seven yards.

My experience with black powder and the Uberti Schofield

I know some folks say they shoot black powder from their Uberti Schofields. In my experience with my original Navy Arms/Uberti Schofield, though, I found the Schofield Replicas do not like black powder, Pyrodex, or even Triple Seven! It is not that they don't shoot well with the loads, but rather, after a couple of rounds of Charcoal Burner loads, THEY JUST DON'T SHOOT! Because of the tight tolerances of the modern replicas (to accommodate the full-size .45 Colt), the black powder fouling will bind up the gun. I have heard shooters have had some

success with American Pioneer Powder and Shockey's Gold, but have not tried it myself.

When they lengthened the cylinder to accommodate the longer .45 Colt rounds, they eliminated a baffle system that was found on the front of the originals. This consisted of about 3/16-inch of cylinder collar around the cylinder arbor on the face of the cylinder that extends under the barrel in a corresponding cut out. In the originals, this prevented most of the BP fouling from accumulating on the cylinder arbor. The Uberti Schofield does not have this. I have shot several hundred smokeless rounds in the Taylor's Schofield without cleaning it and had no problems. After only three or four rounds of Black Powder or Pyrodex, however, you have to turn the cylinder by hand. I have gotten as many as ten shots through one without cleaning it, using SPG-lubed bullets over a lubed Wonder Wad and 27 grains (volume) FFG Goex, WLP primer, and greased the heck out of the cylinder arbor with SPG Lube prior to shooting. By the eighth or ninth

(Continued on page 66)

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(Continued from page 65)

round, though, I still had to help it turn by hand.

Hodgdon's Triple Seven Black Powder substitute does not foul like real black powder but still fouls a more than smokeless, and the fouling is very hard. Using Schofield brass and a 200-grain bullet with 25 grains (volume) Triple Seven, The Schofield will shoot well and not bind up after only a few rounds, but rather go about a stage and a half, then requires a squirt of water to loosen the fouling. I did not have any of the Triple Seven loads with me on the day I did the group size firing at the range.

Conclusion

Taylor's Uberti Schofield is a classic. The original 1875 Schofield played an important part in the Old West. Today's "New West" Cowboy Action Shooters™ can enjoy the same gun Jesse James and other notables favored, the 1875 Schofield. Heck, it was good enough for the "Schofield Kid" (and later Clint) in the movie *Unforgiven!* and for Tom Selleck in *Crossfire Trail*, so it is good enough for me. I



.45 Schofield round compared to .45 Colt.

plan on shooting this Schofield for some time to come, paired with my 8-inch Uberti 1860 Richards Type II conversion in .45 Colt/Schofield as my main match pistols. The Taylor's Schofield has a MSRP retail price tag of just over \$1,000, but is worth every penny of it. The Schofield's workmanship and fit and finish are flawless.

Credits

For your Schofield, or all your SASS® firearms needs, contact Tammy Loy at Taylor's Firearms, 304 Lenoir Dr, Winchester, VA 22603, (540) 722-2017, or visit their web page <http://www.taylorfirearms.com/>.

The excellent 1876 Fairweather Christian belt pictured is from David Carrico, at Carrico's Leather Works. <http://www.carricoleather.com/> or call 620-922-7222. David has been making high quality, period correct leather goods for major motion pictures, Civil War and Cavalry reenactors, and SASS shooters, for many years.

The equally excellent Model 1881 Cavalry half flap holster (suitable for Schofield or Colt 1873 SAA) is from Rob and Tom Thomasser, of Pacific Canvas and Leather, 4707 Highway 61, Suite 135, White Bear Lake, MN 55110, 760-868-3856, <http://pacificcanvasandleather.com/>.

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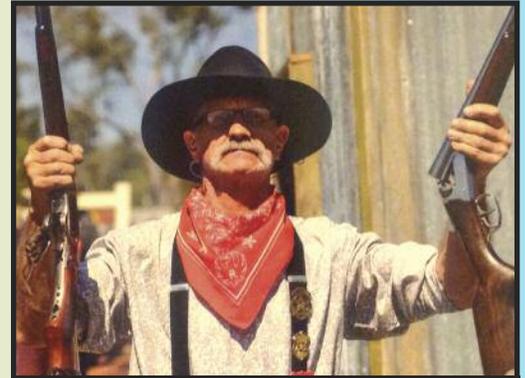
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DELTA BADHAND DELTY BYDHAND

By Deslaredo, SASS #91085



Deslaredo, SASS #91085



Along The Mississippi she was
known far and wide
When she walked upon a river
boat the tin horns would hide.
She kept a silver derringer tucked
safely in her lace
Her name was Delta Badhand and
it showed upon her face.

She gambled on the Mississippi
beneath the southern stars
Her poison was from Tennessee
and she smoked Cuban Cigars.
No one had ever called her bluff.
No one had ever dared
When she sat down at the table, all
the players froze and stared.

One night a smooth talkin' outlaw
caught her wandering eye.
She knew the moment she met
him that sparks were gonna fly.
And so began an epic gamble that
would last till the rising sun.
The night would become as loud
and as hot as the barrel of a
smokin' gun.

The outlaw sat down beside her
with a face all wrinkled and rough.
He lit up a smoke and cracked a
joke, then said, "I'm here to call
your bluff!"

And then he said to Delta,
"Where have you been all my
life?"
And she said, "Well for the first

half of it, I wasn't even born!
"So don't give me none of your
strife!"

His name was Deadly Serious and
he dealt from the bottom of the
deck.

Wherever he went, trouble fol-
lowed him just like a train wreck.
He had a whiskey breath and he
looked like death
But his eyes were as sharp as an
owl.

His clothes and his boots were tat-
tered and torn
And his language was filthy and
fowl.

He said to Delta, "Deal 'em up
and deal me one hell of a hand.
"If you can't deal 'em straight,
deal 'em crooked
"And let 'em land where they
land."

So she dealt him a hand as bad as
they come. A hand straight outta
hell.

Then Delta said to Deadly, "My
friend, you're not looking very
well."

But Deadly Serious had an Ace up
his sleeve and a hand on his Colt
.45.

When he said, "no cards," Delta
knew only one of them would
come out alive.

For Delta knew that she'd dealt
him a bad hand
Like only Delta would know.
So she placed her Derringer on
the table and said, "Draw your
Colt or go,!"

So Deadly Serious drew his Colt,
but his blurry aim was off.
And as he looked down the barrels
of Delta's Derringer
He let out a deep-throated cough.
Then he made the mistake of
cocking his Colt
So Delta let both barrels fly.
As Deadly slumped to the table on
his face
With a .41 in each eye.

So that was the end of the night
for Deadly
But Delta had just begun
As she sipped her whiskey and lit
up a Cuban
Then winked at the rising sun.
She replenished her weapon and
shuffled the cards
As they carried poor Deadly away.
Then another dark figure sat down
at the table
And said to Delta, "Well, Let's
Play!!" 🃏

Profiles

Scholarship Recipient 2017

Capitan Regulator, SASS #84262

Edited & Adapted by Justice Lily Kate, SASS #1000



*Justice Lily Kate,
SASS #1000*



My name is Jayden Daniel, AKA Capitan Regulator. I started Cowboy Action Shooting™ in 2008 with my father, Scott Daniel (Gunsmoke Cowboy, SASS #84261), later being joined by my mother, Lisa Daniel (Pitch-a-Fit, SASS #103514). My home club is the Lincoln County Regulators in the beautiful mountains of Ruidoso, New Mexico. The college I am attending is Clarendon College in Clarendon, Texas, where I am pursuing an Associate of Applied Science degree in Ranch and Feedlot Operations. My plans for the future are to continue my education in the field of Animal Science and Agriculture Business. I will complete my Associate Degree in the spring of 2018 and will continue with college, focusing on Equine Studies and Livestock Business Management, while also considering furthering my education in Veterinary Science.

Two people who have had a huge influence on my life are my father and my youth pastor, Phil Jones. My father taught me how to be a respectable adult, treat people with respect, and create the right attitude to succeed in life. My Youth Pastor has helped me understand and grow in my walk with Christ and has taught me I do not have to be perfect for God to love me. I will stumble, but God will pick me up.

SASS® has impacted my family and me in so many ways. I began Cowboy Action Shooting™ when I was nine years old and SASS and the shooting competitions taught me how to focus and develop discipline with firearms. I was at an age when I was searching for my niche and I found shooting competitively was it. My father and I began going to just about every monthly

(Continued on next page)

Scholarship Recipient 2017 • Capitan Regulator, SASS #84262 . . .

match we could and as we traveled around to different events we met some of the best people you could ever know. My family has developed lasting friendships within the SASS community.

Cowboy Action Shooting™ isn't just a sport you compete in as a young person, but a sport you can commit to and continue to participate in throughout your adult life. I plan on doing this for a long time.

I am most proud of my progress and accomplishments within Cowboy Action Shooting™. I have pro-

gressed through Buckaroo, Junior, to Gunfighter, and have worked on my accuracy and speed. It is my desire to better my shooting abilities as one always has room for improvement. Another thing I am proud of is going out on my own, finishing my first year of college, and making the Dean's list. It was a growing and learning experience that taught me how to be more responsible and independent.

Thanks to the Scholarship Foundation for awarding me the grant. I will put it to good use and make the SASS/Cowboy Action Shooting™ family proud. 🤠

ATTRACTING SHOOTERS TO SASS

By Capitan Regulator, SASS #84262

Edited and Adapted by Justice Lily Kate, SASS #1000

During my seven years as a SASS® member, the question of how to attract more shooters has come up more than once. It is discussed during our club meetings, monthly matches, annual shoots, Regional and Nationals. We've talked about it with other shooters after a great match. If others only knew what they were missing!

One way I feel would be a positive approach in promoting SASS and membership to SASS is better exposure for END of TRAIL. Very few people know about it. It was funny to me, while I was at END of TRAIL one year, when I stopped at an Edgewood convenience store and they asked about my END of TRAIL badge. I told them what it was and they asked, where is that being held? That really struck me. The local community did not know END of TRAIL was happening right down the road from them. I believe spectators should be allowed to attend all events during END of TRAIL, not just for certain days. Bringing back the side shows, such as Dr. Buck Montgomery, Rhinestone Cowboy, the Indian Dancers, and Miss Tabitha and the Dance Hall Darlings. They would enhance the event and promote the history and heritage of the Cowboy and the Old West.

Next, having "bay-at-large" matches for people, young and old alike, to try out Cowboy Action Shooting™. That's how I got hooked! I just happened to go with my dad to watch a monthly match and I got to try it out. Visitors could sign a waiver

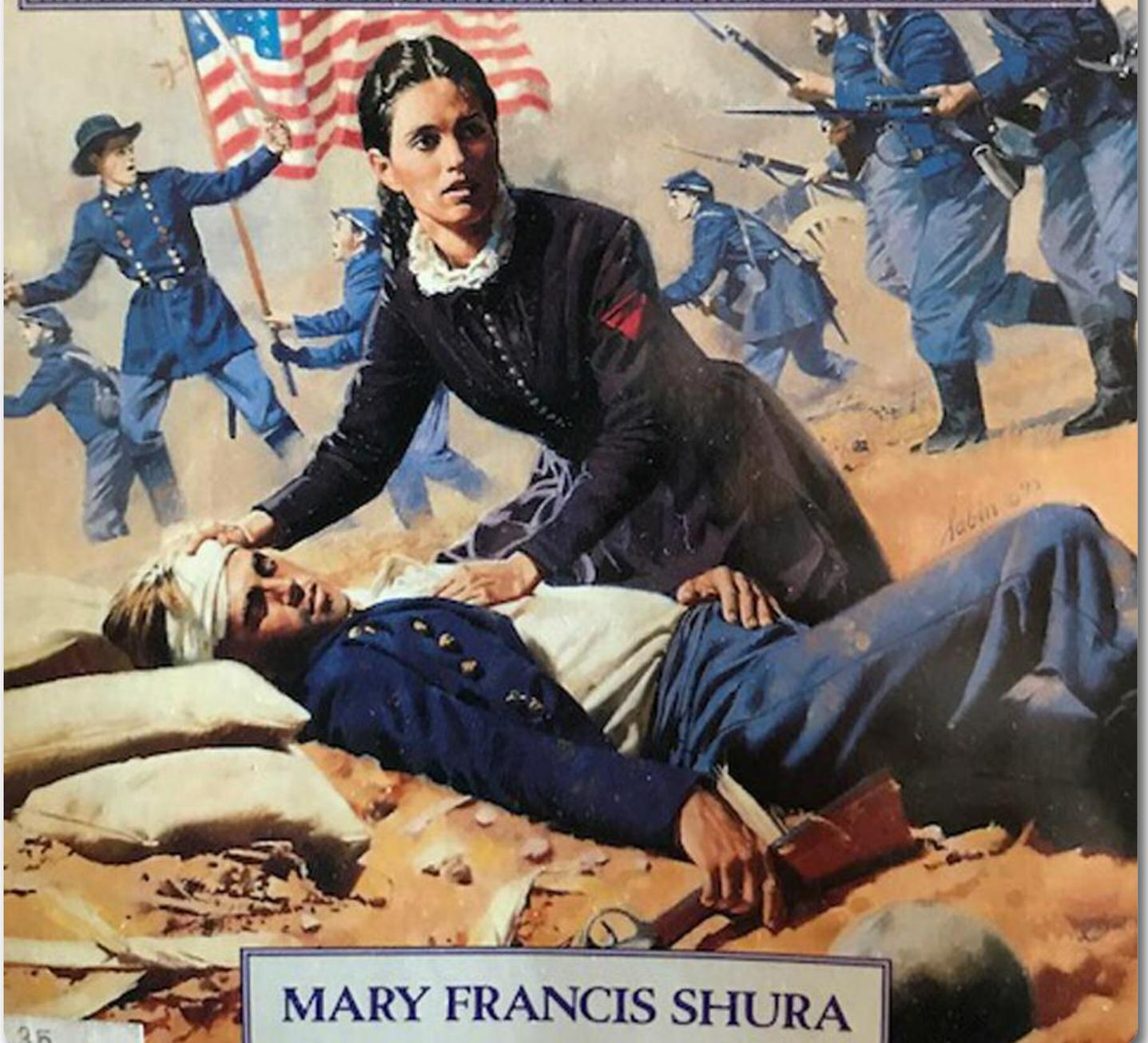
and release of liability and SASS members could man the booth. SASS clubs should set up the indoor wax bullet booths at various community events throughout the country, giving prospective shooters the opportunity to experience what Single Action Shooting is like. It is very important to promote interest with young shooters. A shooting booth would give members the opportunity to teach and share with people who are interested. This would be a time for recruiting and networking, as well as teaching gun safety and proper gun handling.

Lastly, local clubs need to take advantage of their radio and television stations. Most stations want to hear about local club activities. Nationally televised programs geared to showing matches, gun safety practices, the glamour and richness of the costumes, and programs promoting SASS would create more awareness about the sport. Social Media and YouTube must be utilized more. It's more than just posting, members and their friends should be tagged to reach others about the posts.

There is a great need for youth ambassadors. We, myself included, must use every opportunity we get to tell people SASS is a family friendly environment with the nicest people you would ever meet. Shooting teaches patience, helps you learn how to solve problems and think logically about things, and how to make them work the most efficient. Let's spread the word about shooting, about the fun, about our family of SASS. 🤠

GENTLE ANNIE

The True Story of a Civil War Nurse



MARY FRANCIS SHURA

35

❁ HOW I GOT MY ALIAS ❁

Gentle Annie, SASS #105594

I spent most of my life in the Midwest. My husband is a Civil War re-enactor and I attend in costume. I am a nurse. So how do all these seemingly disjointed facts bear on the genesis of my alias? I wanted an alias that brought all these obscure facts together in one person. Meet Gentle Annie. Gentle Annie was a moniker given to Annie Blair Etheridge, a real-life Civil War nurse. She was from Detroit, Michigan and was a nurse when the war started. Annie joined the Third Michigan Infantry. She was one of only two women awarded the Kearney Cross, named for General Phillip Kearney for



“noble sacrifice and heroic service to the Union Army.” Annie received no pay for her four years of service to the Union Army during the Civil War. In 1886 she requested a pension and in 1887 Congress granted her \$25 a month. Annie Blair Etheridge died in 1913 and received a veteran’s burial in Arlington National Cemetery. She lives on today through my portrayal of her. 🐾

THE Cowboy CHRONICLE

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

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

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

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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

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

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

Trail Markers



Jess Ducky, SASS #4275 Life

*By Doc Sievers, SASS #83547
and Cedar County Sheriff, SASS #4578*

tion Shooter™. In his early years, he was an Information Specialist in the U.S. Air Force. He spent time in Viet Nam writing articles and reports for military magazines, including *Stars & Stripes*. While holding down a myriad of jobs after the Air Force, Jess finally found being an Insurance Adjuster suited him best. During the late 70s and into the 80s, Jess enjoyed shooting IPSC competitions, but, after attending a Cowboy Action event, he found his true calling. Like so many in his age group, he had grown up watching Westerns on TV and Western movies in the theaters. He was enamored with the era and was drawn to a shooting sport that was more family-oriented with less emphasis on competition, compared to IPSC and IDPA. As he used to tell new shooters, “It’s hard to get too serious about yourself when you’re dressed this way.”

He returned from that match to his home in Renton, Washington and with the help of the folks at the Renton Fish and Game Club, he started RU Cowboy Action Shooting™ (Renton United Cowboy Action Shooters™), with its motto “Crazy Bar None.” In those early years, he was known as Fandango Frank. Over the years he used other aliases, but in the end, to all of us, he was Jess Ducky.

In 1992, he hosted the first Westmatch, which would later become the Washington State Championship. With the creative and fertile mind of Jess Ducky writing the stages, Westmatch became known as one of the best, most interesting, and exciting matches in the region. Jess served as its Match Director for 10 years before turning the reigns over to Elder Katie.

Meanwhile, Jess was instrumental in introducing Cowboy Action Shooting™ to anyone interested. He was the ultimate ambassador for the sport. He encouraged the creation of other Cowboy Action Shooting™ clubs and soon the Northwest had a number of them that still operate to this day. If he spotted a spectator or visitor checking out a bunch of guys and gals dressed like they just stepped off a B-western movie set, shooting shotguns, rifles, and revolvers, he would walk up to them and talk about the sport and explain

To most SASS members around the World, Brian Howard was known as Jess Ducky, Washington State Champion, NW Regional Champion, National Champion, and two-time World Champion Cowboy Action Shooter™. For those of us in the Northwest, Jess Ducky was the godfather of Cowboy Action Shooting™ in this region of the country. He was our friend, our mentor, and our leader. Jess has helped countless people change their lives because Jess took the time to encourage them and give them value. At his bedside, when Jess headed for the big round-up in the sky on the Fourth of July 2017, was his wife of nearly 49 years, Diane, and their two daughters, Alexis and Rachel. Jess Ducky will be missed by all of us,

ords can express.
a degree in Journalism
r in Mathematics. He
reading, writing po-
, and he had a mar-
ous creative mind. His
enius was exhibited as
writer of countless
owboy matches.

Jess was not al-
ways a Cowboy Ac-



Jess Ducky, SASS #4275 Life . . .

what they were seeing. He would invite them to come to the Renton range on Friday night and do some actual shooting. "If you don't have the guns you need right now, lots of shooters around here will lend you some, give you some ammo, and loan you a gun belt. All you need to do is get a pair of boots, a cowboy hat, and an old shirt and you can start shooting in our matches," was a phrase heard by most of us.

Those Friday night "practices" provided a starting point for a lot of shooters who are now familiar names to the SASS family worldwide. He would teach newcomers how to shoot and after they learned to hit the targets, he would teach them how to get better and faster. He lived the SASS axiom of passing on knowledge and not worrying that the new shooter might be faster than he was. The practices also provided Jess an opportunity to try a new gun and a new load (he kept meticulous records of every loading combination he tried). He would often express how pleased he was with his latest formula, only to show up the following Friday with another concoction.

Jess' love for literature and writing resulted in his first novel, *A Kiss For Big Bill*, published in 2012. It was, of course, a western tale, set in the Pacific Northwest. It was written as a tribute to many of the unsung heroes in the Indian territories, post Civil War. It is still available on Amazon.

At Winter Range 2016, Jess started feeling poorly. He had bad cramps in his legs and his ankles started swelling. His camping partner, Doc Sievers, being a tad bigger, loaned him a pair of boots so he could compete in that last round of stages. He then gallantly traveled to Wenatchee, Washington for the Northwest Regional Championships and managed to complete that match and do well, but this was not the energetic Ducky we all knew. After he returned home, several months of testing and a couple of hospital stays finally pointed to a liver that was giving up. In April of this year, Jess received a new liver and was on the road to recovery. His doctors gave him a good prognosis and Jess could hardly wait to get back to the range (probably to try out another new load), but the good Lord had other plans for him. Jess had a bad fall at home, resulting in a severe head injury. He passed away later that day. *A*

Trail Markers

Smokey Dave, SASS #87750

June 14 1943 – August 24 2017

By Redleg Reilly, SASS #46372



It is with great sadness that the Shortgrass Rangers report the passing of Smokey Dave, AKA David Fulbright.

Dave was born in Fresno, California. He served his country in the United State Navy on board the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk. He enjoyed the shooting sports, participating in military rifle competitions, and deer hunting, as well as SASS. He was an avid motorcyclist, riding all over the western United States on his Harley. His other major interest was building and racing dragsters.

Dave was a mainstay in our SASS club. He always

had a big grin of his face when shooting. He could always be counted on to help with building props or keeping the range mowed. He was an original member of the mowing gang—disappearing in a cloud of dust and mower exhaust on range work days.

I'm not sure I've done Smokey justice. He was a gentleman, a good friend, and a valuable asset to the Shortgrass Rangers. He is already greatly missed by all who knew him. But we know he left Earth with a smile as he was reunited with his bride, who preceded him in death in 2015. Happy trails, Cowboy. *A*

Political

THE Biology of Politics

— Part 1 —

By Stonehawk West, SASS #102080



Stonehawk West,
SASS #102080

In the June issue, I shared some history of how the Progressive movement started post WWI and how it has infiltrated almost every corner of our culture. I also shared some solutions on how we can push back this tide of destruction.

Now I want to zoom out so we might better understand the nature of Progressives (Liberals, Democrats) *versus* Conservatives and why they think and act the way they do, and we will start from an interesting place. There is a little-known theory in evolutionary biology, an area of science that explains how life, mostly animals, came to be the way they are. This is r-K Theory.

The “r” represents reproductive rate. The “K” represents the capacity of the environment to support a species. When resources in the environment are plentiful, “r” tends to be high, with many offspring, and these species develop particular behaviors and psychology to support this strategy for passing on their DNA. These behaviors include avoiding competition, early sexual activity, promiscuous mating, and investing little time or energy in raising offspring. They also tend to be less intelligent herbivores that are not very social. Almost everything they do promotes and supports an increase in offspring; they’re all about *quantity*.

An excellent example of an “r” species is a bunch of rabbits in a field of clover. Resources are plentiful, so no rabbit goes hungry. Having developed the high r-selected strategy

for survival they have several litters per year at typically 6-10 kits (baby bunnies) per litter (so about 30 offspring per year). They care for their young for only a few weeks before sending them out to graze on their own. If other rabbits invade their space, there’s no fight. They just move over because there’s plenty of clover. If a fox or a hawk threatens them, they’ll run, but it’s every bunny for itself because there’s no social order or strategy for defending against predators. They just run. Furthermore, when they’re not grazing, they mate with multiple partners. Life is easy for dumb rabbits except for the occasional individual who gets carried off in raptor talons.

Now, when resources are scarce animals develop a different set of behaviors and psychology that are completely opposite. An excellent example of a “K” species is the wolf. Wolves are monogamous for life and only the alpha male and female get to mate. They will have only one litter of typically 4-6 pups per year and they invest more than a year, sometimes two, in rearing the pups before they find their rank in the pack or move on. They’re an intelligent species that hunts in coordination with other pack members. They will defend a territory and they know who is in the pack and who is not. They have rank and rules and communicate through growling, howling, and posturing. For example, when two males battle over mating rights, the loser (beta) will often role over to bare its neck to the alpha in surrender. Does the alpha male



The Biology of Politics (Pt. 1) . . .

go in for the kill? No, because they live by rules and every member in the pack is valuable and needed for survival of the group. But the rank will be established and only the strongest and smartest will get to pass on their DNA. This is the way “K” species behave—they’re all about *quality*, because only the best can survive in an environment with limited resources.

Rabbits and wolves are great examples of species on either end of the r-K spectrum. Most animals land somewhere in between, but they will lean toward “r” or “K.” Two examples: though elephants are herbivores, they are highly intelligent, care for their young and are highly social. So they’re more “K.” Elk may compete for social rank during mating season, but the males are also promiscuous. For an animal that big, they spend relatively little time raising young and they’re not very smart (even a small brain can eat grass). So elk are more r-selected.

Now let’s apply this to people. Take a look at the accompanying photograph. What kind of people are these? Darn right! These are definitely “K” type people venturing into a wilderness of limited resources. Generations of discoverers and pioneers like these folks dug wells, cut timber, tilled land, mined ore, invented machines, and built factories and towns. With their intelligence, they engineered railroads and waterways and connected the power grid as they established rules and order along the way. Then they paved roads and replaced horse power with engine power. They even invented vehicles that defy gravity. Yes, these K-selected people have built everything we would call civilization. But at the same time, they have created for us an environment of plentiful resources. If r-K theory is correct we should start to behave and think more like r-selected rabbits.

So I ask, if r-K theory is true and we now live with abundant resources, how would our attitudes toward competition change (think children’s sports, even professional football, and war)? How would our attitudes about children change? How would we treat marriage? Education? How might politicians change laws to favor the non-competitive culture they prefer? Are you connecting some dots?

Now I can hear some of you saying, “Where’s the science, the biological evidence that supports this theory?” Believe it or not, several brain studies have shown a number of biological differences between Liberals and Conservatives and this is the big one.

We all have a small section in our brain called the *amygdala*, which, among other things, is responsible for receiving input and stimulus from our surroundings to determine if there is a threat. This “threat meter” then signals other parts of the brain so we respond appropriately. *The more threats it responds to, the more developed the amygdala becomes, like a muscle getting exercise.*

Even in normal, everyday situations our *amygdala* perceives and gauges possible threats as we navigate through each experience. *If our amygdala is not stimulated and developed by challenges in life, then we will have problems assessing and managing threats in the future.*

What Dr. Ryota Kanai (College University, London) found

in 2011 is the *amygdala* in Conservatives is well developed and normal sized, while in Liberals, it is smaller and under developed. Other scientific studies have also correlated the smaller *amygdala* in Liberals to diminished competitiveness, younger ages for sexual activity, promiscuity, and low investment parenting. Folks, this is r-selected behavior. And from that, we can begin to understand why Liberals believe what they do.

Here’s how it works in the real world. Jack and Mary are going to have a baby. They’re reading lots of books and articles that extol the benefits of Liberal parenting, and they’re really hooked. These articles discourage spanking for misbehavior; they endorse self-esteem building over correction, equality of personhood, opinion over truth, and “helicopter parenting” to protect their child from ANY harm. Jack and Mary don’t know about r-K Theory, but they are convinced if anyone loves their child, this is the way they should parent. It just feels right because they too grew up in a bountiful culture where life was easy and hardships were few.

So little Billy is born and raised in an ultra-liberal, ultra-safe environment. He is seldom told “no.” He is allowed to eat (or not eat) whatever he wishes because every opinion is valid. If his parents threaten punishment, they seldom follow through. Self-control is not encouraged. Delayed gratification is foreign to him. Other than a kitty scratch, he never suffers personal injury. Billy never gets to see a firecracker, a skateboard, or a trampoline, and his training wheels stay on for years. In their house there is a ban on little plastic army men and water guns because they inspire competition and violence. Some childhood sports are acceptable as long as the team focuses on self-esteem, not skills, and Mom and Dad are afraid that Billy might suffer failure in school, so they help with homework a little too much.

In this environment, Billy grows up in a world of plentiful resources AND he has very few experiences from which his *amygdala* could teach him how to cope in real life difficult situations. Therefore, his *amygdala* is smaller and less developed.

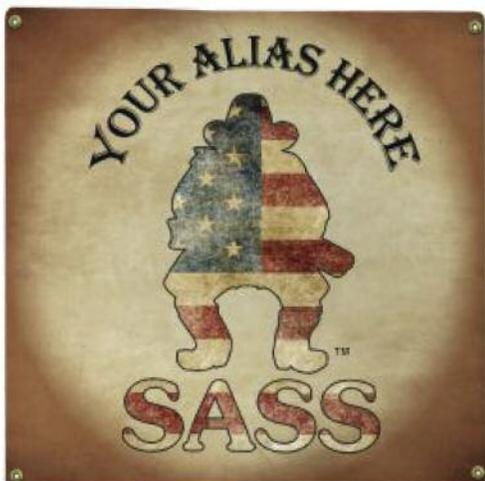
So now Billy is in college and we find him whimpering in his safe space because he never learned how to cope with hardship, and I mean ANY hardship, like something as trivial as losing a soccer match, because some tender-footed, non-competitive rabbit parent felt it was mean to keep score and thought everyone deserved a trophy.

Now kids like these are growing up to enforce rules that protect people’s feelings and distribute everything fairly while they vote for Socialists. They also restrict freedom and speech and your right to defend yourself because they can’t compete. And if you protest with real data and facts and how tough life can be, these precious “snowflakes” will be emotionally “triggered” while they have a cry-in on the news.

There’s more to it, of course, but that’s basically how our culture of plentiful resources has led to biological changes in our brains, which has led to r-selected behavior and psychology, which explains why Liberals think and act the way they do. If you’re still not sure about this r-K thing, more explanation on specific political issues will follow next time. 🐇

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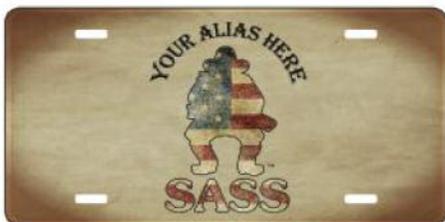
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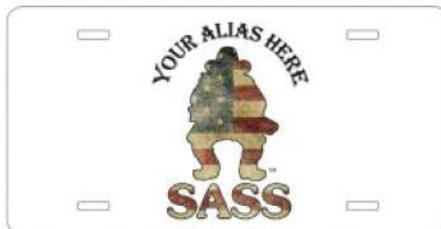


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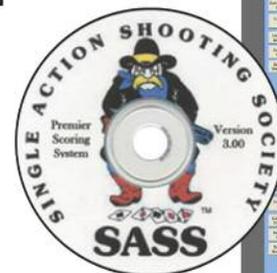
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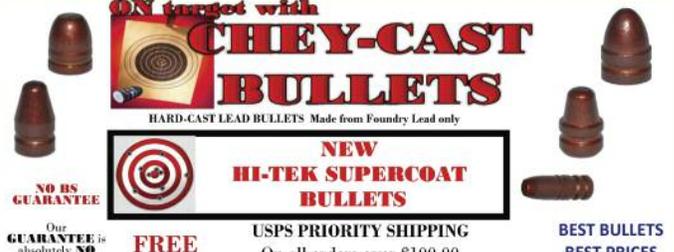


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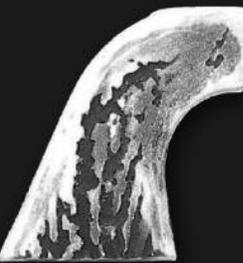


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Each issue of *The Cowboy Chronicle* has a readership of more than 75,000 and contains articles on Cowboy Action Shooting™ and the laws that affect it, as well as information on SASS® monthly and annual events.

Of immediate interest are our upcoming December (digital), January (printed digital) and February (digital) issues. Advertising deadline for December and January is November 10. Advertising deadline for February is January 12. Visit www.sassnet.com/chronicle for more information.

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