

TWELF

SEPTEMBER | 2017



Cowboy CHRONICLE



Inside...

**THE FORT GOES BLACK
THE TEXAS BLACK POWDER
CHAMPIONSHIP AND SENIOR GAME**
By Texas Flower

**THE GRINCH AND END OF ROAD
IDAHO'S SNAKE RIVER WESTERN
SHOOTING SOCIETY HOSTS ITS
SIXTEENTH ANNUAL MATCH**
By Ranger Six

**BATTLE OF ROGUE RIVER
OREGON'S MERLIN MARAUDERS HOSTS
ITS TWELFTH ANNUAL MATCH**
By Colonel Richard Dodge

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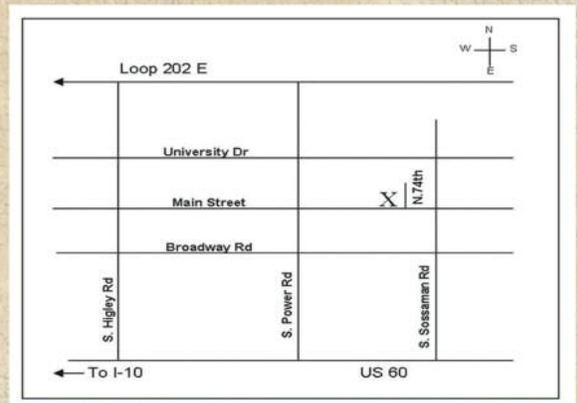
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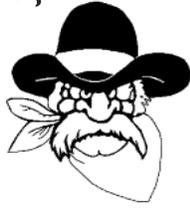
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A grim receptionist welcomed participants to Utah War, the Utah State SASS® Championship, this past June 1-3. The match was held near the site of Utah ghost town "Big Salty."




Skippy, SASS #7361

From The Editor

SKIPPY'S SOAPBOX

By Skippy, SASS #7361

Wild Bunch "Fake News"

I attended a local Wild Bunch match recently and had a great time, as I always do, despite the heat of the Texas summer. I can't in all honesty say I'm an outstanding (or even very good) Wild Bunch shooter, but I love the concept and love the opportunity to shoot some firearms that would otherwise lay dormant, such as my 1911 .45 ACP auto and my replica 1897 trench gun. Which brings me to this header's subject, the misinformation I sometimes overhear folks bandying about.

At one match I was at, a shooter accidentally ejected a live round from his shotgun, then replaced it with a round from his body and shot the target. There followed some discussion as to whether the downed target counted, since in Wild Bunch you "can't make up shotgun targets." The rule, of course, applies to rounds you've actually *fired* at a target but failed to knock down. It does not apply to ejected live rounds. In this case, cooler heads—and shooters who were hep to the rules—prevailed and the hit counted.

Another time, I heard one participant commenting to another that bayonet lugs are not allowed. This is an incorrect statement on its face, since model 97 and model 12 trench guns *are* allowed and a bayonet lug is part of their configuration. What is *not* allowed is bayonets attached to those lugs.

Finally, I've heard a shooter explain to another that, even though there were 1866 Winchesters and 1860 Henrys present at this match, at an *official* Wild

Bunch match only 1873 and later rifles are allowed. And this is also untrue. *The SASS® Wild Bunch Handbook* states explicitly, rifles with external hammers and tubular magazines manufactured from 1860 to 1899 (or their replicas) are legal.

So what's the point of this lengthy ramble? Be wary of information you hear casually spoken at a Wild Bunch match or anywhere else. It's always safest to

look the facts up for yourself. And in the case of Wild Bunch Action Shooting™ and Cowboy Action Shooting™ your resource for the facts lies in the various SASS handbooks, free for all at www.sassnet.com.

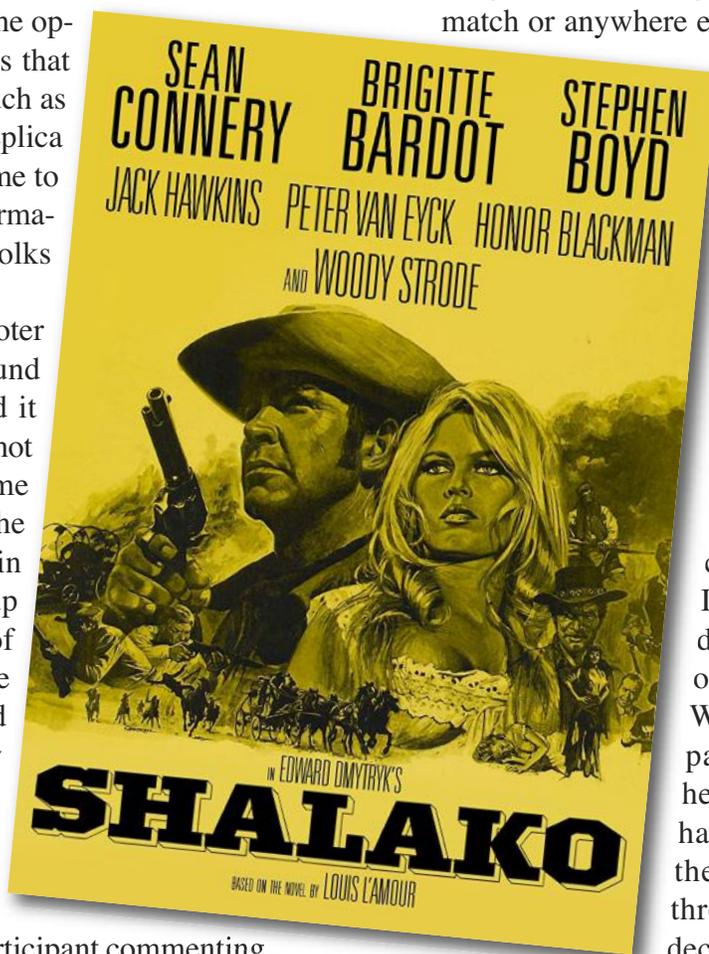
Brigitte Bardot

An interesting change of subject, huh? I recently watched a documentary on the life of Brigitte Bardot. While I've never been a particular fan of her or her movies, I learned she has been in trouble with the French government through the past couple of decades and has even been

finned for "preaching hatred" because she wrote several commentaries petitioning France to limit the immigration of Muslims. Too bad France didn't listen, in light of what's going on there these days.

In any case, I'm still not a fan of her movies but I have gained some respect for her. She has in fact made at least two Western movies, for those of you interested. One is

(Continued on next page)



Guest Editorial

Dear Valued SASS Members,

After careful consideration and evaluation of the countless requests and movements regarding scoring methods for Cowboy Action Shooting™, the SASS Board of Directors do hereby decree that effective immediately, all SASS Sanctioned Cowboy Action Shooting™ matches are to be scored using Total Time. A direct email has been sent to all Club contacts, SASS Sanctioned match directors, and event organizers giving notice to this effect and requiring immediate changes to match planning to accommodate the change. SASS Sanctioned matches will no longer be allowed to use any other scoring method.

We feel strongly that this monumental change will garner great support and appreciation from you—our valued members. 🐾



*Misty Moonshine,
SASS #83232*

Skinny's Soapbox . . .

(Continued from previous page)

Viva Maria! costarring Jeanne Moreau, a farcical look at the West. The other is *Shalako*, costarring Sean Connery. I had occasion to watch the latter recently, and while it's nothing special, it is an enjoyable couple of hours distraction of "cowboys *versus* bad cowboys *versus* Indians

versus bad Indians." It's based on a Louis L'Amour novel and Connery does a respectable American accent, playing an Army scout. Bardot plays a foreign countess, so doesn't have to do anything with her accent.

—Skinny 🐾

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

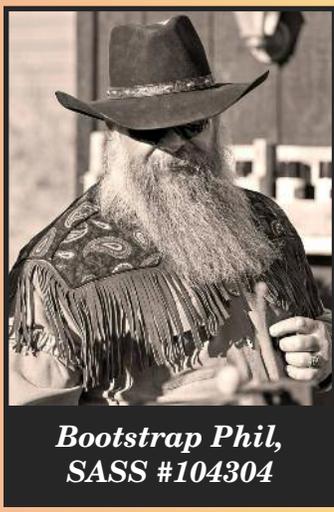
Usually, six photos are sufficient for an article, especially for the printed version, but we will consider using more for a "big" event, if provided.

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.



*Bootstrap Phil,
SASS #104304*

UTAH WAR

2017 SASS UTAH STATE Championship

Ghost Towns of the West



By Bootstrap Phil, SASS #104304

Born of the deserts of the West. Made by the trials of the Civil War. A guerilla fighter known as “Bloody” Boot Tipshaw was commissioned as Territorial Marshal of the town of Big Salty in Sep-

tember 1869. Little did the townsfolk know, Big Salty was about to become a living Ghost Town... but not from years of abandonment or the harsh territory swallowing it up. No, it would be

decisive action from the Marshal’s gun that would make Big Salty an instant “Ghost Town of the West.” The murderers, thieves, rustlers, cheats, and men of low character who dared to cross paths with Tip-



Getting ready for Opening Ceremonies.



Posse 2 at the Cemetery.

UTAH WAR • 2017 SASS Utah State Championship . . .

shaw were about to become “eternal residents” of Big Salty.

More than a hundred cowboys and cowgirls descended on Big Salty June 1-3 this year to do battle with Ol’ “Bloody” Boot Tipshaw, helping him clean up the streets of our little Ghost Town. They were also looking to make names for themselves as buckle winners in their categories for the Utah 2017 State Championship. As you may have surmised, this year’s theme was, “How Big Salty Became a Ghost Town.” Although our shooters didn’t arrive in wagons of old, but in RVs of new, they still circled them up on the outskirts of the range and readied themselves for three days of genuine cowboy competition.

But to properly tell this story we must go back in time like Marty McFly in *Back to the Future*. Prior to gunhands arriving at Big Salty, the stage had to be set and a revitalization had to be completed for the coveted State Championship. Here in Utah, multiple clubs contribute to the execution of a match this size. We had Utah War, Utah Territory Gunslingers, Wasatch Summit Regulators, and Cowboys of Utah pool their resources and people to prepare. Wahsatch Desperadoes gave assistance as well. To no one’s surprise, the character of these Cowboys and Cowgirls came shining through as the range was worked upon for weeks prior to the shoot. These cowpokes proved they were just as handy

with weed whackers, power tools, paint brushes, and sweat as they are with smoke-wagons!

So the stage was set, prep work was complete and Big Salty was ready! Early the first morning a few lonely Cowboys and Cowgirls were being driven through side matches by the Range Master Col. Butch Simons (SASS #77845). He steadily pushed them along like a muleskinner so they could be ready to man the stages later when the main participants arrived.

Our side matches this year included Pocket Pistol, Derringer, Speed Rifle, Speed Pistol, Speed Shotgun, Long Range Rifle, Long Range Pistol and, of course, both .22 Revolver and Rifle. Also in-

(Continued on page 8)

UTAH WAR • 2017 SASS Utah State Championship . . .

(Continued from page 7)

cluded were Plainsman stages. At 12:30 that day, competitors started to come through and leave their mark on the side match score sheets. The bays were kept open into the evening so all shooters had a maximum amount of time to compete. Once the side matches were over, you could see cowpokes gathering at their “circled wagons” and could overhear the joyful noise of folks visiting with friends they hadn’t seen for a bit.

Additionally, this day would see the range filled with smoke, as the Plainsman Match was started at 5:00 p.m. Unfortunately, the weather didn’t cooperate and they got rained out going into the sec-

ond stage, so we found time the next day for these “smoke-and-thunder-bringers” to finish up.

June second brought the official Opening Ceremonies. Shooters gathered under the pavilion and as you looked at the crowd you could not help but be moved by the amount of red shirts you saw. This was no ordinary R.E.D. (Remember Everyone Deployed) Shirt Friday, this was a R.E.D. Shirt Friday just four days after Memorial Day. And true to our community’s nature, a flood of remembrance and somberness was symbolized by the red; and the thankfulness and respect for our military shined through brightly

that day. To make it even better, the Utah Military History Group was there to post the colors in WWI style. The color guard was authentically dressed to the tee, accurate to WWI Army and Marine uniforms. As I scanned the crowd, I could see the recognition and sideways smiles of some Wild Bunch folks who were taking in the uniforms. But all stood quiet, with hats removed as the color guard marched to their position. The quietness was pierced like a shot on an Evil Roy target with, “Present Arms!” Then the air was filled with the words we know so well, “I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of Amer-



Social Hour at the Banquet—Desert Star Theatres, Murray, Utah.



Championship Belt Buckle.



*Overall Utah Lady Champion Lily Long,
Overall Lady Champion (Idaho) Belinda Bell,
Overall Utah and Overall Man Champion Nick Nitro.*

UTAH WAR • 2017 SASS Utah State Championship . . .

ica.” Complete in their duty, the color guard moved off the field and all the competitors quickly made their way to their designated bays. Six posses moved towards the town of Big Salty to do battle with “Bloody” Boot Tipshaw against both the evil doers seeking to ruin Big Salty and against the dreaded timer!

As the six stages of main match activities for Day One started to come to an end, folks once again gathered under the pavilion. As I walked around, I repeatedly heard, “So, how did ya do?” Cowboys replied with varying answers such as, “Well, at least I was clean with a P,” or, “Clean till the last stage,” or, “Did pretty good!” Also many of the cowpokes expressed their joy with the Shooters Handbook, expressing delight in the stories, drawings, and how the SASS rules were listed for easy reference. All in all, folks loved the Shooters Handbook, which was designed by Maisie Grace (SASS #104310) and stories completed by myself (Bootstrap). Maisie Grace may have set a new standard in shoot books and their layouts, but I am biased since she is my Dale Evans.

In it all, as they told their war stories from the day, what was the same was folks genuinely enjoying themselves and partaking in the day’s events with passion and laughter. Next on the card that day was a catered lunch followed by a Shotgun Challenge super-stage. Now, no Cowboy event is complete without food. So in that spirit, our Match Director Jubal Sackett (SASS #22531) ensured the schedule had an evening potluck and ice cream social. We went into the evening with fellowship. And

as chow commenced, the table was stripped bare of food with Cowboys left looking to see if there was a bean left in any crock pot. The potluck table looked like a plague of locusts hit it... even the salad was gone!

But now that all these cowpokes were fed, Col. Butch and Wasatch Shep (SASS #45324) handed out Side Match awards. And what is a Cowboy event without Door Prizes? This year’s sponsors were abundantly generous and supportive of our Utah Cowboys and Cowgirls. Maisie Grace led the drawing with the help of a young Cowgirl, Fast Draw Fawn (SASS #94157) and a Buckarett, Tilley Tumbleweed (SASS #105759). Once door prizes were over, folks started digging into the ice cream and the fellowship and conversation continued into the evening.

Well Day Three Was upon us. What would the day
(Continued on page 10)



*Marshal John Morrison on times Cowgirl, Fast Draw Fawn.
Photo by Lloyd Shell*

UTAH WAR • 2017 SASS Utah State Championship . . .

(Continued from page 9)



bring? Fast guns? Smooth runs? Train wrecks? Only time would tell what the day would hold. Gun carts were moving, folks were staging them at their starting bays and getting ready for six more



stages. The day was to hold true to the desert in the Utah Bowl and temperatures began to rise. But these Cowboys and Cowgirls moved through the stages, pushing through the town of Big Salty and following the adventures of “Bloody” Boot Tipshaw.

The range was jumping with a flurry of activity. Rusty Razor (SASS #90266), a competitor himself, was moving back and forth between bays to repair targets that went down. As the Target Officer, he was not only shooting, he was turning wrenches. Seems these competitors were determined to clean the streets of Big Salty and they engaged their targets with the fury of Wyatt Earp collecting red sashes from the Cowboys Gang. No worries though, Rusty Razor was able to complete his extra tasks and still turn out 17- and 18-

second stages.

As the day went on and the sun continued to heat things up on the range of Big Salty, shooters were heating up the competition. As I walked by posses still hammering targets, I could hear rifles rattling off like a Browning M1917 belt-fed, water-cooled, heavy machine gun. Ok, maybe that’s a bit of an exaggeration... but shooters like Brer Rabbit (SASS #54820), Nick Nitro (SASS #94155), and JT Wild (SASS #20399) were definitely running their rifles. Poses began to finish up and head to the shade of the pavilion and the BBQ lunch waiting there. As folks sat and enjoyed being off their feet and getting some good grub, they once again were telling their tales of the day’s shooting. The theme emerged that cowpokes were having good runs and were happy



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with how they shot. But above all, the amount of laughter, smiles and pure enjoyment was quite simply amazing. This sport offers so much more than a door prize or a championship buckle.

Next up would be the Man on Man challenge, and with the vast amount of top-notch shooters here at Big Salty it proved to be truly exciting. After that, folks began to head out and get ready for the banquet. They were emerging from their “metal wagons” in their finest duds: derby hats, vests, gowns, and I thought I saw one of the Three Amigos wandering around somewhere. Unique and beautiful clothing came out of storage for the banquet, costume contest and awards ceremony. Now, personally, this is one of my favorite times as folks come “dressed to the nines” and spirits flow! (Yes, Utah does have spirits, contrary to widespread belief.)

And with this, the conversation got even more energized and expressive. I love hearing folks talk of their adventures from the last few days and speculate on how they did. Never do you hear an ill word spoken. Never do you *not* see a smile. And the room is filled with laughter and the sky is not cloudy all day... could one ask for anything else in a social hour?

Col. Butch Simons, Wasatch Shep, and Brer Rabbit could be seen working at the foot of the stage to get all the awards in order and were giving one final look over to the winners list. Jubal Sackett was working the room like he was running for office, dressed to the hilt like one of the Three Amigos (not really, but dang close)! Must be who I saw earlier? Sackett gave a warm welcome and a breakdown of the night's events, then we made our way to the chow

(Continued on page 12)

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(Continued from page 11)



line, and as you all well know, make way for hungry Cowboys and Cowgirls!

First up in the chute was the Costume Awards, then the main match awards. Sackett started alphabetically with the B-Western winners, then category after category of top shooters of the night came up to get their buckles and the recognition they so richly deserved. Even though this was a state shoot and only Utah folks could be Utah champions, those out-of-town folks who took first place still received one of the best looking buckles out there! Well, I am biased, but they're amazing! Even the lady overall shooter Belinda Bell (SASS #42966), who was from out of state, was recognized and received tangible evidence of her shooting capabilities. Well, as the night ended, Sackett finished the ceremonies right on time and said his departing words. Some folks started to exit and other folks formed pockets here and there, not wanting to give up the night.

Another Major Shoot had ended. We were all stepping out of a time that was rich in tradition and honor, and stepping back into the "real world." So, with a hug here, a handshake there and an occasional exchange of contact information between folks gaining a new friendship, the night was ending. Ah, but alas! This is the season of many "time jumps to the past." In less than a week, a fair portion would be saying "Howdy!" again in Grand Junction at Colorado's State Championship. No, the trail is never lonely, as you often cross paths



with so many pardners during this season of "cattle drives" from range to range.

Utah's State Championship rotates between three clubs every two years and Big Salty will be on hiatus for a bit. Next year the shoot will be held in Price, Utah with the Castle Gate Posse. So, if you always thought about Utah but just never got out here, I highly recommend you come on out and give us a visit. The Cowboys and Cowgirls





ported the Utah State Championship! Every one of you brought something special to this match. And I cannot close without mentioning our Posse Marshals... their

**UTAH WAR •
2017 SASS Utah State
Championship . . .**

who reside here in Utah are nothing short of amazing and they are the epitome of the “Spirit of the Game” that Cowboy Action Shooting™ embraces. So, “Bloody” Boot Tipshaw’s story may be over, but look out to the horizon to see what our neighbors have in store for you next year. I, for one, look forward to what new adventures lie in Southern Utah.

Our club wants to thank all the shooters who came out and sup-



experience, knowledge, character and above all their willingness to serve, kept with the finest traditions and they were each treasured greatly for their leadership. Without them, our event would not have run nearly as smooth as it did. Until next time, “Keep your saddle oiled and your gun greased.”

Please visit <https://www.utahwar.com/utah-2017-state-championship> for a complete list of match scores. 🤠

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Annual Reports

THE FORT GOES BLACK

Texas State Black Powder Championship and Senior Games 2017

By Texas Flower, SASS #43753 Life Regulator

Photos by Texas Flower



Texas Flower, SASS
Life/Regulator #43753

Yes, Historic Fort Parker was in a “black out” with all the smoke hanging over it May 20 and 21 2017, but there was good reason! The Old Fort Parker Patriots hosted the 2017 SASS Texas State Black Powder Championship in conjunction with the 2017 Senior Games match. The Senior Games is a special match for older Cowboys and Cowgirls—aka the “Yusta Be’s,” who must be 60 and older. But, the “Wanta Be’s,” 59 and younger, are also invited to come and play. The Black Powder, the Yusta Be, and the Wanta Be shooters were all scored in separate divisions.

Fort Parker is located near Mexia, Texas and is a reproduction of the original fort built by the Parker family for protection from the Comanche. At a young age, Cynthia Ann Parker was taken from the fort when the Comanche attacked in 1836. She later married tribal leader Peta Nocona and had three children. Her son, Quanah Parker, was the last free Comanche Chief. Shooting at the Fort was truly like stepping back in time at an amazing historical site.

On Friday afternoon, before the main match, Lonesome Lefty (SASS #68693) and Buffalo Brewster (SASS #79451) assisted shoot-



Match Directors Bent Barrel Betty and Kow Katcher.

ers with some long range shooting from the Fort Parker Blockhouse. Cowboys and Cowgirls climbed the stairs to the top of the blockhouse to shoot their “big” guns out the very “small” windows. The comments were, “it is a bit dark in the blockhouse with those small windows,” and “the targets were way out there.”

But shooting from the blockhouse is a favorite with many of the shooters.

The main match got underway on Saturday morning with the first five stages. It was a very still day with no wind. All that black powder smoke just hung over the stages. At times, no one could see the targets! While the Cowboys and Cowgirls



First Place Man
Shooting Costume Winner
Col. MacKenzie (SASS #90000).



The Fort Goes Black . . .

were shooting, costume judges walked the range searching for Best Man and Lady shooting costumes.

After the main match on Saturday or Sunday, depending on your posse, everyone shot a posse stage. They had to break a 4"x4" board. But before they could start shooting, a little fun was added. Two posse members had to break a balloon with rocks and a slingshot!

Wild Bunch, Plainsman, and side matches were held on Saturday afternoon. More smoke hung over the Fort! Some of the side matches were very unique. Shooters were challenged to hit a golf ball or a baseball hanging from a rope and again while it was still swinging for points.

Sunday morning dawned cool and a bit windy. Not too much smoke could hang on this second day of the match. We could see the targets!

After lunch on Sunday, everyone gathered in the Fort's Visitors Center for awards and great door prizes! Side match, Costume, Black Powder, and Senior Game awards were presented to the winners. Artie Fly (SASS #25397) of Major Photogra-
(Continued on page 16)



First Place Lady
Shooting Costume Winner
Agarita Annie (SASS #88620).



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Overall Wanta Be Winners
Texita Draw (SASS #77940) and Missouri Mae (SASS #80828); and Overall Yusta Be Winners Gunslinger (SASS #3335) and Ima QuikShot (SASS #87113).



Posse Shoot Winners,
Posse 4.



Artie Fly presents Sarah Parker with portrait of her dressed as ancestor Cynthia Ann Parker.

The Fort Goes Black . . .

(Continued from page 15)

phy made a special presentation to Sarah McReynolds, Fort Parker Director. It was a portrait of her dressed as Cynthia Ann Parker. Many of us had seen Sarah dressed in this Indian costume and the portrait Artie presented to her was absolutely amazing!

As always, the Old Fort Parker Patriots and match directors Bent Barrel Betty (SASS #33237) and Kow Katcher (SASS #53134) did a fantastic job of conducting the SASS Texas State Black Powder



Championship and the 2017 Senior Games! Visit <http://oldfortparkerpatriots.weebly.com/scores.html> for a complete list of winners.

After lots of pictures, hugs, and good-bys, it was time to head home to many destinations in Texas and several other states as well. What a fun weekend shooting with friends in a unique place! 🤠

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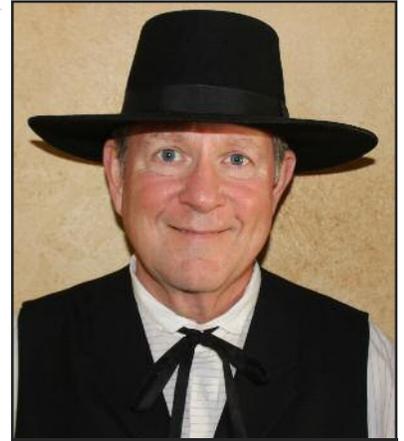
Annual Reports

THE Grinch and End of Road

By Ranger Six, SASS #94237

This past Memorial Day weekend, the Snake River Western Shooting Society (SRWSS) hosted its Sixteenth Annual End of Road Match. The range is located a little north of Twin Falls, Idaho, at the Jerome County Rod & Gun Club. Situated within a collapsed volcano dome, the rim provides the back drop for most of the range. Crushed volcanic black rock serves as the road surface and contrasts nicely with the green of the sage that surrounds the range.

Upon arriving for the shoot, the participants were greeted with an array of Christmas decorations covering the stage fronts, cook shed, dinning area, and registration building. It was soon revealed the match theme was “The 12 Bays Of Grinchmas.” The Shooters Handbook explained, “Mr. Grinch, disguised as an ordinary cowboy, rode into town on a crooked horse thinking to himself, ‘You can make a haul. No one will be suspicious. After all, it’s



*Ranger Six,
SASS #94237*



RVs at the range parked in an old volcano.



*Idaho Bad Company mentors
Buckaroo Goldrush.*

The Grinch and End of Road . . .

not Christmas! It's the end of May!' Little did he know it was End of Road."

On Friday, the four-stage morning warm up match took place. Side matches included speed rifle, pistol, and shotgun, which were scheduled for the afternoon, along with the second warm up match of the day. Early afternoon rain showers delayed the shooting for a couple of hours, but then the sun came out and the shooting resumed.

Saturday started with the usual safety meeting and time was also spent reflecting on the meaning of the Memorial Day holiday. Many paused to remember fallen comrades-in-arms. Once the announcements were completed, it was time to start shooting. Four posses were formed from the 67

shooters, including one Junior Boy and four Buckaroos. With the sound of gravel crunching under boots and the wheels of gun carts, each posse headed off to start its first stage.

The bays were decorated with all sorts of Christmas items, such as tinsel, tree ornaments, and Christmas stockings. Each of the 12 bays has a semi-permanent stage front. Bay 3 is the Rattlesnake Mine. In order to get from the loading table to the shooting line, the shooter must travel through a maze of head high sagebrush. Bay 8 is the Saw Mill. Shooting positions are separated by a large saw blade. The Sheriff's Office is bay 9 with a prison cell. The unloading table is fashioned from a prisoner transport wagon. Several fronts are based on buildings, such as a general store, hotel, bank, barbershop, and cafe. Of course, one bay is the Boot Hill

Cemetery. The first EOR was held on six bays. In 2008 the range was expanded to 12 bays where club members built all the fronts and props. Twenty life memberships for \$200.00 were offered to help offset the cost of improvements.

Scenario introductions were based around the 12 bays of Grinchmas, each starting with "On the first (or second or third) bay of Grinchmas the Ole Grinch stole from me...." Stolen things included a high speed, short stroked, spring lightened, engraved, case hardened, lever action, competition rifle. Another was a high speed, low drag, mag-wheeled, custom painted, chrome trimmed, air conditioned gun cart. Of course the Grinch stole a lightweight, quick opening, self-aiming, shell swallowing, large beaded, funnel shaped, short barreled double shotgun. The list went on for nine

(Continued on page 20)



Bootless Bob isn't distracted by all the Christmas ornaments as he shucks his double.



The rim of the lava dome serves as the background for all the shooting bays.

The Grinch and End of Road . . .

(Continued from page 19)

more stolen goodies. Each starting line was based on an observation of the Grinch. “Your heart is full of unwashed socks!” “Mr. Grinch, you have termites in your smile.” “You’re as cuddly as a cactus, Mr. Grinch.”

The scenarios were action packed. Two had movement from the starting position to a second location, but all the others had three positions from which to shoot. Along with side-to-side movement, three scenarios called for movement downrange. You didn’t find any stand and deliver at this End of Road.

In early evening, thoughts turned from shooting to eating. Folks started showing up at the dining hall to socialize and check out the smells coming from the cook shed. A steak and chicken BBQ was served with all the trimmings. A never-ending supply of pan fried mushrooms was available, thanks to the skills of a cowboy cook named Bard Eye (SASS #30526).



Howlin Wolf watches as Sweet Trouble gets ready to exchange the Grinch for her rifle.

Sunday morning saw the beginning of the second half of the main match stages. Again, the sound of lead being slung downrange could be heard from four different bays. Once the last shot was fired, the scores were tallied up and it was time for the Awards Cere-

The Grinch and End of Road . . .

mony. Those folks who placed first, second, or third in their category were presented with a Grinch-style Christmas tree with an ornament bearing the logo of EOR 2017. Awards were also presented to 13 clean shooters, as well as the side match and warm up winners. Top Guns received their trophy wrapped as a Christmas gift, complete with ribbons and bows. JT Wild (SASS #28399) took Cowboy Top Gun, while Lady Top Gun was Belinda Belle (SASS #42966). Following the Grinch theme of the shoot, the award presentations were done by the Grinch (Silver Shadow, SASS # 91531) who is a board member and Territorial Governor of SRWSS. He was assisted by Cindy Lou Who (Missy Mable, SASS # 35458) the club president and match director.



The Grinch (Silver Shadow) and Cindy Lou Who (Missy Mable) each display a Grinch-style Category Award.



Idaho White Rider ROs for Harry Trigger.

Along with End of Road, the SRWSS also hosts the SASS Idaho State Championship, Magic In The Valley. This will be the 4th year for hosting this match, and SRWSS has been awarded the State Match for 2018 as well. For complete scores and more information go to their website www.idahocas.com.



Among the Christmas decorations Crazy Ivan runs his rifle as Idaho Bad Company looks on.



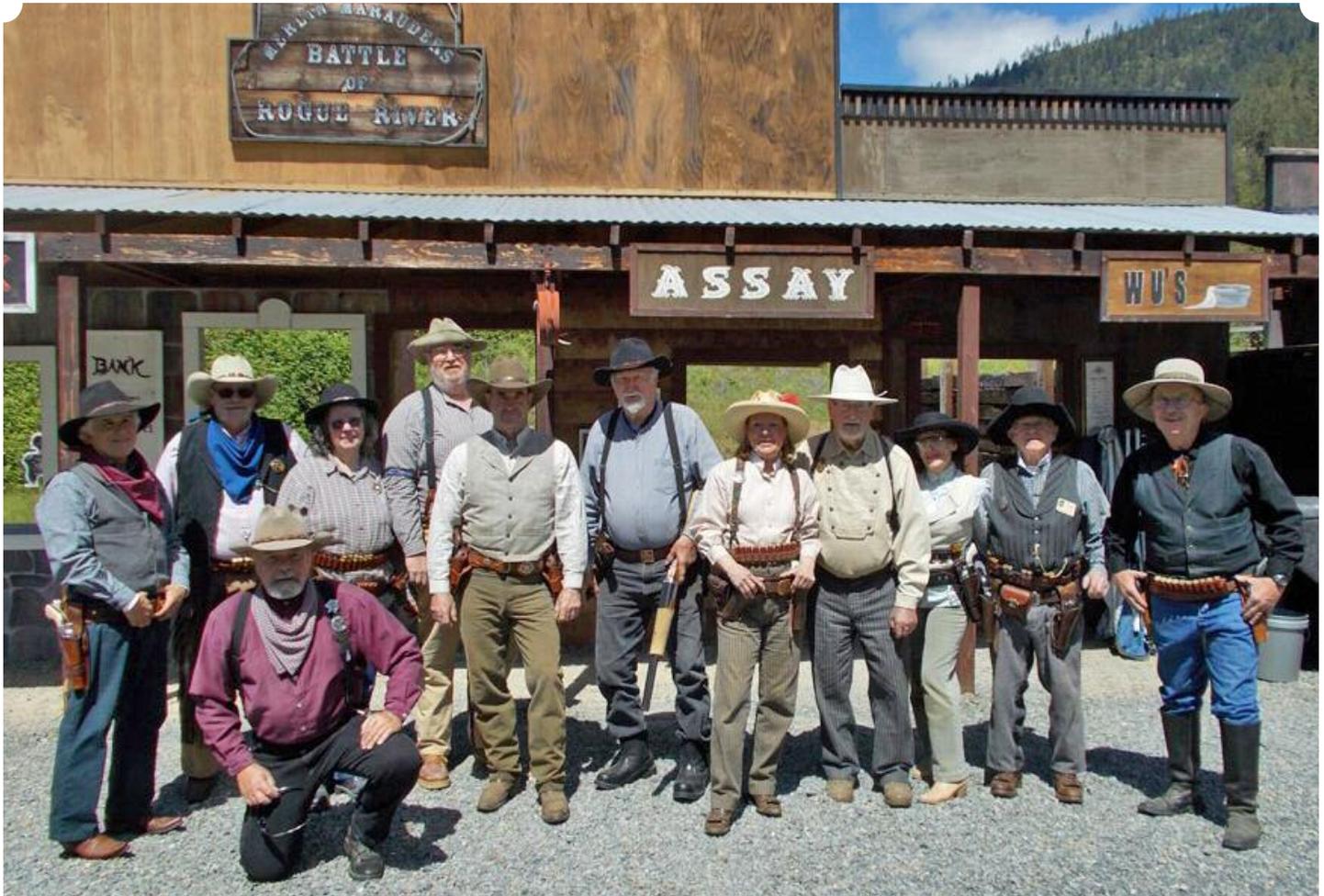
No Christmas trees, but lots of sage background for Ivy Wild (shooting) and Howlin Wolf.

Annual Reports

BATTLE OF ROGUE RIVER

~ May 19-21 2017 ~

By Sweetwater Jack, SASS #28885 Life



The working posse (stage drivers, match officials, and scorekeepers).

For the twelfth year in a row, Southern Oregon's Merlin Marauders have fought (and, I guess, won) the Annual "Battle of Rogue River," drawing in SASS® Cowboy Action Shooters™ from Oregon, Washington, California, Utah, Hawaii, and Nevada. **Hawaii?** Yes, even the Aloha State! The Marauders always put on a fun weekend and always have a theme for their annual match. This year, the theme was **Great Western Comedies from the Big Screen**. We wanted a true classic to

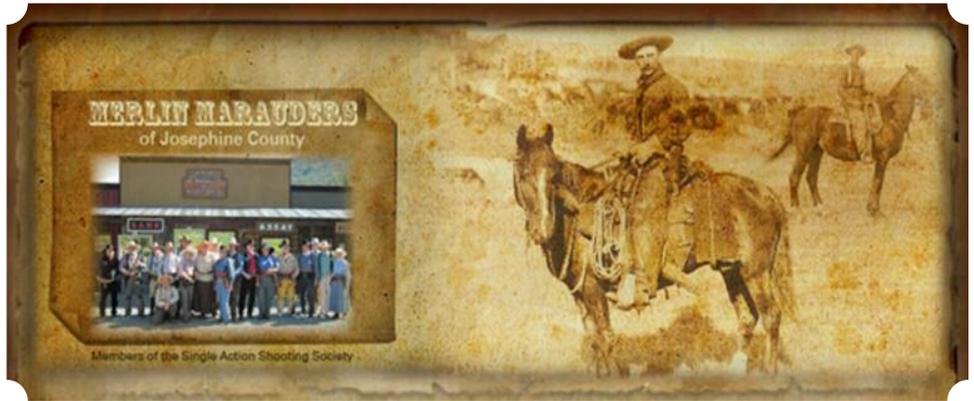
use as our keystone movie, and the instant and unanimous film of choice was *Blazing Saddles*. Who can forget that amazing campfire scene with all those cowboys hunkered down around a hot campfire, cooking cans of beans! You could almost smell the smoke from that mesquite fire, the aroma of leather chaps and saddles and other horse tack, the smell of the beans cooking over that open fire! Olfactory heaven!

Registration and vendor setup started on Thursday. As folks arrived and signed in, they were given their



Battle of Rogue River ...

shooters packets, which included their welcome and instruction booklet and goody bags, as well as their engraved shooter badges depicting that famous campfire scene. This year, they got a little something extra. Included with each shooters package was a small can of good old Van Camp's PORK 'N' BEANS.

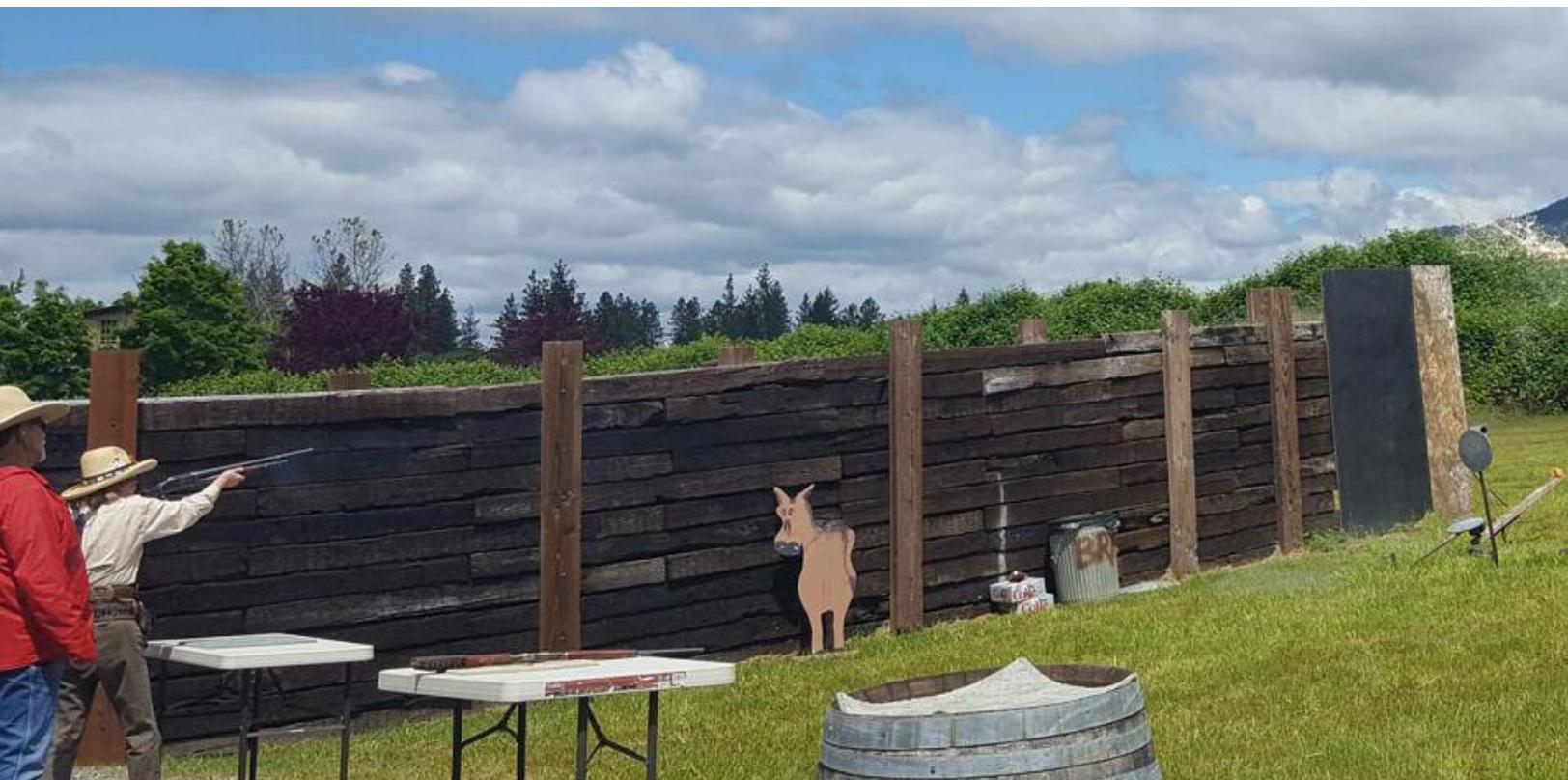


Friday saw the continuation of check-in and a mess of side matches, from speed matches through long range and "Plainsman." Main Match stages were shot Saturday and Sunday. Was there a Wild Bunch Match, you ask? Yep! We shot 'er on Saturday after the main stages.

There was something to do for the whole family. Bobbin' Along Daisy (SASS #61452) and her "Costume Mavens" created costume contests ranging from beautiful society ladies, as well as their "Saloon gal" sisters (ACS) and working cowboys to military gentlemen. ("ACS" = Always Capital-

ize "Saloon.")

Britt Ponsett (SASS #85576) dug once more into his vast knowledge of Old West facts and figures, and created another Trivia Contest, open to all. Top prize for the Trivia Contest was a new copy of *Idiots Guide to the Old West*, plus two copies of the Ellsworth T. Kincaid (Steve Shaw) novel, *Beyond the Rio Grande* going to the two runners-up. This book was chosen because Steve included our former Marauder Territorial Governor, Sweetwater Jack (SASS #28885) in his book. (Sweetwater was cast as the heroine's horse, *(Continued on page 24)*)



Molly b'Dam (SASS #7861) busts a "flyer" (far right).



Posse 3 with our lone Buckaroo (Cool Duckie Fish, SASS #102791 – in serape) and Lady Young Gun (Alittle Two Wild, SASS #72348 – in her daddy’s arms!)

Battle of Rogue River . . .

(Continued from page 23)

which unfortunately was killed by a bayonet during battle.)

The Saturday night buffet was excellent as usual, catered by the local Grants Pass Black Forest Restaurant, and consisted of ham (sliced thick, guys) and some great BBQ chicken, as well as the usual sides

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Battle of Rogue River

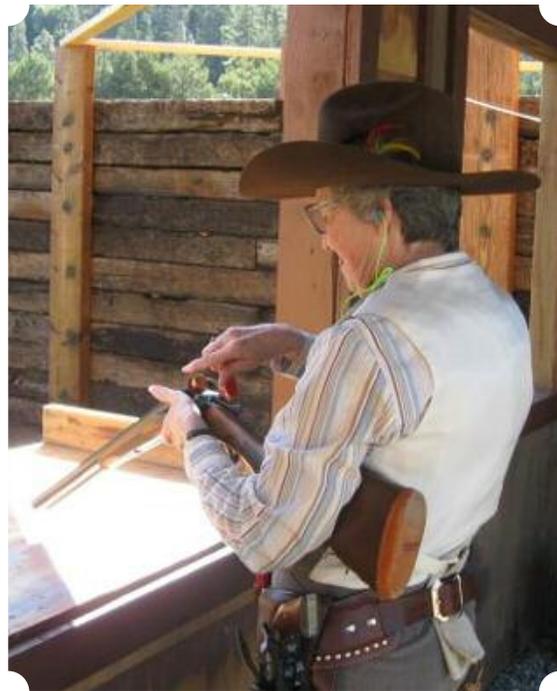
and choice of several kinds of pie and vanilla ice cream to top it off. The Black Forest also catered both Saturday and Sunday lunches. Anyone going hungry at this match had only their selves to blame. The food was excellent and plentiful, which prompts a big thanks to the folks at the Black Forest!

Goodies? Of course! Our main match sponsor, Cabelas, was no slouch in providing a batch of shooter prizes. Everyone checking in got a “little something extra,” namely shot bags with this year’s logo (imprinted and donated by New Hope Kid, SASS #100756)) in their package.

The ladies of the Merlin Marauders, ever handy with needle and thread, (and known *officially* as the “Stitch and Bitch Society”) have begun a tradition of creating a quilt to be given away during the

Sunday awards ceremony. This year’s quilt has a beautiful patriotic theme in red, white, and blue, and is signed on the back by all of the members of the Merlin Marauders, as well as all registered shooters. It was won by Lottie Dinero (SASS #104106).

As usual, the awards ceremony was the scene of the annual Merlin Marauders Battle of Rogue River Gun Give Away Drawing. This year the prize was an EMF/Pietta “Alchemista Revolver with the 1860 (long) grip frame, donated by Gaye Abandon (SASS #44556) and her



husband, Sweetwater Jack. It is rather rare in that it was produced with an UN-fluted cylinder in .45LC. The revolver drawing was open to all competitors, regardless

(Continued on page 26)



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Battle of Rogue River . . .

(Continued from page 25)

of home state. It was won by Rawhide Rhoades (SASS #94029) from Washington State. Another great shooter prize was a hand-made, Damascus-steel-bladed belt knife crafted, as he does every year, by Bear Bone Smith (SASS #10719).

One other firearm, also donated by Gaye and Sweetwater, was raffled off at \$20 per ticket. This was a Pre-Ban (1985) Colt Sporter II, with matching Colt 3X Scope and mount, eight magazines, 700 rounds of NATO ammo, and a set of loading dies. This donation was made to attract more of our local shooters who are not currently involved in Cowboy Action Shooting™ for them to see what the sport is all about and was open to anyone who could legally own an AR-15-style rifle. The winner (putting in *one* ticket) was a Cowboy, however. Riverdog (SASS #88745) came out of his chair like a Fourth

of July skyrocket when his name was called! It took several days to calm him down. Seems this was the first time he'd ever won any kind of raffle!

Riverdog himself donated a Guided River Trip for two. Our Match Coordinator, Molly b'Dam, who is an artist well-known in the Pacific North West, donated a cowboy painting she made expressly for this match. Another very talented local, "leather artiste" Butch Brass (SASS #70543) created and donated a very cool Wild Bunch rig.

The overall top shooters were Royal Flush (SASS #78333) men and Sandy Charm (SASS #79785) for ladies. Winners of the man-on-man and lady-on-lady shoot-offs were Royal Flush and Dalton's Darlin (SASS #80144). Please visit our website at <http://merlinmaraudercowboys.com/matches> for a complete list of standings. 🤠



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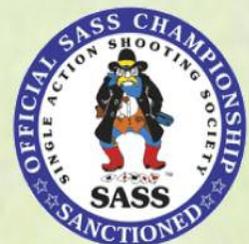
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Club Reports

Meet the N.E.W. Regulators

By Ranger Six, SASS #94237



N.E.W. Regulators Club Badge.

The North East Washington (N.E.W.) Regulators is a Cowboy Action Shooting™ club located in Colville, Washington, about 70 miles north of Spokane and 45 miles south of the Canadian border. Our club badge reflects the mix of members from each side of the border, with flags of both countries displayed.

In the year 2000, folks interested in Cowboy Action Shooting™ began to meet with the idea



Ranger Six,
SASS #94237

of starting a club in the Colville area. Different sites were used to hold matches until it was decided to find a permanent location, and in January 2001 the current site was chosen. Then the process to improve the range began with building berms using bales of straw. Acquiring steel targets was a real drain on the treasury and of course there was the issue of restrooms. Later came concrete walls to separate the shooting bays. Stage fronts were built to create a feeling of the Old West. It took several years to bring the range to its present state, but with the help of NRA grant money and a lot of volunteer time it happened.

Today the range, known as Ricochet Junction, is located on private land leased from a couple who are founding members, Covada (SASS #35980) and Granny Gunsmoke (SASS #35981). Shooting Bay 1 is a Fort with enclosed shooting ports and palisades running along the firing line. Bay 2, the Saloon has a wooden front and is set up for down range scenarios. (One such scenario calls for a down range doorway to be blown open with a shotgun.) Bay 3, the Jail and Gallows, is arranged to provide aerial



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Western ladies at Ricochet Junction.

Meet the N.E.W. Regulators . . .

targets with three trap throwers. Scenarios can be shot from within the jail or from on top of the gallows platform, and some scenarios are shot from the boardwalk that connects the jail and gallows. Two portable shotgun pop-up targets allows things such as soda cans and clay birds to be used. Bay 4 is set up as a storefront and is often used for down range scenarios. This is where our Texas Star lives.

Besides the four shooting bays, Ricochet Junction also boasts a large, barn-like Community Hall. Since the Regulators shoot year round, the Community Hall has two barrel stoves for cold weather use and is supplied with electricity. This allows for lights and hot beverages along with a refrigerator for cold beverages. Modern restroom facilities complement the feeling of well being during matches. A large area for horseless carriages is available and a big field provides space for RV camping.

This past May that field was crowded with the RVs of shooters who came to participate in the 14th annual “Ambush at Ricochet Junction.” The theme was “Old Towns of the West,” with 12 Main Match stages, Side Matches and a three-stage Wild Bunch

(Continued on page 30)



*Dirty Southpaw ROs for Jake The Snake
(SASS #44—yes #44. He has seen and done it all).*



See old friends and meet new ones.

Meet the N.E.W. Regulators . . .

(Continued from page 29)

Match. Registered shooters totaled 51, plus several Waddies and other guests. Cowboys and Cowgirls from Montana, Idaho, Oregon and British Columbia, as well as Washington gathered for the event. Boy Scout Troop 921 of Colville served as Waddies in the role of brass pickers. A tip jar at each bay allowed shooters to show their appreciation for the Scouts' help. Saturday evening a complimentary BBQ dinner was served, preceded by Happy Hour and followed by door prizes and an auction. To promote fun and fellowship, this was an Alibi Match. Along with awards for top shooters by category, complimentary registration for next year's Ambush at Ricochet Junction were presented to Cowgirl Top Gun Shot-Z-Lady (SASS #60903) and Cowboy Top Gun Dirty Southpaw (SASS #102690). Hopefully they will return next year to defend their titles.



RO JEB Stuart (SASS #65654) watches as Crisco (SASS # 3621) powders an aerial target.

February is the month for the annual General Meeting. Regulators and their guests gather for social hour followed by dinner and the meeting. At this time yearly awards are presented. The Top Gun Award is determined by participation as well as match scores from



Posse meeting at the Oriental Saloon.

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*Hoss Face (SASS #17097)
ROs for The De Shoots Kid (SASS #50225).*

Meet the N.E.W. Regulators . . .

the annual and monthly matches. A Spirit of the Game Award is given to someone who has gone above and beyond to promote Cowboy Action Shooting™. A third recognition is the Most Improved Award.

The N.E.W. Regulators promote other activities beyond Cowboy Action Shooting™, which is held the first full weekend of the month. A Wild Bunch Match and NRA Marksman Qualification Program are held on the second weekend of the month. Sometimes it's not just about the shooting. The Regulators also strive to give back to the commu-



Hey Granpa (SASS #60902) shows how to shoot Wild Bunch.

nity with charitable donations, the most recent one a sizable contribution to the Colville Food Bank.

Fall of 2015 found the N.E.W. Regulators redesigning the club website to facilitate communication. The ability to post a monthly newsletter as well as post scores has been invaluable. Links to Facebook as well as contact information and driving directions have brought cowboys a long way since the first wanted poster was tacked to the wall of a sheriff's office. Come visit the N.E.W Regulators at newregulators.com.



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Guns & Gear

DISPATCHES FROM CAMP BAYLOR

Wild Bunch Traditional Category 1911s

What You Can and Can't Do and **Part Two** What You Should and Shouldn't Do to Prep Your 1911 For Wild Bunch

By Captain George Baylor, SASS #24287 Life Regulator



— Colt Series 80 1911A1 —
a good Traditional Category gun out of the box. This one has visible modifications — dovetailed front sight and Wilson “Bullet Proof” Slide Release, checkered mainspring housing. Internal modifications include a crisp, light trigger, Wilson “Bullet Proof” extended ejector, Wilson “Bullet Proof” extractor, and firing pin.



Cimarron 1911 meets Traditional regulations out of the box. This one has a dovetailed front sight, 10-8 rear sight, long match trigger, checkered mainspring housing, Wilson “Bullet Proof” Slide Release, and most of the same internal modifications as the Colt.



Beveled magazine well.

You will get a lot more out of this if you read Part 1 in last month's *Cowboy Chronicle* first. We covered sights, triggers, replacing parts that are prone to breaking with ones that won't, fitting your hand, recoil spring plugs, mag releases, and legal hammers and safeties, among other things. We'll continue where we left off.

Springs

If your recoil spring is not matched to your loads, feeding and ejection malfunctions can occur. Some people shooting Wild Bunch use 18¹/₂-pound recoil springs popularized in IPSC when the power factor was 175 ([Bullet Weight x velocity]/1000) and we shot hot loads for bowling pin matches (making the world safe from evil bowling pins,

an underreported action to save the world in the 1980s. There have been no reports of bowling pins attacking a mall since then). If you do, and it works for you, continue doing it. If you're having problems ranging from ejection problems to excess muzzle flip to difficulty racking the slide quickly, read on.

Stock is 16-pound It was designed to handle 230-grain bullets at 850 ft./sec., a power factor of 195.5. It was also designed to work when the gun was muddy, dirty, and hot, meaning it was somewhat “oversprung” for a clean, well-oiled gun being used heavily. The minimum power factor for Wild Bunch is 150,



Standard “Mil-Spec” ejection port in Colt Series 70 1911A1. This will dent ejected brass. Lowering the ejection port is a legal cure for dented brass.

Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

equal to a 230-grain bullet at 652 ft./sec. Most shooters load above 160 (230 gr. at 696 ft./sec.) just to make sure they pass the chronograph test. (149.9 and below = MDQ) Ammunition velocity varies with temperature and altitude. So, yes, you can put a lighter than stock spring in, but some tuning is in order. To oversimplify, lighter recoil springs will give you less muzzle flip, and lighter mainsprings will make it easier to rack the slide quickly. They need to be “in sync,” though.

Long time 1911 gunsmith and Cowboy Action Shooting™ and WBAS shooter [Wild Bodie Tom](#) tuned my springs to Wild Bunch ammo. He says he gets a bundle of recoil springs and mainsprings and tunes at a range. Balancing the two is a bit of an art. FYI, he settled on 14-pound recoil spring and 17-pound mainspring (stock is 23) on my gun. Your mileage may vary—a lot.

Magazine well

The magazine well can be beveled, but may not be oversized, extended, or flared (Photo 18). A little bit of beveling will make mag changes faster and more consistent. 5000 practice reloads (a month) will help, too.

Ejection Port

Original spec 1911s and A1s have small ejection ports (Photo 19) to keep mud and crud out. They dent brass. I know some competitors still have the small ejection ports in their match guns
(Continued on page 34)

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Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

(Continued from page 33)

because some of the dented brass winds up in my brass. Lowered and flared back ejection port is allowed. By all means have a 1911 gunsmith cure this (unless your gun is a collectible). Note, this won't help reliability. It is strictly to prevent dented brass.

Barrel, barrel bushing, and accuracy

Speed shops used to have a sign, "Speed costs money. How fast do you want to go?" The equivalent sign for our sport would be, "Accuracy costs money. How accurate do you want to be?"

Ray Chapman once told me he and Frank Pachmayr put a stock Colt barrel in a barrel vise in the 1970s, and it produced one-hole groups. But the barrel has to move. The slide has to retract, eject, and reload the barrel. And the 1911 was designed with wide clearances so it would function in combat conditions. Match barrels are built oversized and gunsmiths fit them and their barrel bushings to fit precisely. The tightness of the slide to frame,



22

EGW case checker catches split cases, uncrimped rounds, bulged cases, and allows easy checking for high/upside down/missing primers.

and even the tightness of the slide release pin and the barrel link contribute to accuracy. I have a few 1911s with match barrels, barrel bushings, and tight slide-to-frame fit. I haven't found that to be necessary with my Traditional Wild Bunch guns, which have essentially stock barrels and barrel bushings. The stock ones give accuracy that's superior to my shooting ability. Some match barrels have very tight chambers, perfect for bulls-eye shooting. But a gunsmith can use a chamber reamer to open the chamber slightly for more reliable feeding. Virtually every manufacturer

uses a barrel that is throated and a feed ramp that is polished. If you have one that isn't, you're limited to round nose ammunition, or you can have a gunsmith throat and polish it.

If your Colt Series 70 has a barrel bushing with little fingers on it, replace it. Colt used those years ago. It was supposed to increase accuracy. It was the Edsel of barrel bushings. The fingers break and lock up the gun—only during major matches, of course.

Ammunition

The most common malfunction I see at Wild Bunch matches is failure to chamber. The usual cause is

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Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

out-of-spec ammunition. Using a [Lee Factory Crimp die](#) that resizes completed rounds will usually solve that. Then finished ammunition should be checked in an [EGW Chamber Checker](#) (photo 22). If it falls out when you turn the chamber checker upside down, it's good. If it doesn't, it's (usually) either insufficient crimp, the die was not adjusted far enough down to resize all the way to the base, or you have a split case or shavings in the crimp caused by insufficient bellishing of the case. If you're still having chambering problems, it's not your ammunition. Don't crimp too much. The cartridge headspaces on the case mouth. (Photo 23—230-grain round nose polycoated ammunition.)



Typical .45 ACP cartridges that passed EGW checking., 230-grain RN polycoated bullets, light taper crimp, OAL case length 1.275" max.

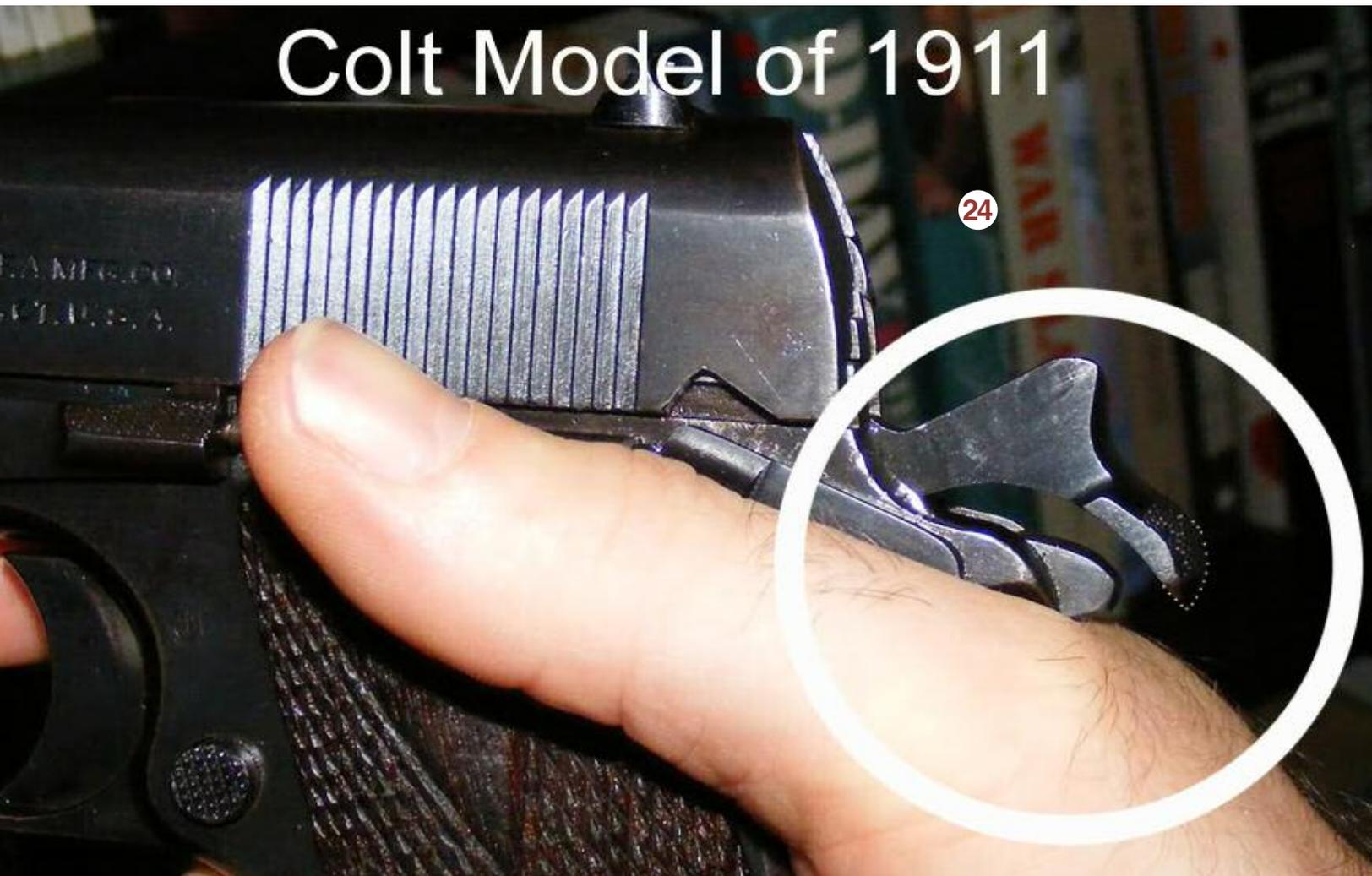
Dehorning

“All parts may be smoothed, re-profiled, polished, de-burred, or replaced, provided they are not prohibited in these Covenants.”

Traditional guns are shot with one hand. The tang will cut your hand if it has sharp edges. The hammer can also bite. If you're left-handed, the (standard mil-spec 1911A1) safety can cut your hand. You can't “bob” the hammer. That is an illegal external modification. You can polish out sharp edges. 1911A1s have longer tangs than early 1911s. The original tang (Photo 24) pretty much guarantees “hammer bite.” If you have a gun with the short tang, you can install a long tang.

(Continued on page 36)

Colt Model of 1911



“Hammer bite”

This WWI Colt 1911 replica with original short tang allows hammer to hit hand, and it does leave a mark. 1911A1s can suffer from this even with a long tang. Judicious polishing to round sharp corners helps.

Dispatches From Camp Baylor

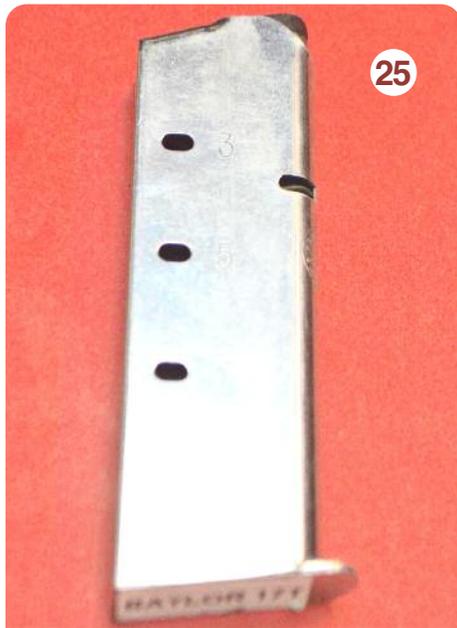
(Continued from page 35)

Grip Screws

Factory grip screws may be replaced with Allen or Torx head cap or other type screws. This looks cool. But if you keep the slotted grip screws you won't need an Allen wrench when they come loose. Grip screw bushings should be staked. If yours work loose, a good 1911 gunsmith will have a staking tool to fix it.



Stock Colt ejector.



Tripp seven-round magazine.

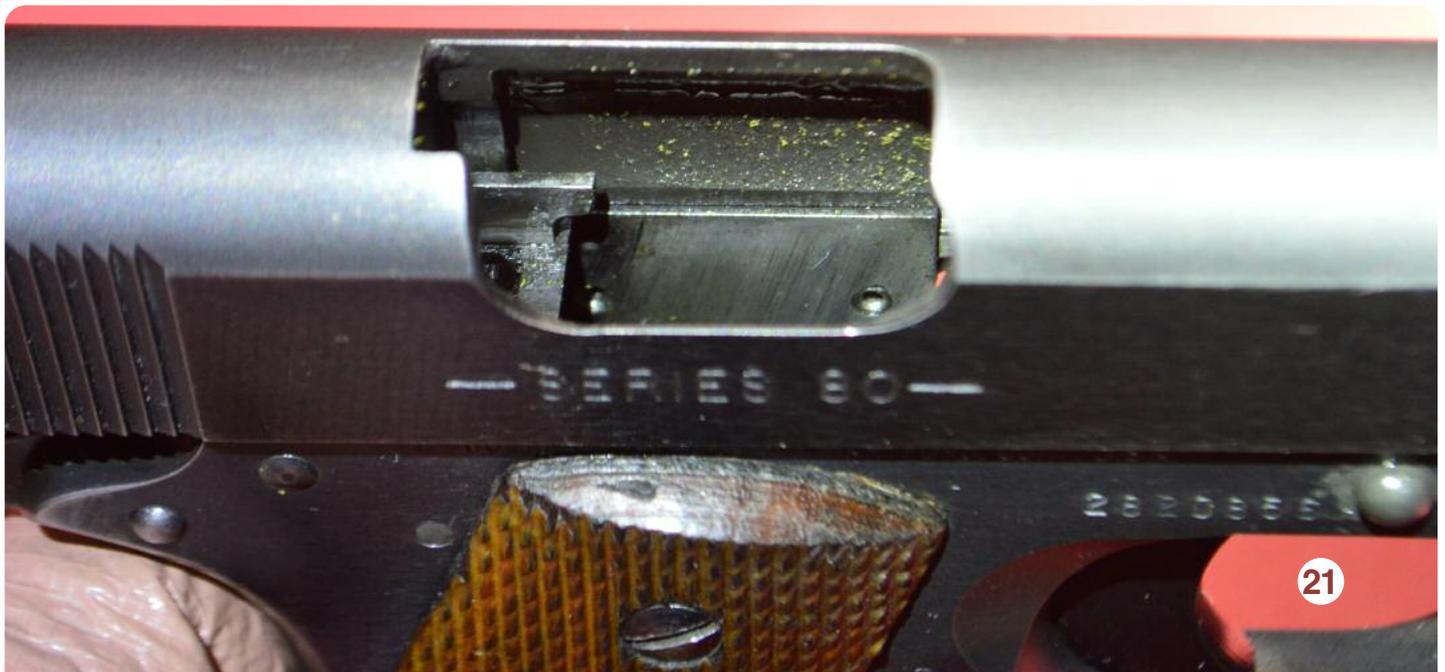
Magazines

The consensus seems to be [Tripp 7-round magazines](#), specifically the 7R-45-WG (Photo 25) are the best magazines legal for WBAS. Yes, you can buy others for less, but Tripps are amazingly reliable. They feed. They fall out. Counting rounds is very easy with numbered holes, odd on one side, even on the other.

Putting your name and a number on every magazine is a good idea. The number will help you keep them straight. If someone picks up one of your mags, you will get it back.

Extended Ejector

Gunsmiths started fitting Commander ejectors, which are longer than standard 1911 ejectors (Photo 20) some time back. Now most af-



Wilson "Bullet Proof" extended ejector.



Original style grip panel on Colt 1911 WWI replica covers and protects the plunger tube.

Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

termarket ejectors are extended (Photo 21). If your gun ejects brass reliably with the one you have now, it isn't broken. Don't fix it.

Grip panels

Grip panels should protect the plunger tube. Photo 26 illustrates the original spec. grips with lip on top that extends over the plunger tube. We throw guns down and grab the next gun. You can break a plunger tube that way. Trust me.

"No target style grips or thumb rests allowed. Wrap around grips that cover a portion of the front strap are illegal" (*Wild Bunch Shooters Handbook*, Jan 2017). Checkered mil-spec grips work quite well with sweaty hands. Thin grip panels are legal and sometimes helpful for people with small hands. Thin grips can make pushing the mag release possible without shifting your grip or getting a surgeon to lengthen your thumb. They require thin grip screw bushings and grip screws. They are too thin to protect the plunger tube. Smooth grips with or without flags, skulls, Marine insignia, or R-rated ladies (Photo... er, never mind) are legal but slip around with sweaty hands and recoil.

Conclusions

When Wild Bunch started in 2008 we saw malfunctions in many 1911s during a match. Now malfunctions are rare at major matches. The knowledge pool for making 1911s work is deep and wide. Use it. Shooting with a gun that works is a lot more fun. 

SILVER SCREEN XXX

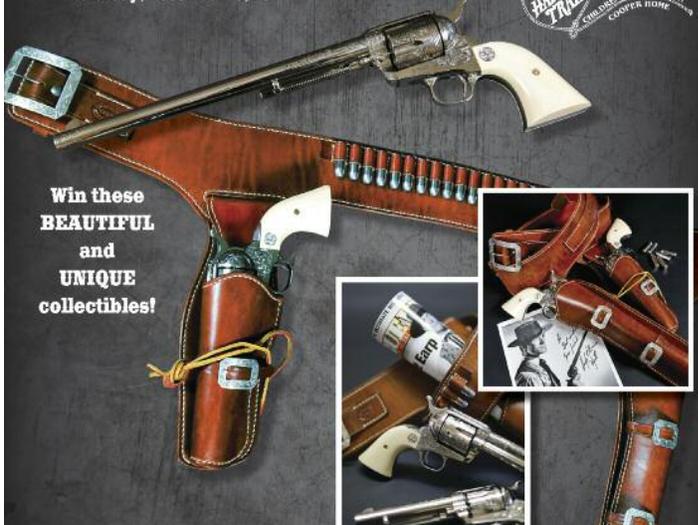
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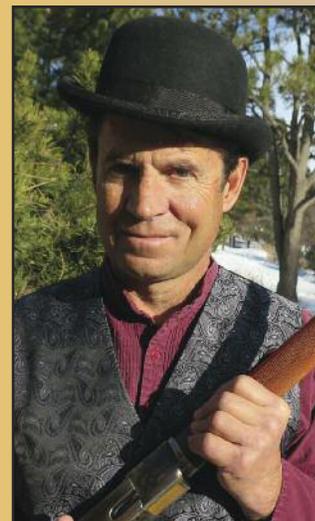
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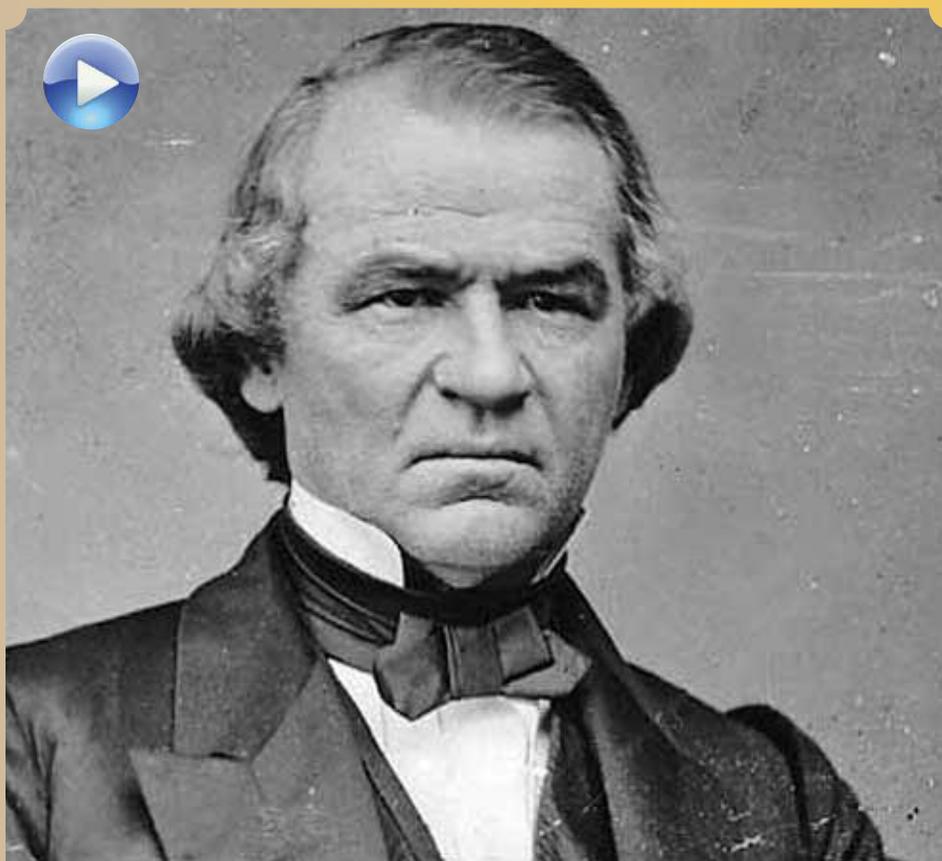
History

THE Impeachment of Andrew Johnson

By Big Dave, SASS #55632



Big Dave, SASS #55632



Andrew Johnson had a conflict-ridden presidency, to say the least.

Andrew Johnson was never intended to be president of the United States. Abraham Lincoln included him on the ticket in 1864 as a symbol of unity between the North and South as well as the Democratic and Republican parties. (In fact, the GOP was briefly renamed the National Union Party.) Johnson, a Democrat from Tennessee, had refused to secede with that state in 1861 and became

the only southern senator to remain in the United States Senate. Lincoln rewarded Johnson's loyalty by choosing him as his running mate in the Presidential Election of 1864. After Lincoln's assassination, Johnson was sworn in as president on April 15, 1865.

At Lincoln's second inauguration in March 1864, Johnson was required to give a brief speech. Johnson, who was ill at the time and

probably nervous as well, made an unwise decision to down a few glasses of whiskey before the event. His speech was barely coherent, his face was flushed, and it was obvious to all who saw Johnson that day, he was not merely tipsy but downright drunk. Johnson concluded his speech by taking the oath of office with his hand on a Bible. He said, "I kiss this Book in the face of my nation the United States."

It wasn't an auspicious beginning for Vice President Johnson. Those who were present at the inauguration were horrified. Senator Zachariah Chandler (Michigan), who witnessed the event, wrote, "I was never so mortified in my life, had I been able to find a hole I would have dropped through it out of sight." Things got even worse because Johnson was too discombobulated to perform his duties of swearing in the other senators. A Senate clerk took over for him. Abraham Lincoln, who was also mortified, made sure as few people as possible would come in contact



After being impeached by the House, Johnson was tried by the Senate. He was acquitted by just one vote.

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with Johnson that day. It had been a rainy day and fortunately for all concerned, Johnson's swearing in had occurred indoors with a limited number of observers.

Lincoln, who had an astute understanding of human nature, chose to overlook Johnson's *faux pas*. "It has been a severe lesson for Andy, but I do not think he will do it again." He concluded, "Andy ain't a drunkard." Lincoln and Johnson were personal friends; the president wasn't going to throw Johnson to the wolves for one screw-up, even though it was a pretty big one. Anyway, what did it matter? Johnson was only vice-president. If he was kept out of the spotlight, he couldn't cause much harm.

Lincoln was correct, Johnson wasn't a drunkard. The mess at the inauguration was unfortunate, but a fondness for strong drink was not one of Johnson's failings. His problem was he wasn't very subtle and he sometimes didn't know when to shut his mouth, even when completely sober. None of that really mattered until Lincoln was shot and suddenly, An-

drew Johnson became president.

At first, Johnson had a honeymoon period with Congress. Even the people who had seen Johnson's behavior at the inauguration were willing to overlook his behavior at the event. Furthermore, Johnson seemed to be on the same page as many Republicans. Early in his presidency, Johnson declared, "the traitors must be punished." That suited the Republicans in Congress just fine, especially those in the radical wing of the party. Despite what Lincoln had said about "charity toward all and malice toward none," a great many members of the House of Representatives and Senate wanted to treat the former Confederate States harshly, especially in the wake of Lincoln's assassination.

Johnson was actually more in tune with Lincoln's attitude about how to treat former Confederate states than with Congress' attitude. Lincoln wanted the nation to be reunited or "reconstructed" swiftly with as little drama or bad feelings as possible. In 1863, with the war

(Continued on page 40)

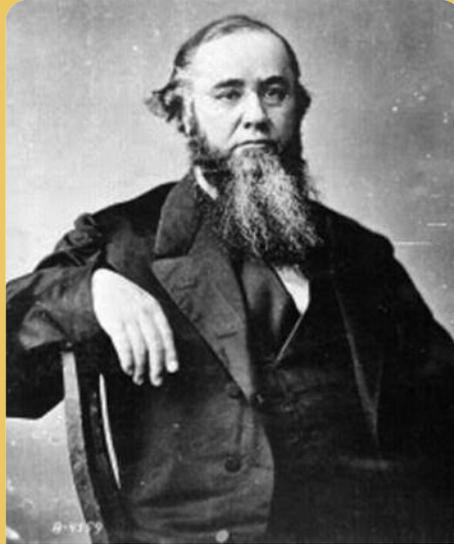
The Impeachment of Andrew Johnson . . .

(Continued from page 39)

still in progress, Lincoln devised what became known as the “Ten Percent Plan,” by which a former Confederate state could be readmitted into the Union. According to Lincoln’s procedure, ten percent of the voters of 1860 in a former rebellious state had to swear a loyalty oath to the Union and to uphold the Emancipation Proclamation. Once those stipulations were met, the former rebellious state could elect delegates to write a new state constitution and set up a new state government. Pardons would be granted to everyone who took the oath to the Union except for high-ranking Confederate officials.

Many members of the Union Congress thought the Ten Percent Plan was far too lenient, especially so-called Radical Republicans. Led by Thaddeus Stevens in the House of Representatives and Charles Sumner in the Senate, the Radicals wanted a different agenda that would protect freed slaves and prevent former Confederates from holding office. The Congressional plan for Reconstruction, (also known as the Wade-Davis Bill) was introduced in 1864. It required a majority of a state’s white citizens to take an oath of loyalty to the Union. All former Confederates were barred from office and those who participated in that state’s government had to swear they had never voluntarily given aid to the Confederacy.

Lincoln neither signed the Wade-Davis Bill nor vetoed it. Instead, he employed a parliamentary device where he set the bill aside. This “pocket veto” killed the Wade-Davis Bill for the time being. The Radicals were enraged but couldn’t really do anything. If they fought



Secretary of War Edwin Stanton was fired by President Johnson in violation of the Tenure of Office Act. This provided the House of Representatives with an excuse to impeach Johnson.

the president, they would look like they were impeding the war effort. Meanwhile, there was a war going on and Lincoln’s struggle with Congress was postponed. If Lincoln had lived, the struggle would have been unpleasant. Nevertheless, it is likely Lincoln would have handled it skillfully and a compromise would have been reached. At the very least, he would have handled it more skillfully than Andrew Johnson.

Not long after Johnson made his remark about punishing “traitors,” he seemed to take a 180 degree turn. His version of Reconstruction was very similar to Lincoln’s Ten Per Cent Plan. A former Confederate state had to ratify the Thirteenth Amendment which abolished slavery, forfeit the Confederate war debt and (white, male) citizens who wished to vote were required to take an oath of loyalty to the Union. Once those conditions were met, a state constitutional convention would be called. As long as

a state’s constitution was acceptable, that state could rejoin the United States. Johnson also suggested educated blacks be considered for eligibility to vote. Former Confederates were required to apply for a presidential pardon before they could vote or hold office. With a few exceptions, these pardons were granted.

Congress was not in session when Lincoln was assassinated, April 1865, and was not scheduled to reconvene until December. Therefore, Johnson could implement his plan without any interference from Congress. The southern states quickly complied with Johnson’s provisions, although the suggestion about allowing educated freedmen to vote was mostly ignored. In an astonishingly short amount of time, the states of the former Confederacy held their state constitutional conventions and went about electing representatives for state and federal offices.

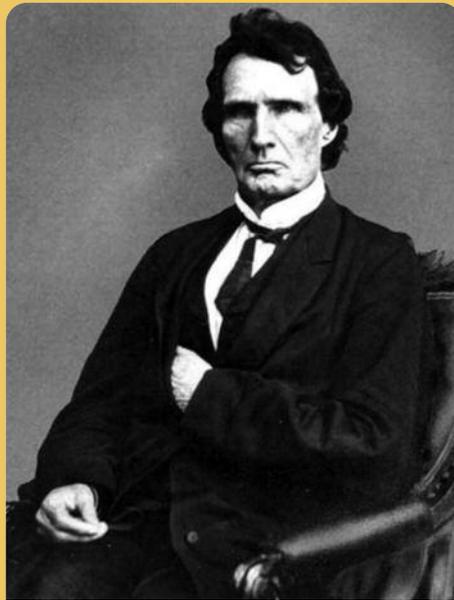
Folks tend to vote for people whom they know personally, or who are well known, or who have well known family names. The candidates who fit that bill were, in most cases, not southern Unionists or social progressives, as many northerners had hoped. Instead, they happened to be former Confederate officers and politicians. The senators and congressmen chosen from the southern states included four Confederate generals, five Confederate colonels, six Confederate cabinet members, and Alexander H. Stephens, who had been vice-president of the CSA. (I realize that I shouldn’t be laughing as I write this, but somehow, I can’t help it. Really, it isn’t funny.) In

The Impeachment of Andrew Johnson . . .

other words, under Johnson's plan some of the very people who led the Confederate states out of the Union were elected to Congress.

To make matters worse, the southern states passed laws that were collectively known as the "Black Codes." As it happened, the southern states did not ignore the freedmen altogether. Instead of considering the enfranchisement of educated blacks, the southern states considered the legal and social status of the former slaves. The "Black Codes" ensured their legal and social status was to be forever fixed as inferior. The laws were remarkably similar to antebellum slave codes, except they formally legalized marriage between blacks, even those that had occurred before the war. Other more progressive provisions included the rights of freedmen to own and transfer property and to plead and testify in court (as long as it was not against a white defendant). Many states thoughtfully included provisions for freedmen that defined a "vagrant" as a person who could not prove he was gainfully employed. "Vagrants" were jailed and fined. If a "vagrant" was unable to pay a fine, he was free to be remanded to the nearest plantation where he could work off the fine and be kept under guard so he wouldn't run away.

Since Congress was not in session, many members could do little but fume about what was going on in the South. Many Northerners were outraged that the same people who had led troops against the Union were going to be members of the Senate and the House of Representatives. Had the war been fought for nothing? The Black Codes were especially insulting



Thaddeus Stevens was Andrew Johnson's implacable enemy in the House of Representatives.

given the fact more than two hundred thousand black troops had fought for the Union. Is this how they were to be rewarded? A lot of moderate Republicans began to sympathize with the radicals. Meanwhile, the radicals bided their time, visited amongst themselves, wrote letters, and prepared to thwart President Johnson, whom they blamed (with some justification) for the whole mess.

When Congress met in December 1865 the new southern members were not allowed to take their seats. It was unprecedented as well as legally questionable, but nevertheless they were barred. The situation was confusing; were the southern elections constitutional or not? Should Congress oversee the readmission of the South or should the president? Unfortunately, the Constitution had not provided for the Civil War and its consequences. On the heels of the Civil War another conflict was brewing which was sectional, constitutional, racial, and political at the same time. In-

evitably, personal conflicts got into the mix. A cynical person might say it sounds all too familiar. At least religion didn't play a major role.

The South was in no position to secede again and take up arms. Newly freed slaves at this point were on their own, at least for the most part. So the major fight in late 1865 and early 1866 was between President Johnson and Congress. To make a long story short, President Johnson lost the fight.

1866 was a Congressional midterm election year. With southern congressmen barred from entry and northern Democrats in disarray, Republicans gained a handy majority in both the House and Senate. Andrew Johnson had embarked on a speaking tour that backfired—he was too passionate and many of his listeners thought he was drunk again. One of his speeches ran, "If my blood is to be shed because I vindicate the Union and the preservation of this government in its original purity and character, let it be shed: let an altar to the Union be erected, and then, if necessary, take me and lay me upon it, and the blood that now warms and animates my existence shall be poured out as a fit libation to the Union."

He was essentially saying his political enemies were planning to assassinate him, which they were not. Johnson was dead sober when he uttered this, but in retrospect maybe he should have had a few shots; it wouldn't have made matters much worse and it might have provided an excuse. Even after the passage of a century and a half, I can't help but cringe for the poor guy. His alliance of northern Democrats and pro-Union southern Democrats was handily defeated by the Republicans.

(Continued on page 42)

The Impeachment of Andrew Johnson

(Continued from page 41)

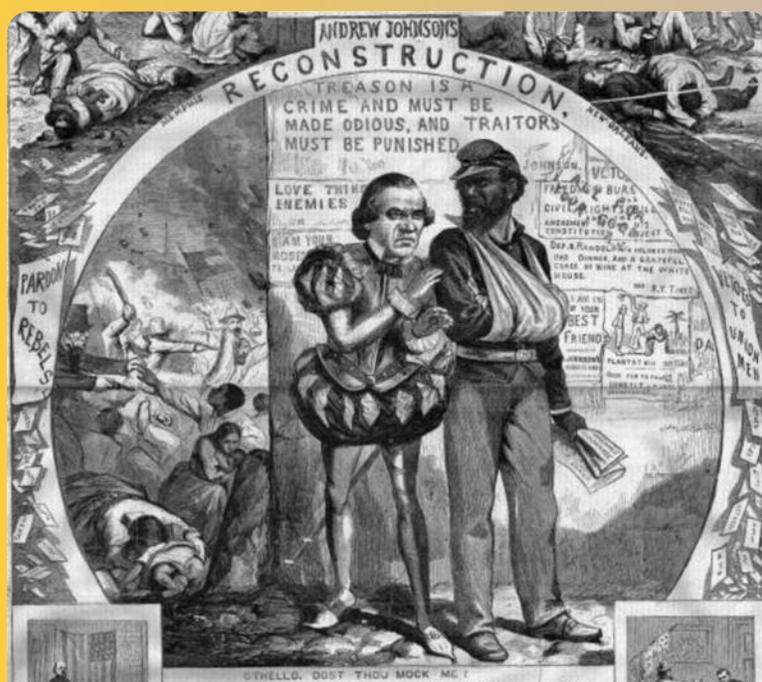
With Republicans in a majority in the House and Senate and the South in limbo, a dreary cycle of legislative strife ensued. Congress would send a bill to the president, he would veto it, and then the veto would be overridden and the bill would become law. On the bright side, the Fourteenth Amendment was ratified during this period—it defined U.S. citizenship and further extended individual rights. This meant freed slaves had both citizenship and civil rights under the Constitution. On the not so bright side, Congress passed the Tenure of Office Act and paved the way for Congressional Reconstruction, which many argue has had a deeply negative effect upon our country's history.

The topic of Congressional Reconstruction is reserved for another article that will no doubt be depressing. The whole thing was morally and constitutionally ambiguous. There are some edifying moments during that period, but they are few and far between. Many of our present problems stem from that unfortunate period in our history. It took almost a century for the shortcomings of that era to be fixed and even now, the “fix” remains imperfect.

For this story, the focus should be on the Tenure of Office Act, which was passed on March 1867 over President Johnson's veto. The law was a blatant attempt by Congress to control the president and is now considered to be an overreach of that branch's powers. Indeed, the Tenure of Office Act was eventually declared unconstitutional, but it happened much too late to help Andrew Johnson.

Johnson had inherited Lincoln's cabinet, which was not sympathetic to him or his programs. They sided with Congress over the Reconstruction controversy. Understandably, Johnson wished to appoint his own cabinet. He had a particularly hard time getting along with Edwin Stanton, the Secretary of War. Stanton was in full sympathy with the Radical Republicans in Congress and acted, more or less, as their spy during cabinet meetings. The Tenure of Office Act required Senate approval for the dismissal of cabinet members and was designed to force Johnson to keep Stanton as a cabinet member. Stanton and Johnson mutually detested each other; it must have been uncomfortable at the White House.

For all his faults, Andrew Johnson was no coward. He believed (correctly) the Tenure of Office Act was unconstitutional and fired Stanton anyway in defiance of Congress. This set off the firestorm which ultimately resulted in Johnson's impeachment.



Many Republicans felt Johnson's plan for readmitting the former Confederate states was too lenient. In this cartoon, he is pictured as Iago from Shakespeare's play, *Othello*. The cartoon suggests he is betraying the thousands of African American troops who fought for the Union.

To “impeach” a president or federal official means to formally accuse that official of “Treason, Bribery, or other High Crimes and Misdemeanors” (Article II, Section 4). It is a two-part process to remove that official. First, the House impeaches (or accuses) that official by a two-thirds majority; then the Senate, also by a two-thirds majority, must obtain a conviction, whereupon that official is removed. Johnson was duly impeached by the House of Representatives on February 24, 1868 for violation of the Tenure of Office Act. The vote was 126 for impeachment (all were Republicans) and 47 (all Democrats) against. Predictably, there was no crossing of the aisle.

In all, there were eleven counts of “High Crimes and Misdemeanors” drawn against Andrew Johnson. To make a long (and complicated) story short, the majority of the charges revolved around the firing of Stanton. It took about three months for Johnson's trial in the Senate to get underway.

What happened to Edwin Stanton? Befitting of this farce, Stanton refused to leave and camped out in his office in the War Department. Friends and supporters brought him food and cigars. Apparently, he remained where he was until the president was acquitted. Once Johnson was acquitted, Stanton finally resigned. This wasn't one of the greatest examples of Our Government in Action.

However, Johnson's trial before the Senate offered some redemption to this unfortunate affair. In May 1868,

The Impeachment of Andrew Johnson . . .

he was acquitted by a margin of one vote. Although Republicans had a majority in the Senate, there were enough moderates who voted with Democrats to prevent Johnson's removal from office. (It requires a two-thirds majority to convict the president). In the end, enough Republicans put their country above their party. The Tenure of Office Act was an ill-conceived law that was deliberately passed to empower the Legislative Branch at the expense of the Executive Branch. For some moderate Republicans, the deciding factor was, removing Johnson would upset the balance of the three branches of government. Any future president who disagreed with Congress might be dismissed simply for that reason.

Andrew Johnson didn't have long to serve as president anyway. After his Senate trial, he was probably the lamest of the lame duck presidents. During the controversy, Congress had completely taken over the "reconstruction" of the South. Furthermore, Johnson didn't even appear on the ballot in the Presidential Election of 1868. Horatio Seymour was the Democratic candidate, and was handily defeated by Republican candidate Ulysses S. Grant.

There are a number of postscripts to Johnson's presidency. Some are fairly ironic. For example, in 1875, Johnson was elected by the state of Tennessee to serve as a U.S. Senator. Upon his entrance to the Senate chamber, he was cheered by members of both political parties. This made Andrew Johnson the only former president to be reelected as a Senator. Johnson rightfully considered this to be a vindication. Sadly, he didn't serve for long; he died of a stroke five months into his term.

Though Johnson didn't live to see it, the Tenure of Office Act was repealed in 1887 while Grover Cleveland was president. It was repealed for the very reason Johnson had defied it in the first place—the law undermined the concept of separation of powers in U.S. government. By that time, the political expediency of the Tenure of Office Act was a moot point anyway. Reconstruction had been over for a decade and the squabbling between the Executive and Legislative branches had returned to an "acceptable" level. That is to say, it was nowhere near what it was immediately after the Civil War.

Andrew Johnson doesn't get very high ratings from historians. After all, his policies failed and he spent the bulk of his presidency locked in a feud with Congress. Furthermore, his plan for the readmission of the Confederate states was deeply flawed. That doesn't mean Congress' plan was so great either—it had to be enforced by

the presence of armed troops. Once Congressional (or Military) Reconstruction ended, the South went back to many of its old ways (as it had tried to do under Johnson's plan). The only real difference was, sharecropping became the dominant labor arrangement instead of slavery. There wasn't any real change in racial relations until the 1960s.

Probably the best achievement of the Johnson Administration was the purchase of Alaska from Russia, however, nobody realized it at the time. In the end, what most people remember about Johnson is his impeachment and the incredible dysfunction of our government during that period. Few people realize he was impeached for doing what was essentially the right thing.

Johnson left one humorous quote for posterity. Like Lincoln, he was largely self-educated. He was also highly intelligent. Johnson was born in poverty and had to pull himself up by his bootstraps without the benefit of a fancy education. The concept of how to spell words challenged him to the extent, he once said, "It is a damned poor mind that can only think of one way to spell a word." I think many of us can relate to that.

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History

C.S. FLY

Ignored Western Icon

By Col. Richard Dodge, SASS #1750 Life



The Geronimo/General Crook meeting.

On a late October morning in 1881 Camillus S. Fly was puttering in his Tombstone photography studio. He was becoming impatient. His business was less than two years old and not doing as well as he had hoped. He was thinking he needed to get out and start prospecting for silver, hoping he too could strike it rich, as others had. After all, that was why he and Mollie had moved all the way from San Francisco.

Loud, angry voices just outside the studio wall interrupted his thoughts. He was sure he recog-

nized at least one. Suddenly, gunfire erupted, rapidly at first, then sporadic. The unmistakable boom of a shotgun; screams of pain; then more pistol shots were heard. A horse screamed in panic. Hurried footsteps sounded on the boardwalk outside the front door. The door burst open and Sheriff Johnny Behan stepped inside, his face taunt with fear.

Caught unaware of the drama just outside, Fly seized a rifle from the rack on the wall, stepped through the door and moved cautiously along the front wall, hold-



Col. Richard Dodge, SASS #1750

ing the rifle ready. One final shot and all is quiet.

A blood-spattered man in a duster lay face down in the street right in front of him. To his right, he could see Ike Clanton staggering down the street, apparently uninjured. Another man in black lay on his back, injured but lifting himself up on an elbow, a double-barreled shotgun beneath him—Doc Holliday. Standing motionless, his Colt ready to fire again, was Special Officer Wyatt Earp, one of the three Earp brothers. He appeared to be unharmed, though Fly could see at least three ragged bullet holes in his long frock coat. Smoke drifted lazily from the Colt's barrel and a faint cloud of the stuff hung in the air.

Moving closer to the corner, Fly observed two more men in black lying on the ground next to Earp; he recognized Morgan and Virgil Earp, brothers to Wyatt and all local peace officers. All three appeared to be wounded but alive and conscious.

Peeking around the corner of the building, Fly saw several bodies

C.S. Fly • Ignored Western Icon

lying in the dust. Frank McClaury is one of them. Sitting against the wall of the studio, a young cowboy, his shirt bloody, vainly tried to lift his revolver. Fly moved quickly to him and lifted the gun from the dying youth's hand—Billy, youngest of the Clantons.

It was over. C. S. Fly was the first to step into the bloody ground of the Gunfight at the OK Corral. Brothers Tom and Frank McClaury were dead and Ike Clanton, who was probably the cause of the fight, had turned tail and run away.

Fly stood dazed at first. His instinct was to run for his camera. He was already well known for his photographs of Tombstone and its citizens, and here was a momentous occasion that should be recorded. He turned quickly to retrieve the heavy instrument, but Wyatt Earp's sharp rebuke stopped him from taking what would have been the most famous photo of the Wild West. It would be two days before he was able to take the famous picture of the three dead men in their caskets.

The OK Corral gunfight occurred near the beginning of C. S. Fly's long, colorful career in the southwest. He had been raised in California's lush Napa Valley, of all places. Already a successful photographer there, he met and married Miss Mollie Goodrich, who was an accomplished photographer in her own right.

They established a photography studio in San Francisco, but were lured to Tombstone by tales of silver strikes and adventure. In 1879, they moved to west and built a 12-room boarding house at 312 Fremont Street in Tombstone



Fly's studio.

with a photo studio and gallery in the back. Mollie managed the boarding house and the studio while C. S., who preferred to be called "Buck," traveled southern Arizona Territory with his cumbersome equipment, taking photographs that remain priceless records to this day.

No one knows for sure how he learned of the meeting between General Crook and Geronimo to discuss surrender terms, but he did. In March 1886 he arrived at Fort Bowie and convinced the general to take him along. Crook recognized the significance of recording the occasion and provided a pack mule to carry Fly's equipment.

The meeting was arranged in *Canyon de los Embudos* in the Sierra Madre Mountains, about 85 miles from Fort Bowie. During the meeting, Fly took about 15 exposures on 8"x10" glass negatives, some of them at Geronimo's request.

Crook's adjutant, Captain John

Bourke described how Fly took the historic photographs:

"Tombstone photographer Fly kept busy with his camera, posing his Apache models with a nerve that would have reflected undying glory on a Chicago drummer. He coolly asked Geronimo and the warriors with him to change positions, and turn their heads or faces, to improve the negative. None of them seemed to mind him in the least except Chihuahua, who kept dodging behind a tree, but at last caught by the dropping of the slide."

C. M. Strauss, Mayor of Tucson was also present. He later wrote:

"Fly is an excellent artist and he was not a respecter of persons or circumstances, and even in the midst of the most serious interviews with the Indians, he would step up to an officer and say, 'Just put your hat a little more on this side, General. No Geronimo, your

(Continued on page 46)

C.S. Fly • Ignored Western Icon . . .

(Continued from page 45)

right foot must rest on that stone, etc., so wrapped was he in the artistic effect of his views.”

Geronimo, camped on the Mexican side of the border, agreed to the surrender terms. Unfortunately, a soldier who sold them whiskey told Geronimo his band would be murdered as soon as they crossed the border. That night he slipped away with 25 of his followers, costing Crook his command. Fly’s photographs are the only pictorial record of the well-known incident and are the most famous of his work.

Not content to limit himself to his photography career, Fly ventured into mining for silver (a fruitless attempt) and even farming. He claimed a piece of land in the high Chiracahua Mountains that seemed to have good soil and water. Over a couple of years he grew crops and even built a home where he entertained visitors. However, unreliable weather conditions and the strain of his business caused him to abandon the project. He even ran successfully for county sheriff and served two years in that office, but proved to be a rather ineffectual peace officer.

In 1887 a large earthquake struck Bavispe in Sonora, Mexico, causing large-scale destruction and heavy loss of life. Tombstone Doctor George Goodfellow was fascinated with the effect of earthquakes and received a commission to study the incident. He took Fly with him to study and record the damage. They traveled more than 700 miles through the Sierra Madre Mountains, recording the quake’s effects and Goodfellow used Fly’s images in his report.

As the mines played out and Tombstone’s fortunes fluctuated, Fly’s career began to suffer and he began drinking heavily. In 1887, he and Mollie separated. She remained in Tombstone to operate the stu-



Geronimo

dio, but the two maintained a strong relationship the rest of their lives.

Fly’s most notable contribution is his development of photojournalism, taking his cameras out of the studio to record history in the making. Not content with landscape photographs, he captured photos of people as they were, living and working to make a life in a rugged and hardscrabble land. He was a true pioneer in the profession, one of a very few who braved the hardships of the frontier to record life the way it was.

In 1901, Camillus’ health began to deteriorate quickly. All the years of drinking began to take their toll, but the real cause was the effect of the deadly chemicals photographers used in those days. Potassium cyanide was used to remove the stains caused by silver nitrate and the hands would often be blackened from the chemical. Fly died on October 11, 1901; Mollie was at his bedside, having rushed from Tombstone to be with him.

Mollie operated the Tombstone gallery until

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Mollie Fly

C.S. Fly • Ignored Western Icon . . .

1912 and in 1905 published a collection of her husband's photographs entitled *Scenes in Geronimo's Camp: The Apache Outlaw and Murderer*. She was described by a young friend as, "Five feet of pure dignity, very plainly dressed, but in manner Queen Victoria had nothing on her."

The studio burned to the ground in 1912, destroying many of Fly's priceless photographs. Mollie retired after the fire and moved to Los Angeles where she died in 1925. Before her death, she donated her collection of Fly's work to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., where it resides to this day.

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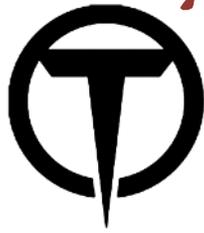
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Tuolumne Lawman,
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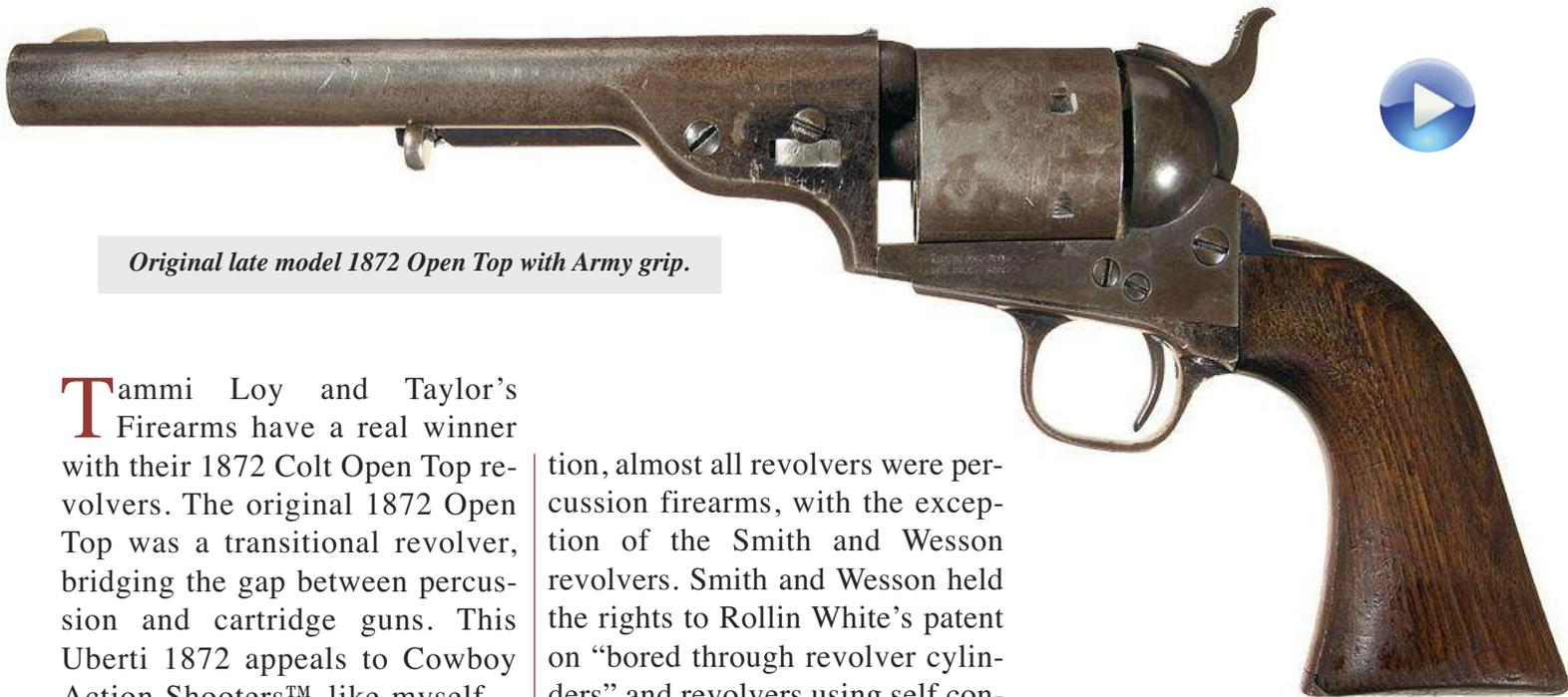
Taylor's Firearms Brings Back the Early West



Uberti 1872 Colt Open Top Revolvers

Part 2

By Tuolumne Lawman, SASS #6127 Life



Original late model 1872 Open Top with Army grip.

Tammi Loy and Taylor's Firearms have a real winner with their 1872 Colt Open Top revolvers. The original 1872 Open Top was a transitional revolver, bridging the gap between percussion and cartridge guns. This Uberti 1872 appeals to Cowboy Action Shooters™ like myself—personas from the earlier years of the Old West, but still wanting the convenience of a cartridge loading "Smoke Wagon."

1872 Open Top History

Before we go any further, let's get into the history of this somewhat obscure early Colt 1872 Open Top revolver. From the time of the California Gold Rush, the Civil War, and the early westward migra-

tion, almost all revolvers were percussion firearms, with the exception of the Smith and Wesson revolvers. Smith and Wesson held the rights to Rollin White's patent on "bored through revolver cylinders" and revolvers using self contained, metallic cased ammunition. From about 1860 on, S&W produced its No. 1, No. 1½, and No. 2 revolvers, which were in .22 and .32 caliber rim fire. Though popular, they were rather anemic in the "fight stopping" power department.

In 1869, S&W introduced their No. 3 "American Model" top break revolver, first in .44 Henry rim fire, then in .44 American

(which was essentially a center fire .44 Henry). The S&W No. 3 was an instant success and was even adopted by the US Army. It was the first metallic cartridge revolver with true "stopping power." Colt, Remington, and others could produce only their percussion revolvers, as S&W still had the patent rights for bored through cylinders—an absolute necessity

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for metallic cartridge revolvers!

In 1871 however, the Rollin White patent expired and many manufacturers, including Colt, worked feverishly to come up with cartridge revolvers. Colt introduced the Richard's patent, a conversion of the 1851 Navy and 1860 Army revolvers. They used a new shorter cylinder on the percussion frame. Behind the cylinder was an added-on piece to the frame that held a loading gate, rear sight notch, and frame mounted firing pin. The loading lever was removed and replaced with an ejector rod. Another Colt engineer named Mason patented some changes to the basic conversion. It utilized a hammer mounted firing pin and a slightly different ejector rod. Both of these revolvers were an instant success.

In 1871, Colt was running out of 1860 components, and so introduced the new 1872 "Open Top" revolver. While very similar in appearance to the conversions, it was made from all newly-manufactured parts. The "Open Top" name derives from the fact that, just like the earlier 1860s and conversions, there was no top strap over the cylinder. The only parts interchangeable with the 1860s and conversions are the grip frame and I believe the wedge! A total of approximately 7,000 of the 1872 Open Tops were manufactured by Colt between 1871 and 1876.

The original Colt 1872 Open Top was available only in .44 Henry rim fire. The hammer had a blade type firing pin mounted to the left side of the hammer, to ensure ignition of the rim fire cartridge. (Some private "long cylinder" Colt 1860 .44 rim fire conversions used the percussion hammer to crush the rim against the rear face of the cylinder.) The reason Colt chose the .44 rim fire caliber for is it was the most commonly available self-contained metallic cartridge in the country at that time. The 1866 Winchester and 1860 Henry rifles were the most prolific repeating rifles in the West in 1872 and both were offered in .44 Henry caliber only. Another advantage of choosing the .44 rim fire for the 1872 Open Top is it could be a companion piece to those rifles, using the same ammunition for both. Back then on the Frontier, the concept of one cartridge for both rifle and pistol made a lot of sense.



Shooting clean with the 4.75-inch barreled Taylor's Open Top.

It certainly simplified provisioning for a long trek on horseback. It is interesting that production of the 1872s ceased in 1876, about the same time the .44-40 central fire 1873 Winchester rifle production finally replaced the rim fire 1860 Henry and 1866 Winchesters as the most common rifles on the Frontier.

The .44 Henry rim fire round utilized a heeled .44 caliber 215-grain round nosed, or 200-grain flat point bullet over 25 to 28 grains respectively of black powder. By "heeled," it is meant the bullet is the same diameter as the copper cartridge case, and the base is rebated (smaller) to be crimped in the case mouth. The rim of the copper case was folded, and had priming compound in it. Modern .22 LR cartridges are "heeled" bullets and folded head rim fire design. The 200-grain .44 Henry Flat is said to have given about 1150 fps from the rifle and around 750-800 from revolvers like the 1872 Open Top or S&W American. It was a good "stopper" at short ranges, similar in performance to the later Army-issued .45 Schofield round. However, like most large bore heeled bullets, it was not noted for tack driving accuracy! Its popularity hung on past the turn of the century, though— .44 Henry ammo continued to be produced commercially until just before WWII in the United States and possibly longer by Dominion Cartridge Company in Canada.

(Continued on page 50)



Taylor's 1872 Open tops.

Taylor's Firearms Brings Back the Early West (pt.2) ...

(Continued from page 49)

Taylor's Uberti 1872 Open Tops

The tremendous growth of Cowboy Action Shooting in the last 25 years has caused an increase in interest in these once popular but obscure transitional Open Tops and Conversion revolvers. In Hollywood movies like *Wyatt Earp*, *Crossfire Trail*, *Last Stand at Sabre River*, as well as several others, the hero was armed with cartridge conversion type revolvers. This has helped fuel the growing demand for Conversions and Open Tops.

Like original Henry and 1866 Winchesters, you will not find an original 1872 Open Top at your local Cowboy Action Shooting™ match! No one has manufactured .44 Henry rim fire ammo in many, many years, and at \$75 each for original cartridges, it is unlikely anyone would shoot an original to any extent. Uberti, however, has once again come up with a solution to those of us who desire "lesser known guns" like the Colt 1872 Open Top.

Taylor's stocks the Uberti 1872 Open top in the two most popular Cowboy Action Shooting™ calibers, .45 Colt/Schofield and .38 Special. They are available with 7.5- 5.5- and 4.75-inch barrels and they come with either the larger 1860 "Army" steel-



Open Tops ready to roll.

framed grip, or the smaller 1851 "Navy" brass-framed grip. Both my 7.5" and 4.75" Open Tops have the smaller Navy grips, which seem to fit my hand better. Just as in it was in 1872, these are newly produced revolvers rather than conversions of current percussion revolvers.

As I have said, Taylor's was the source of my pair of 1872 Open Tops, bought through local dealers. Taylor's imports them directly from Aldo Uberti in Italy. I selected the .45 Colt/Schofield caliber, as I can duplicate .44 Henry Flat rim fire rounds ballistically with a .45 Schofield case using a 200-grain .452 diameter bullet and about six grains of Trail Boss or Unique. I used to use 27 grains of black powder (the original Henry charge), but I am too old



Detail of top of cylinder, barrel, and rear sight of 1872 Open Top.

Taylor's Firearms Brings Back the Early West (pt.2) . . .

and lazy to mess with the "Holy Black" any more!

The .452" diameter bullet of the Schofield is only a .01" difference in diameter larger than the original Henry's .442" diameter projectile. This Schofield loading also offers approximately the same overall length as the .44 Henry. The second consideration for my selecting the .45 Schofield was I paired the Open Tops with a Taylor's/Uberti .45 Henry to be "Early Old West period correct."

My first impression of the 1872s was extremely favorable. While they are very similar to the sleek lines of the 1860 Conversions (actually looking like a cross between a Richards and Richards-Mason conversion), they have a slightly "beefier" cylinder than the original to accommodate the larger .45 cartridges. My 1872s have walnut one-piece grips, perfectly fitted in bright brass to Navy-sized grip frames. The fit and finish, especially the wood to metal fit, was flawless. They have a really nice color case hardened receiver, loading gate, and hammer. The bluing on mine is very dark and rich. (By the way, Taylor's also offers the 1872 Open Tops with a bright Nickel finish.) As with the originals, the 1872 cylinders have a Colt Style Naval battle scene roll stamped on them. Like the Richards-Mason Conversions and original 1872s, the Uberti 1872 Open Tops have a hammer-mounted firing pin.

When you pick them up, you immediately notice they have a nice balance. They have a slightly muzzle-heavy feel that lends itself (in my opinion) to Duelist-style shooting. The actions are light and

crisp, trigger breaking at around 3-4 lbs., with almost no creep. The timing is "right on the money." I saw no drag marks on the cylinders.

The front sight is a brass blade style, pinned into a lateral notch on top of the barrel. The rear sight is a *(Continued on page 52)*

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Taylor's 1872 paired with an 1860 Henry.

Taylor's Firearms Brings Back the Early West (pt.2) . . .

(Continued from page 51)

milled notch in a built up area on the top of the rear end of the barrel, instead of the “hammer notch” rear sight on 1851 and 1860 percussion revolvers, and many conversions. The sight picture is superior to a pinch-framed early Colt or Remington 1875, but not quite as good as a Vaquero's! It is wide enough to lend itself to a fairly rapid front sight acquisition.

Loading and unloading the 1872 Colt is the same as with an original Colt or other SAA clones. Half cock the hammer, open the loading gate on the side, and rotate the cylinder by hand. When taking it apart to clean it, you break it down like a standard Colt percussion revolver—drive out the wedge, pull off the barrel, and then with the hammer at half cock, pull off the cylinder. Reassemble in reverse order.

Uberti has a nice touch with a screw, with a flat edge, to capture the takedown wedge. It keeps the wedge from backing out. To remove the wedge, you just give the screw a one-quarter turn and drive out the wedge. Another clever feature is the flange extending from the face of the cylinder around the cylinder arbor and past the bottom of the forcing cone area of the barrel. This helps minimize cylinder and arbor fouling when shooting black powder.

“Well,” you ask, “how does it shoot?” In a word, great! Before I could shoot it, I had to get ammo. First I loaded some of my pet “Henry Flat Rimfire duplication loads.” I used Starline .45 Schofield brass, Winchester WLP primers, six grains (weight) of either Trail Boss or Unique, and a Stateline Bullets 200-grain RNFP .452 bullet.

Accuracy with the “Henry Duplication” loads was great. Using a free standing traditional two-handed hold at 15 yards, they shot 1½" to 2" groups about 1" to 2" above point of aim. This was right on for me, as I prefer to use a low, dead center hold. The recoil is much tamer than .45 Colt Cowboy loads in a Colt SAA clone.



Side-mounted blade firing pin on 1872 Open Top.

Taylor's Firearms Brings Back the Early West (pt.2) . . .

As far as factory ammo goes, Black Hills Ammunition is one of the few that makes readily available .45 Schofield. Fortunately, it's great stuff! They load it with both 180- and 230-grain .452 diameter bullets. The published velocity for both loads hovers at about 750 fps, which seems about right. I use the 230-grain, as the 180s are too short for me to use my Uberti 1860 Henry.

Accuracy with Black Hills ammo is also outstanding! At 15 yards, also shooting free standing two handed traditional style, it averaged groups around 1" to 1½". The point of aim was centered on the target, but again it was about 2" above the point of aim. Recoil with the Black Hills 230-grain Schofield loads was just slightly more than my handloads, probably because of the heavier 230-grain bullet. With either the factory or handloads, the Schofield loads are controllable enough to keep the 1872 from rolling up in the hand like full house .45 Colt loads can cause a SAA revolver to do.



Flange on front of cylinder covers cylinder arbor to prevent fouling.

Before I could take them to a match, I had to get appropriate holsters for them. I obtained a pair of great El Paso Saddlery "Territorian" Slim Jim holsters. They are really well made and very attractive, made of heavy skirting leather with a russet color oil

(Continued on page 54)

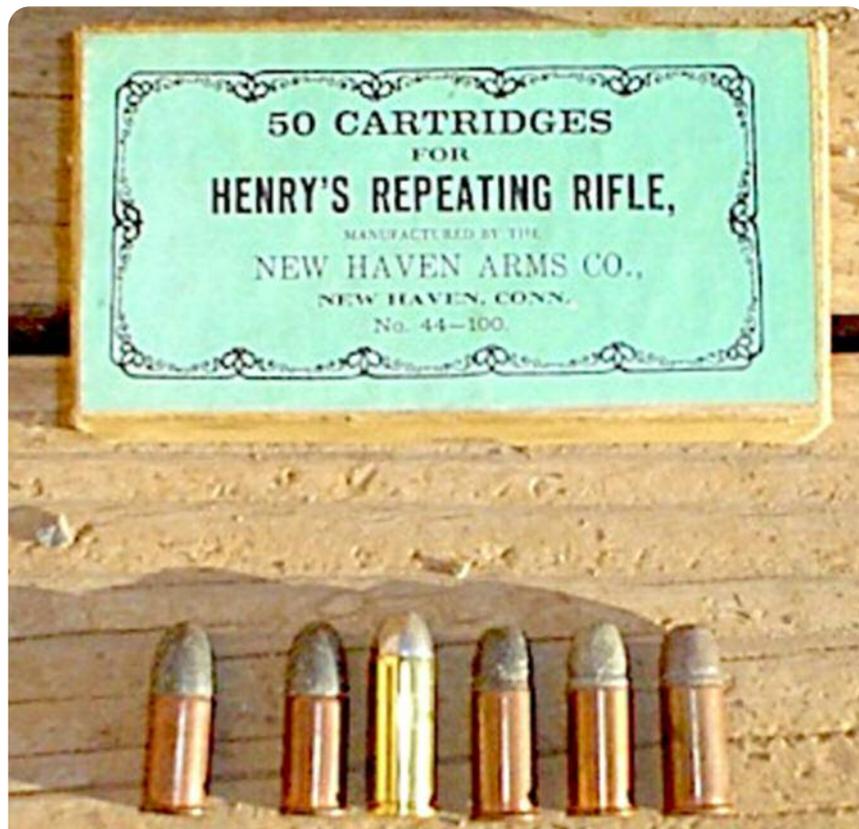
Taylor's Firearms Brings Back the Early West (pt.2) . . .

(Continued from page 53)

finish. The price is also *very* reasonable. The Slim Jim design is period correct for the early 1870s, as they were the common pattern of holster before Mexican Loop holsters became widespread in the 1880s.

How well do the 1872s do in a match? I took them to the monthly Nevada City Regulators match in Nevada City, California. The slightly muzzle heavy feel (especially of the 7.5" barrel) really seemed to point very well when shooting Duelist. (I shoot Senior Duelist, using my strong hand for both revolvers.) This natural "pointability" is inherited from its 1860 Colt Army percussion roots. I'll admit they did get some admiring glances and questions.

These 1872 Open Tops are perfect for the shooter who wants to have a "correct" hawg leg to go with his 1866 or 1860 Henry. Using the same ammo for pistol and rifle has always been attractive. Taylor's and Uberti have done a wonderful job on



Original .44 Henry rounds compared to a .45 Schofield loads.

these guns. Not only are they a thing of beauty, they are real shooters. I don't think you could go wrong by picking up a pair.

Credits

The 1872 Uberti Open Top revolvers are from Tammy Loy at Taylor's & Co. at (540) 722-2017 or check there web-site at www.taylorsfirearms.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 re-enactors, and SASS shooters for many years.

The El Paso Saddlery "Territorian" Slim Jim holster shown is from Midway USA, as well as my .45 Schofield brass and dies. They are my main source for my reloading gear. Check their website at: <https://www.midwayusa.com>

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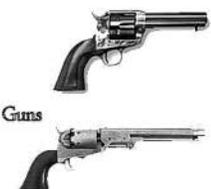
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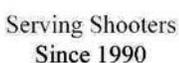


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HOW I GOT MY ALIAS

**R.J. Gatling,
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I am a mechanical engineer living in North Carolina and wanted an alias that might be related to my real-life occupation and home. What are the chances? Knowing Dr. Richard Jordan Gatling, inventor of the Gatling Gun, was born in NC, I researched him and found he was born in Hertford County in 1818 and died in 1903. Certainly, the right time period, and the Gatling Gun is certainly part of gun history. Ironically, he died on February 26, the same day and month I was born.

Gatling was not really an engineer. He was probably more than that—an inventor with a high aptitude for mechanical devices. Although famous for the Gatling Gun, he invented and patented all types of machinery, including farm equipment and even improvements to the toilet.

Politically, he was affiliated with the Copperheads—anti-war democrats—opposed to the American Civil War and wanting an immediate peace settlement with the Confederates. They represented themselves with badges displaying the liberty figure from large cents, several of which I obtained to be in total character with the alias.

Go figure, a mechanical-minded person born in North Carolina, notable in the right time period, and associated with guns. Sounded like the right alias for me. 🤠

Profiles

HOW I GOT MY ALIAS

**Candice B. Real,
SASS #88872**



I noticed there were a lot of aliases that, when spoken, sounded like something other than a name. And, as is the case with most names, shooters often end up with a nickname that is part of the full name. So, what could I come up with that was easy to say, easy to shorten to a single name, and sounded like something other than a name when said? It also had to have an attractive-sounding feminine first name.

I literally looked through the phone book at first names to see which ones had a nice ring to them and sounded like something other than a name. Candice finally turned up. A nice lady's name that also sounds like "can this." B was the obvious middle initial and Real just seemed like the right ending to the question in the cowboy fantasy world... Can This Be Real?

The name works. It sounds like a complete sentence or question, is a nice lady's name, and is easily shortened to just Candice, for general conversation or a call to the line to shoot.

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Articles

RVing and Cowboy Action Shooting™

By B. Tyler Henry, SASS #24729

I enjoyed Captain George Baylor's article on RVing and SASS (*The Cowboy Chronicle*, April and May 2017 editions). La Coquette (SASS #24730) and I started our camping adventures with a tent, then graduated to a Pop-Up camper, a Class C RV, an Airstream trailer, and finally a Diesel pusher RV. We have been RVing for more than 30 years and have found the RV lifestyle suits us and allows us to indulge in two of our favorite pastimes... Cowboy Action Shooting™ and fly fishing. We have visited every state in our RV except Hawaii... still trying to figure out how to get it

going fast enough to skip over the Pacific.

Our biggest adventure was a three-and-a-half-month trip to Alaska. We planned the trip around Cowboy Action Shooting™ and fly fishing. Our first shoot was Hell on Wheels. We elected to stay in a commercial campground. After a few days of our neighbors seeing us leave and return dressed like Roy and Dale, they inquired what we were up to. We explained what CAS is all about and several of our new friends came over to the range as spectators. We have found wherever we go in the RV, once we explain what Cowboy Action Shooting™ is and let them look



Outside Tombstone after Winter Range.



Our RV and Corgi watch dogs at Susquehanna Roundup.

Golden Hearts Shootist Society. What a wonderful bunch of folks. We did some research before we left to determine what the Canadian regulations were regarding transporting firearms. We learned if we were going straight through to Alaska there would be no problem transporting our handguns, but if we were going to spend more than four or five days in Canada, we would not be allowed to transport them. Since we planned to spend a week in Banff on our way north, we looked into a way to ship our revolvers to Alaska. We got in touch with the contact for Golden Hearts listed in the Chronicle and were referred to a member who had an FFL. I removed the cylinders from the pistols and shipped them to him. He held them for us until we arrived in Fairbanks. On the return trip, I shipped them to my Marine aviator nephew stationed at Whidbey Island.

(Continued on page 60)



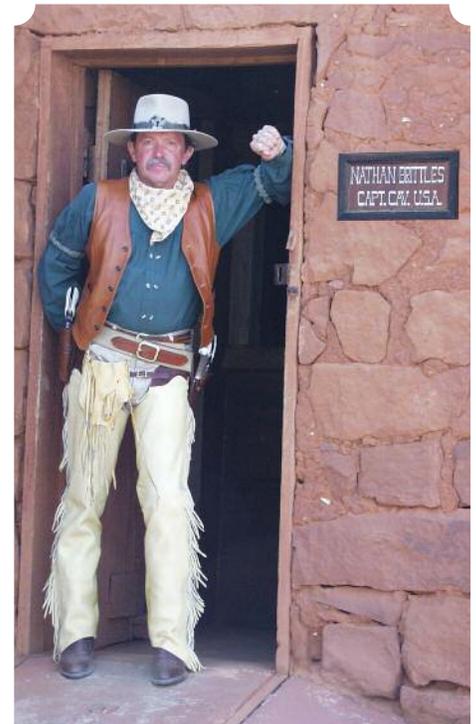
Winter Range.

RVing and Cowboy Action Shooting™ . . .

at a Cowboy Action CD, we get at least some spectators, and have made some converts.

I highly recommend the Alaska trip to my fellow RVers. We spent more than a month in Alaska and had absolutely no problems. The drive up the AlCan Highway is a wonderful experience. We elected to return using the Alaska State Ferry System. You are not permitted below decks to visit your RV once the ferry sails and we travel with our two dogs, so we took eight to 10 hour hops (we figured the dogs could handle that before needing a potty break) down the inside passage, got off the ferry, spent a few days exploring, then took another hop.

In Alaska, we shot with the



The cabin of Capt. Brittles (John Wayne) from *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon*.

RVing and Cowboy Action Shooting™ . . .

(Continued from page 59)

If you do decide to visit Canada, check the Canadian firearms regulations on their web site. There are restrictions on barrel length and magazine capacity, and some types of firearms are prohibited. The Canadian customs officials are professional, but strict. When we crossed into Canada, they pulled the RV just ahead of us to the side and had all the storage bays open and were searching the undercarriage with mirrors. Several customs officials entered the RV for an interior search. We were very glad we had done our homework and had everything regarding our guns and ammunition documented and the shot records for our dogs updated.

We went to the local US Customs Office before we left and got a customs form for each firearm we took with us. That paid off when we crossed into Canada. The Canadian Customs officials read through our paperwork and waved us through without inspecting our firearms. The only issue we had was when they asked if we had any ammunition. When I told them I had more than 2,000 rounds he did a double take and asked if I meant 200. I assured him we were not invading Canada, explained we are competitive shooters, and showed him a list we had prepared prior to our departure of all the matches we planned to attend and copies of the flyers for them I printed off the Internet. We had planned to attend a match in British Columbia on the return trip, but a forest fire caused



The Judge presiding over a wedding at Hell on Wheels.

them to reschedule the match. We did shoot in Kingman, Arizona on the way back home.

We returned to our home in Pennsylvania by the southern route and spent several days camping in Monument Valley. We found some Indians who would take us on a horseback ride through the valley. When we asked if they minded if we wore guns, they replied they didn't care what we wore as long as we could pay! We Cowboied up and rode the trails John Wayne rode. The cabin he used as Captain Brittles in *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon* still stands, and is a museum dedicated to that film. We would be happy to share our Alaska itinerary if anyone is interested. Email us at Bannock_Burn@msn.com.

Another memorable RV trip was to Winter Range. The Ben Avery shooting range North of Phoenix, where the match is held, is a place every shooter should visit. We again stayed at a commercial campground and again lured new friends to the match as spectators. We also became spectators at a unique event. After the match one day, Judge Roy Bean presided over a wedding between two match participants. All the competitors were invited to attend. There was a cowboy firing squad salute after the "I Dos."

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Monument Valley.

RVing and Cowboy Action Shooting™ . . .

After the match, we stayed for several days outside Tombstone and learned you could wear six-guns anywhere in town except a bank or bar. Joined by two other RVing couples we had met at the match, we put on all our Cowboy finery and toured the town. Several conventional tourists thought we were part of the group that put on the OK Corral shoot-out reenactment.

We really enjoy the RV life style. We have a For Sale sign on our house and as soon as it sells, we plan on RVing full time. Currently, we tow a full-size crew cab pickup with a cap over the bed behind the

RV. The cap makes the bed our traveling closet; it has a fold down rack in the top to hang clothes and a great deal of storage space. When we full time it, we will most likely get a box trailer and a smaller vehicle to fit in it, as Captain Baylor has done, so I will have a place to reload ammo, La Coquette can set up her sewing machine, etc.

An RV is treated like a second home by the IRS. Interest on a loan is deductible if you itemize deductions. RVs really are second homes. Unlike a bricks and sticks home however, your RV home can

(Continued on page 62)



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RVing and Cowboy Action Shooting™ ...

(Continued from page 61)

be a home in the mountains one week and a home at the beach the next. When we go full time, our plan is to follow 75 degrees, visit the many friends we have made all over this great land of ours and attend as many Cowboy matches as possible. Like Tennessee Tall and Rio Drifter, our goal is to say we have shot at a match in every state.

We have found Cowboy Action Shooters™ and RVers have a lot in common. Independence, friendliness, a willingness to help one another, a craving for adventure, and an incessant curiosity to see what's over the next hill. Be safe on the trail. 🐾



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Articles

THE Lone Ranger

The best TV Western EVER!



By *Bullets Granson, SASS #75364*



When I was a kid, *way* back in the 1950s, I was *not* a big fan of TV westerns. I actually found them rather boring, probably because the subject matter and plot lines were about things that had little or no interest or relevance to a 10-year-old living in Pittsburgh! Water rights? Property borders? Grazing rights? Huh? The two exceptions were *Have Gun, Will Travel* and *The Lone Ranger*. (I guess you could include *The Wild, Wild West* as well, but that was more of a “secret agent/sci-fi” show than a western in my opinion, since little effort was made to be realistic.) I think *Have Gun, Will Travel* held my interest because the episodes were short (even a kid with ADD like me could keep

his interest going for half an hour), and the idea of a hired gun/mercenary who lived in luxury in San Francisco and who would then would jump on a train (with his horse in the freight car) to the wild west to fight bad guys (for pay, of course) held a certain appeal.

But wait, you ask... *The Lone Ranger*—realistic? Pish–posh, you say! Balderdash, you exclaim! But I challenge you to watch a few episodes. (I’ve watched them all... several times). The Ranger and Tonto aside, all the other characters’ costuming was as historically accurate as any of the other TV westerns of the time (except for the Indians... for some strange reason, they wore *socks!*) The stagecoaches and wagons, equipment and gear, and sets and scenery were on a par with the other shows. In fact, the only anachronism I can find is the use of 1894 Winchester, when the show is supposed to be taking place in the 187’s (a common error in TV westerns of the time).

So, why was *The Lone Ranger* the best? The show certainly held my interest. I remember being glued to the TV when it was on! Further, the story lines were about simple, easy to understand concepts. And again, the story was resolved in a half hour. But still, there were other things about the show that held a kid’s interest. I recall many conversations with my friends about the previous night’s episode. A recurring issue for us was of course the mask. Why did he wear a mask? Well, if you didn’t see the first three episodes (which none of us did since the show first aired in 1949, six years before I was born, thank you very much) then you would have no idea. One of the various theories we threw out there was: a bad guy threw acid in his face and scarred him, necessitating a mask (it never occurred to us that it would have blinded him as well! I never said we were particularly bright). But realistically, after the first few episodes, the mask became unnecessary, because he had caught the bad guys from whom he had originally been hiding his identity from. So, what’s the deal? Why the mask, then? The simple fact is,



*Bullets Granson,
SASS #75364*

The Lone Ranger • The best TV Western EVER! . . .

the mask was the main reason the show held more interest for a kid than all the other westerns on TV at the time. How so? You ask. Simple. The mask converted what would have been a regular old western lawman into—wait for it—A SUPER HERO! I can hear it now... Ridiculous! Preposterous! Ludicrous! But I beg to differ. Consider the evidence, if you will: Secret Identity, like Batman, Iron Man, Spider Man, just to name a few. He wore a mask to hide his true identity. Secret source of funding, again like Batman and Iron Man. The Lone Ranger had monetary backing in order to finance his fight against crime. Batman had his (Bruce Wayne's, anyway) parents' millions, plus the profits from Wayne Industries. Likewise, Iron Man (aka Tony Stark) had his parent's millions, and the profits from Stark Industries. Convenient. The Lone Ranger's source of income was, of course, his own private silver mine, which was worked by an ex-criminal whom the Ranger had saved from his evil ways. He would work the mine, the Ranger would periodically collect the amount he needed for supplies and expenses, and the miner could keep the rest—sort of an incentive plan. Where did you think the silver for all those bullets came from? And did you ever notice how much silver was plastered all over his horse's saddle and bridle? It's a wonder that horse could even move! Let alone at the speed of light (and cloud of dust)! (BTW, this was all covered in the first three episodes, as was the meaning of "Kemosabe"—another source of endless speculation and schoolyard debate.

Which brings me to the next item: Super mode of transport. Consider, Batman has the batmobile, Iron Man has the jet engines in his metal suit, Silver surfer has his flying surfboard, and the list goes on. The Lone Ranger of course has his horse, Silver, who apparently could travel for days without getting tired, never threw a shoe, came when called or whistled for, and followed complex verbal commands and, as mentioned above, was really fast. Super fast, in fact. Super power. You can debate this one, if you will, but I maintain the Ranger's ability to shoot the gun from an opponent's hand, unerringly, without ever even drawing blood, constitutes a super power. At the very least, it is on a par with Batman's extensive training in martial arts, or Iron Man's intellectual ability to devise his super iron suit. Gravititas. The Ranger always spoke in a deep but kind and friendly tone that was an octave or two below everyone else, and without any southern/western twang or drawl. I like to think this was to impart a sense of moral or ethical authority, much like the famous line "I'm Batman" by Michael Keaton

(among others). Good *versus* evil. All the episodes, besides being short and simple, were unambiguous in their portrayal of what was right and wrong, like little morality plays or parables, and of course the Ranger was always on the side of good and right (much like Superman's "Truth, Justice, and the American Way").

But the number one reason that the Lone Ranger can be considered a super hero is HE WORE SPANDEX! Seriously! Watch a few episodes! You'll see. (Especially the later, color episodes.) In fact, the only part of his outfit that wasn't form fitting was his hat! Now, don't take this as me making fun of the show, the character, or even the actor (the late, great, Clayton Moore). As stated above, I loved the show when I was a kid, and still do. (You can still find it on various local and cable stations). In fact, I believe his wardrobe set him apart from the other characters on the show (reinforcing the super hero persona), but without being so outlandish as to make him seem like he didn't belong in that time and place.

Ladies and gentlemen, I rest my case. If the Lone Ranger isn't a superhero, then I'm not Bullets' grandson. Or Bullets Granson. (I guess you need to see my previous article to get that one!)

By the way, if you want to know why the Lone Ranger wore a mask, what Kemosabe means, where his silver comes from, and for that matter, why he even called himself "The Lone Ranger," as well as all the rest of the back story, the first three episodes (which, when watched together make a nice movie-length program, or at least a good serial) are available on DVD. Amazon has it as *The Legend of The Lone Ranger* among others. I got mine in the store at the front of a Cracker Barrel restaurant. How fun was that? Unfortunately, those first three episodes do *not* explain why Tonto wears socks or why only he (of all the Indians on the show) wore his hair in a man-bun. I guess he was *way* ahead of his time! 🐮

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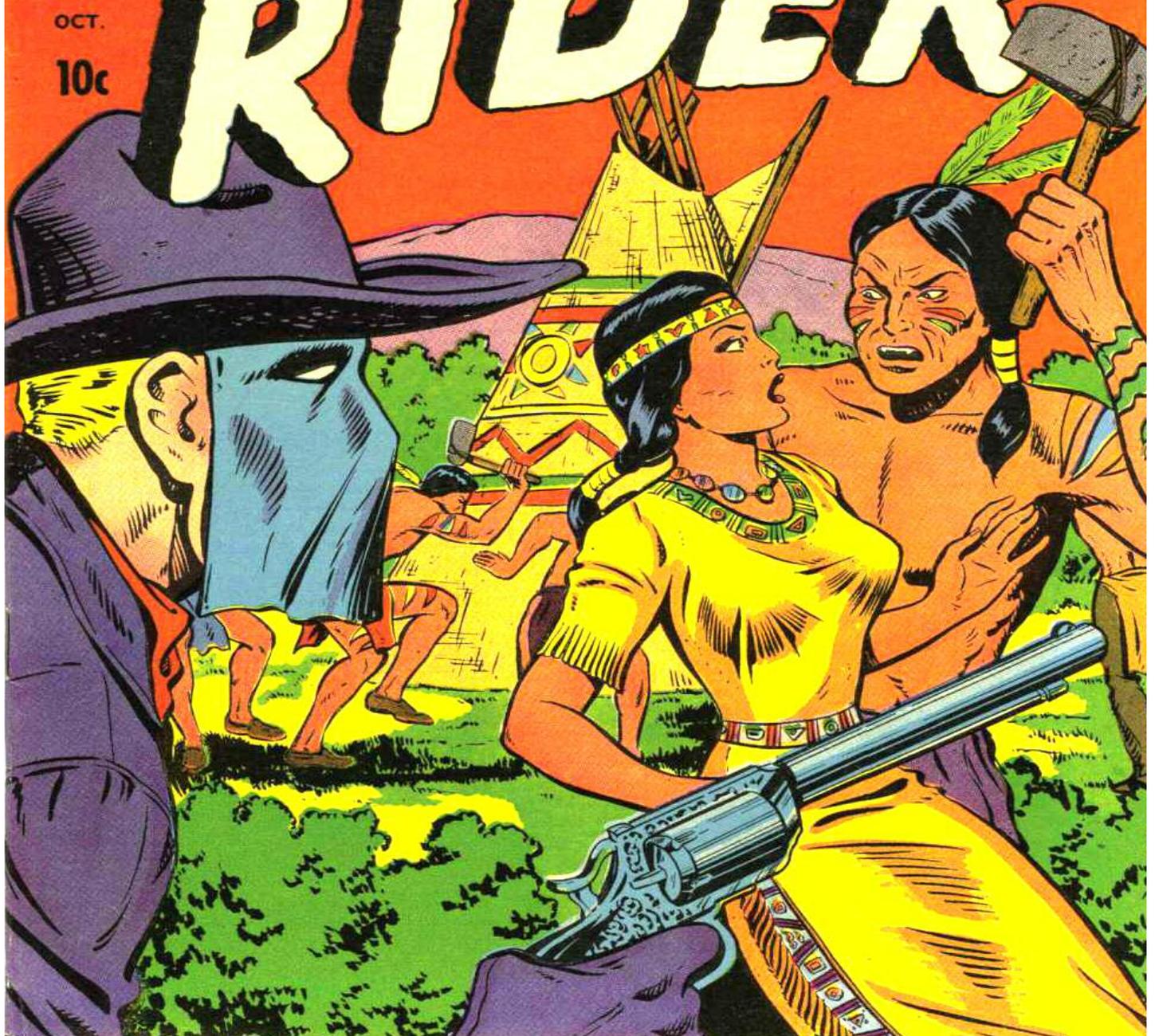
GOLDEN ARROW



OCT.

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The LONE RIDER



Outbreak in TOMAHAWK TERRITORY

A SCHEMING REDSKIN LIT THE FUSE TO A POWDER-KEG OF TROUBLE AND EVEN MANAGED TO MAKE LONE RIDER STAND OUT ALONE AND ACCUSED!



IT WAS THE PEACEFUL SEASON OF RIPENING CORN, BUT ONE REDSKIN HAD MORE ON HIS PLOTTING MIND THAN RIPENING CROPS...

HA! SLEEP DEAFENS PALEFACE GUARD!



MOVE, GUARD, AND YOUR BLOOD WILL WET THE WAREHOUSE FLOORS! WILD LYNX PLAYS NO CHILD'S GAME!



CAUTIOUSLY, WILD LYNX LIFTED COVERED RIFLES FROM THEIR CASES AND ON PADDED FEET, SWIFTLY MOVED TOWARD THE EXIT...



EVEN AS A HIBERNATING GRIZZLY HE SLEEPS! BAH... FOOL!

BUT THE BRAZEN REDSKIN ACCIDENTALLY BUMPED THE RIFLES... AND...



HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

YOU WAKE!

I SHALL SEND YOU TO A SLUMBER YOU WILL NEVER RETURN FROM!



WHY, YOU THIEVIN' INJUN! I'LL BLAST YOUR HEAD OFF!

WITH THE SPEED OF LIGHTNING, WILD LYNX'S TOMAHAWK TRAVELED ITS FLIGHT OF DEATH, AND IN A DESPERATE LEAP TO AVOID IT, THE GUARD DROPPED HIS RIFLE...



YOU ARE DONE FOR, PALESKIN! BUT IT SHALL BE SWIFT!

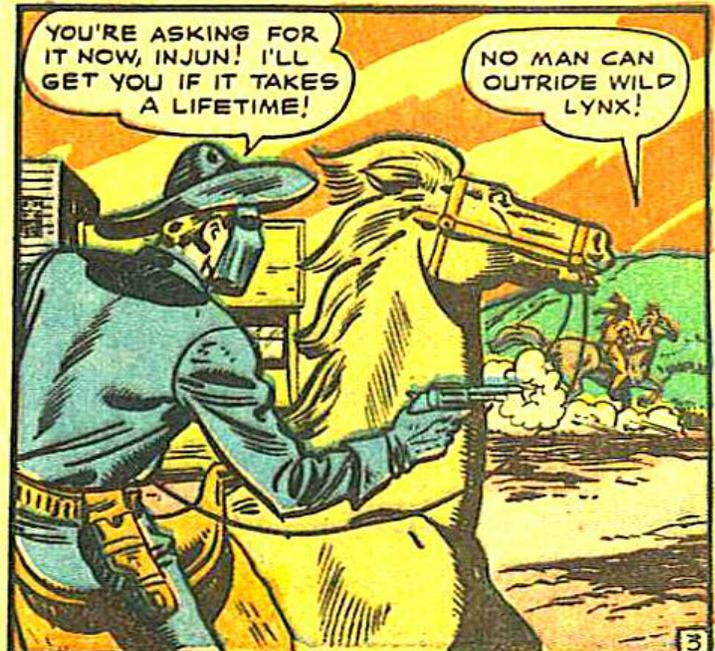
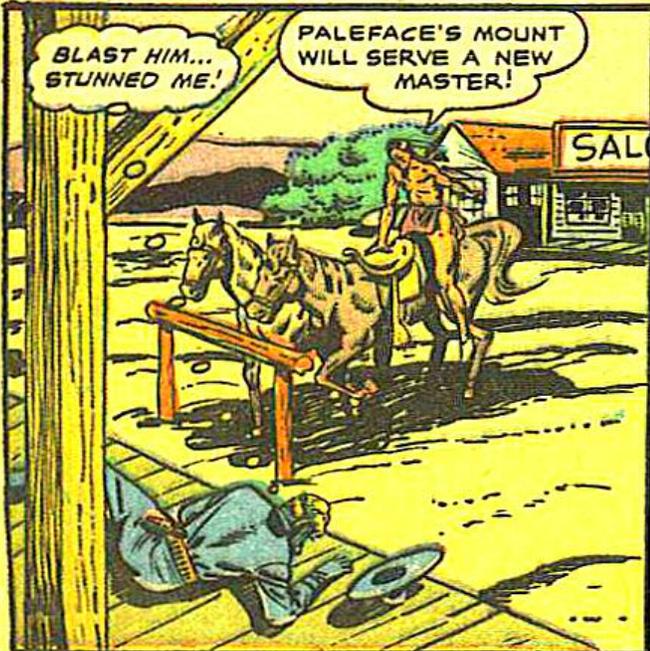


IF ONLY SOMEONE HEARD THE NOISE...

HA! THOUGHT I HEARD SOUNDS OF TROUBLE! STAND UP, INJUN, OR I'LL PUT A BULLET THROUGH YOUR SKULL!



LONE RIDER! IS THAT YOU? SAVE ME! HURRY!





AT A SIGNAL FROM THEIR CHIEF, THE WAR DANCE COMMENCES... PAINTED BODIES WHIRL ABOUT A FIRE, WHOOPING A CRY TO THE GREAT SPIRIT FOR VICTORY...



NO SIGN OF THAT SLY INJUN, LONE RIDER, WE MIGHT AS WELL TURN BACK!

LOOK AHEAD! HIS TRIBE IS SETTING FIRE AFTER FIRE!



THEY'RE GETTING READY TO ATTACK THE VILLAGE, ALL RIGHT, BUT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY!

IF THEY'RE GOING ON THE WARPATH, WE'D BETTER GIT!



NO, I FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR WILD LYNX... I'LL RIDE AHEAD AND INVESTIGATE!

BUT THOSE REDSKINS WILL SCALP YOU AFORE YOU COULD DRAW, LONE RIDER!



CHIEF EAGLE ALWAYS WAS A FAIR THINKIN' MAN... I'LL JEST HAVE TO TAKE MY CHANCES!



THE WAR DANCE! I DON'T KNOW HOW WILD LYNX PROMOTED THIS, BUT THAT TRIBE MEANS BUSINESS!





YOU COME WITH US, SPY!

OH-OH! I MIGHT HAVE EXPECTED THIS!

I COME IN PEACE, MEN!



YOU SPEAK WITH CHIEF EAGLE...

GLADLY! WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN FRIENDS!



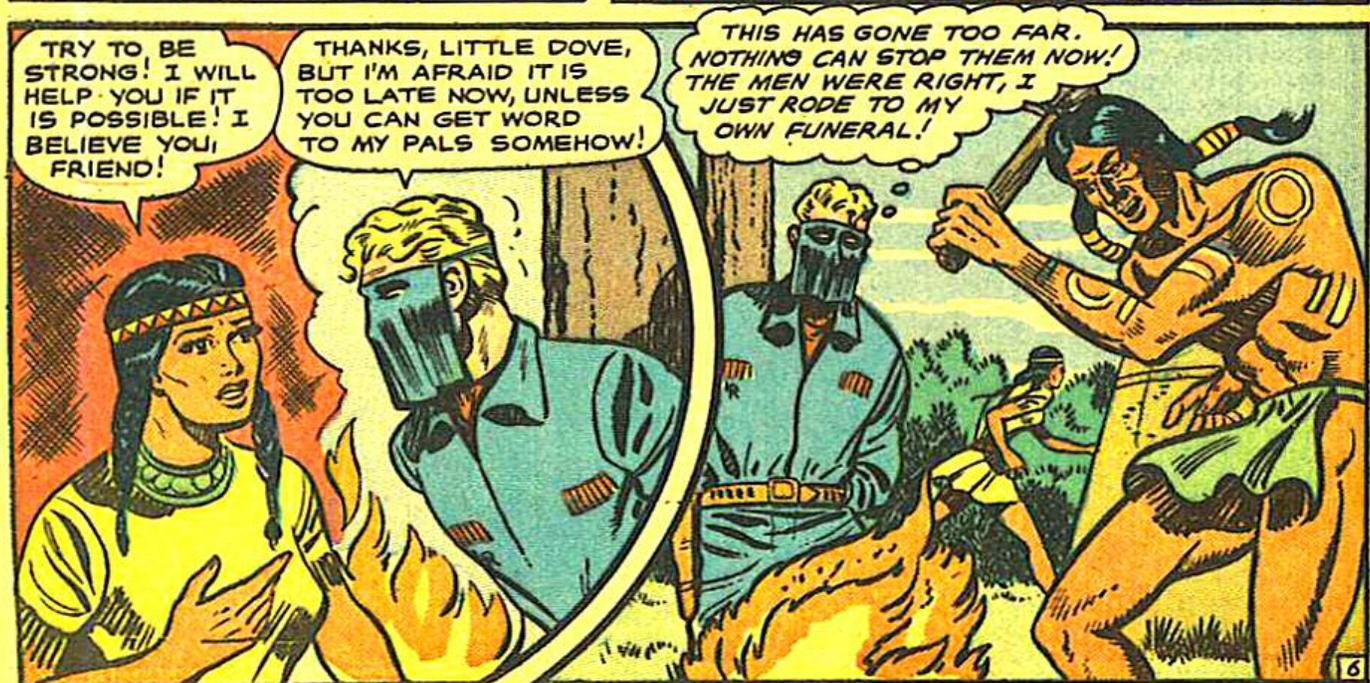
YOU SAY PEACE, LONE RIDER, YET MY SCOUTS TELL ME YOU CAME AS LEADER WITH ARMED MEN!

ARMED MEN! WHY, THAT WAS A POSSE! AND WE WERE LOOKIN' FOR WILD LYNX!



NO TRICKS! WHY SHOULD YOU PRETEND IT IS ONLY ONE OF US YOU SEEK?

THE STAKE! NO! LISTEN TO HIS WORDS FIRST! I, TOO, DO NOT TRUST WILD LYNX, THE TROUBLE-MAKER!



TRY TO BE STRONG! I WILL HELP YOU IF IT IS POSSIBLE! I BELIEVE YOU, FRIEND!

THANKS, LITTLE DOVE, BUT I'M AFRAID IT IS TOO LATE NOW, UNLESS YOU CAN GET WORD TO MY PALS SOMEHOW!

THIS HAS GONE TOO FAR. NOTHING CAN STOP THEM NOW! THE MEN WERE RIGHT, I JUST RODE TO MY OWN FUNERAL!

THE TOMAHAWK'S BLADE GLEAMED IN THE SUMMER SUN, AND JUST AS LONE RIDER RESIGNED TO HIS FATE, THE SOUND OF HORSES NEARED...



ATTACK! REDSKINS, DEFEND YOURSELVES!

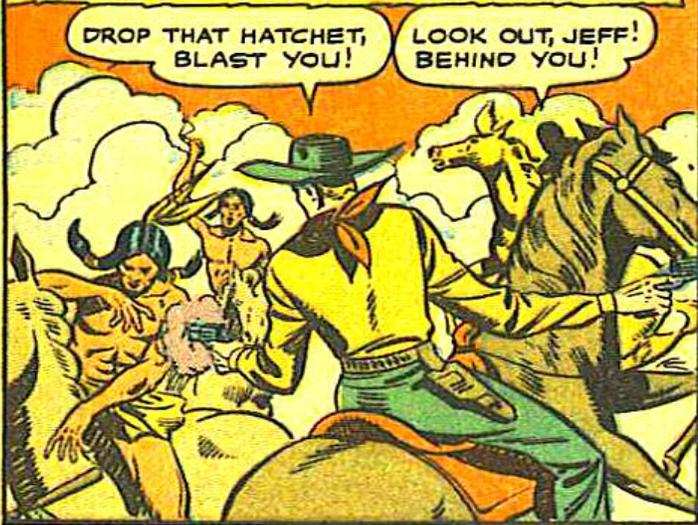
HERE WE GO, MEN! STEADY AND AT 'EM!



GUNPOWDER MINGLED WITH BLOODSTAINED DUST KICKED UP FROM THE CHARGING MOUNTS...

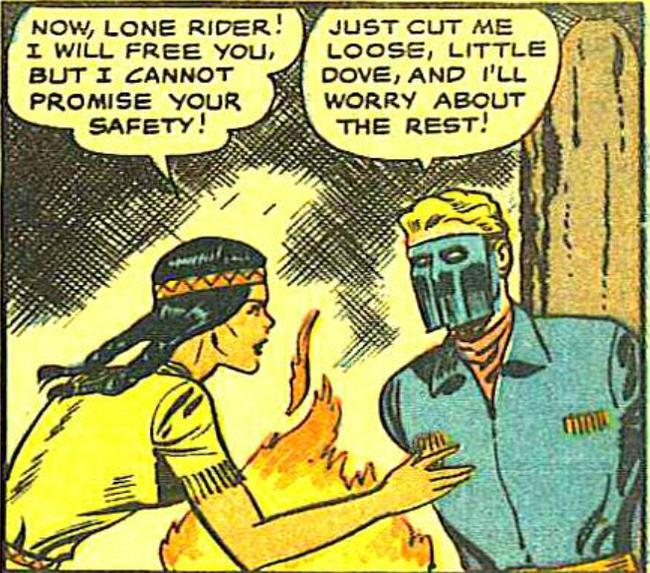
DROP THAT HATCHET, BLAST YOU!

LOOK OUT, JEFF! BEHIND YOU!



NOW, LONE RIDER! I WILL FREE YOU, BUT I CANNOT PROMISE YOUR SAFETY!

JUST CUT ME LOOSE, LITTLE DOVE, AND I'LL WORRY ABOUT THE REST!



NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TO ME, YOU MUST TELL YOUR FATHER THAT WILD LYNX CAUSED ALL THIS TROUBLE TO SAVE HIS OWN SCALP!

I WILL TELL HIM... BUT YOU MUST RUN WHILE THERE IS TIME!



MAY YOU BE SAFE, LONE RIDER!

THANKS, LITTLE DOVE! NOW I CAN PROBABLY PUT A STOP TO THIS MASSACRE!

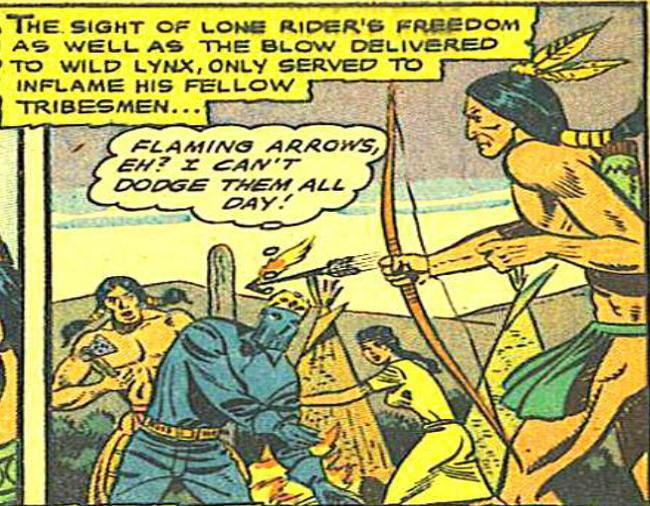
TRAITOR!





LONE RIDER HADN'T MOVED MANY PACES WHEN A TERRIFIED SCREAM FROM THE INDIAN MAIDEN HALTED HIM IN HIS TRACKS... SPINNING ABOUT, HE WAS JUST IN TIME TO ACT...

UP TO YOUR OLD TRICKS, EH? ATTACKING ANYONE WHO'S AT A DISADVANTAGE! I'VE BEEN WAITING TO RAP YOUR SKULL ALL DAY!



THE SIGHT OF LONE RIDER'S FREEDOM AS WELL AS THE BLOW DELIVERED TO WILD LYNX, ONLY SERVED TO INFLAME HIS FELLOW TRIBESMEN...

FLAMING ARROWS, EH? I CAN'T DODGE THEM ALL DAY!



WILD LYNX! IT WAS NOT INTENDED TO SLAY YOU!

HE EARNED IT, FELLOW! AND I CAN'T SAY I'M SORRY YOU MISSED ME!

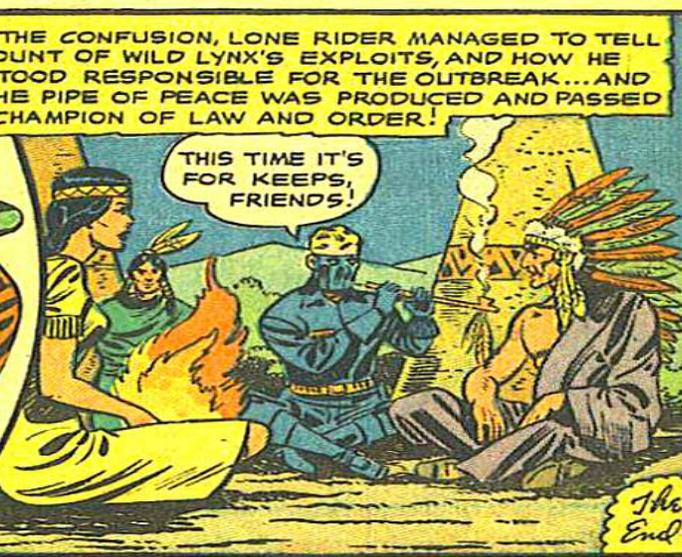


MEANWHILE, THE MELEE CONTINUES, REDSKINS AGAINST THEIR FELLOW WHITE BROTHERS, NEITHER KNOWING THE ACTUAL CAUSE OF THEIR CLASH...



CEASE, MEN! LET'S HAVE PEACE! WILD LYNX STARTED THIS AND HE'S PAID FOR IT! SHED NO MORE BLOOD!

WHAT DO YOU SAY, INJUN, WE GOING TO BE PALS NOW?



ABOVE THE CONFUSION, LONE RIDER MANAGED TO TELL HIS ACCOUNT OF WILD LYNX'S EXPLOITS, AND HOW HE ALONE STOOD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OUTBREAK... AND AGAIN THE PIPE OF PEACE WAS PRODUCED AND PASSED TO THE CHAMPION OF LAW AND ORDER!

THIS TIME IT'S FOR KEEPS, FRIENDS!

The End

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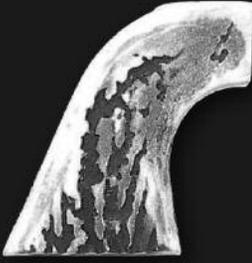



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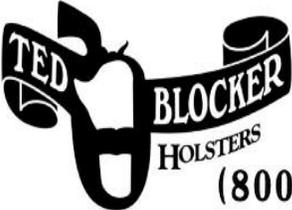
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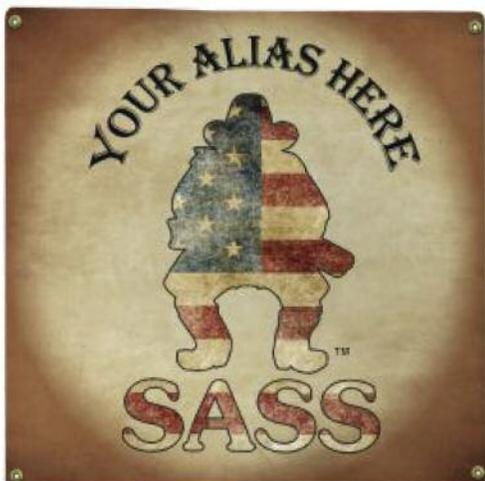
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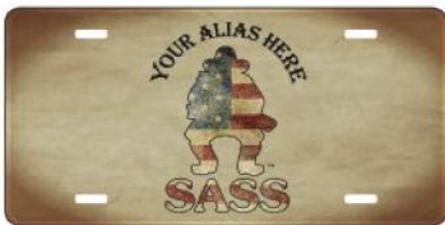
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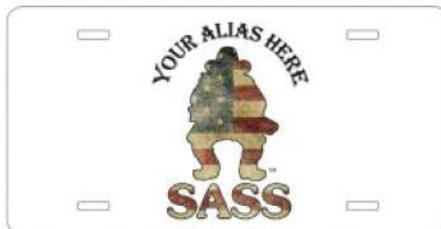


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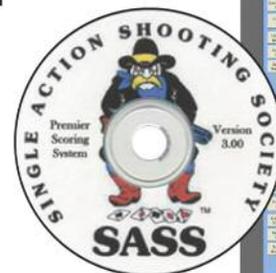
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106,151..... Ron "Ironhead" Smith

AR

106,134..... Slow Fork

AZ

106,167..... Schofield Jack

CA

106,050..... Cisco Pike
106,090..... Deputy Longmire
106,165..... Michael Ricochet

CO

106,086..... Prairie Lighting
106,087..... Prairie Sheriff
106,135..... Derringer Dan
106,174..... Kid Delaware

CT

106,147..... Marshall Clay

FL

106,076..... Pistol Packin' Patty
106,125..... Saltwater Kid

GA

106,057..... Jackrabbit Jen
106,091..... Bodhi Ryan

ID

106,075..... Kolb

IL

106,051..... Coyote Rod
106,052..... Lucky Lady LaCaze
106,053..... Sawed Off Sophia
106,054..... Crazy E
106,077..... Catgut Cav
106,078..... Cactus Oz
106,116..... Thirsty Miner
106,117..... El Despiadado
106,144..... Larabee
106,158..... Magnolia Steele

IN

106,067..... Allotta Denaro
106,094..... Koko-Mona
106,182..... Killin Ray

KY

106,085..... Hangfire Jim
106,092..... Kentucky Dave
106,145..... Kentucky Junebug
106,152..... Hoosegow Preacher

LA

106,175..... Louisiana Lefty

MA

106,069..... Tasco Kid
106,070..... Flourish

ME

106,060..... Gun Whisperer

MN

106,166..... Moonlight Bandit

MO

106,130..... Duke Silver

MT

106,055..... Poor Lil

NC

106,118..... Ryma Mae
106,122..... Saddlechase Kid
106,171..... East Clintwood
106,179..... Colt Curly

ND

106,142..... 106142
106,143..... Little Blue
106,169..... Mad Mike

NE

106,081..... Flatwater Monte
106,082..... Buckshot Billy
106,083..... Buffalo Bandit

NJ

106,173..... Rail Dog

NM

106,084..... Honey Rider

NV

106,136..... Painted Lady

NY

106,058..... Emmie Oakley
106,059..... Kansas City Kat
106,141..... Jessie Saint Ann
106,177..... Calamitee

OH

106,049..... Tequila Ann
106,065..... Rattlesnake Jake
106,073..... Two Bit Paul
106,089..... Mystyc Dave
106,170..... Stonecoal Shorty

106,176..... Dirty Dan Taraban

OK

106,131..... Loose Cannon
 106,132..... Coyote Cole
 106,153..... Sharp Shootin' Jake

OR

106,066..... Buck T Wild
 106,181..... The Telemark Kid

PA

106,149..... Coyote Bob

SC

106,046..... Kitty Colorado

SD

106,155..... South Hand Kid

TN

106,047..... Sheriff Langston
 106,079..... Grand Stan
 106,148..... Baccar Spitter
 106,178..... Cowgirl Casey

TX

106,120..... Whiskey Smith
 106,121..... Whiskey Gambler
 106,154..... Jangles
 106,172..... Nueces Kid

UT

106,064..... Frosty Mac
 106,127..... Space Cowboy
 106,138..... Violet Beauregard

VA

106,061..... Lawman Mays

WA

106,071..... Minnie Sota
 106,074..... Pine Run Sister
 106,129..... Sidekick Ben
 106,159..... Selway
 106,160..... 106160
 106,180..... Splitin Britches

WI

106,115..... Clyde Ralph
 106,126..... Colonel Ramrod
 McFearless

WY

106,140..... Cowboy Juan

**MEMBERS
 BY COUNTRY**

SASS # ALIAS

**Australia
 Victoria**

106,128..... Johnnie Nevada

**CANADA
 Alberta**

106,062..... Turquoise Nana
 106,063..... Silver Brumby

British Columbia

106,168..... Mayor "The"

Nova Scotia

106,156..... Festus Buzzard

Ontario

106,164..... Hawkeye JM

Quebec

106,048..... Speedy Rick

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