



Texican Star

*A publication of The Texican Rangers
"An Authentic Cowboy Action Shooting Club"
that Treasures & Respects the Cowboy Tradition*

SASS AFFILIATED

July 2008

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The President's Corner

Howdy all,

July already, time flies cowboy shootin. Not any changes goin on. We will continue to draw for the clean shooter, next draw in September. Lucky Nickel won the second quarter drawing. He is co-sponsoring the Cody-Dixon Challenge August 2 with his winnings and he added another \$100 to it. Thanks Pard. I hope he gets to shoot it. I have the rules printed up and we have almost filled 2 posse's. Woody is heading up a modern posse, using big bore rifles and 1911's. We are expecting 50 + shooters with 4 other clubs in Texas coming at this time.

Several folks showed up today to put in the new stage coach built by Deacon Martin and Old Reed. It's much bigger! Thanks to Two Shot for bringing out the bobcat with lift forks. Our workers today; Sassy Hatter, Gimpy James, Ima Gutshooter, Red Scott, Fatal Star, Dirty Dog Dale, Madam Ella Moon, Wiley and his Wifey, Dusty Leather, Deacon Martin, Quintana, and I hope I didn't forget anyone.

We have a night shoot next match, on Saturday night and a .22 side match (pistols and rifle w/shotgun) after the main match. Red Scott wrote the stages for the Ladies this month. We are planning a fun weekend, thanks Red for writing the stages and planning the night shoot.

Got one change...we are dropping the Sunday match fees to \$10 for members and \$15 for non members. If you are camping please do not get water from the ranch without talking to me first. Becky is now requiring a fee for water.....

Sheriff Robert Love is goin to make us a swinging rifle target soon. Because of the heat there is not much work planned right now. We will have to paint the new stage coach right away and I want to build frames and stands for the new knockdown pistol targets. The .22 gallery target can set on a table and stay portable.

We have a lot of team work going on, cooking, writing stages and helping at the range. We are blessed to have of fine group of members helping out. We will have a Deacon Martin stage in August, at the stagecoach with his request for a "special target." That should give us enough time to get it painted.

Club funds are good, we have bought some guns for Comacheria Days 09 and I just sent a check for our insurance renewal. We are going to budget \$1000 for Shindig. Plans are a free shoot and lunch for members with some awards or prizes. We have not decided which yet, or both. This will be a one day shoot weekend due to deer hunting.. The bank balance is almost 6k. We have to pay for range repairs/maintenance and porta potty cleaning the rest of the year and we will buy a couple more guns for Comacheria Days while the costs are lower than we expect them to be next year. We need to carry over about 4 thousand each year to launch the annual match. So we will be in good shape.

Come on out next weekend and have some fun at your club.

Dusty Chambers

STAGE HOLD UP AT "BIG HILL" SOUTH OF

FREDERICKSBURG by Quintana

Condensed article from August 8, 1949 edition of the Boerne Star, reprinted in 1985.

Before the San Antonio & Aransas Pass R.R. was built through the counties of Bexar and Kendall, mail and passengers traveled to the upper country by stage. In the years of 1883 to 1886, the stage was held up and robbed frequently at two locations. One location was about 12 miles south of Fredericksburg, where the horses stopped to rest after reaching at the crest of the "Big Hill". The other place was 5 miles south of Boerne at the Balcones Creek along the Boerne Stage Road. Here, the stage stopped to water the horses at the low water crossing.

Stage holdups were always served-up by two men. They were soon tagged with the names "Mr. Long" and "Mr. Short". The robbers would suddenly step into the road armed with Winchester rifles, ordering the driver to stop and throw down the mail bags. While the driver was covered by Mr. Long, Mr. Short would cut the registered mail and relieve the passengers of cash and other valuables. Just as quickly, the driver was ordered to move on and not look back. Law officers of Kendall and Gillespie Counties were unable to catch the highwaymen and efforts to track the bandits were to no avail.

The Balcones School House, just above the Balcones Creek mysteriously burned down. It was determined that the fire had been deliberately set when the school organ was discovered to be missing and wagon tracks were found leading away from where the school house had been. The wagon tracks led into the Boerne Stage Road and headed south, and thereafter, the trail went cold.

At this same time, there were two families living in one house at Locke Hill, 11 miles north of San Antonio along the Fredericksburg Road (*near the present site of USAA at Huebner Road*). The families were named Drown and the other Scott. They lived right at the road and kept hay and grain for sale. Two other families named Yeager and Brannon lived nearby. It was the impression of near by ranchers and freighters who made regular trips into the upper country that something was not right with the Drown and Scott house. Nothing could be proven until a young fellow named Harris and a friend named Pitts made their appearance at eh Drown place.

The Scotts had a pretty daughter about 18 years. Pitts and Harris were smitten. The parents favored Pitts and discouraged Harris. The girl had a brother about 20 named Frank who favored Pitts as a brother-in-law. The girl wanted to marry Harris. Soon thereafter, Harris disappeared. Some thought he moved on, others thought different.

At this same time, some horses had been stolen and it was traced up to Brannon. The sheriff of Bexar County came to arrest Brannon. They met on the road and Brannon took flight. Not adhering to the Sheriff's call to stop, Brannon was gunned down.

After the killing of Brannon, Sheriff's deputies became interested in the disappearance of Harris, last seen in the company of Frank Scott, the brother. Foul play was suspected.

About six months passed and the girl married Pitts and resided in the same house with the Drown and Scott families. She later told authorities that she had been forced to marry Pitts and that she was sure Pitts had a hand in the disappearance of Harris, whom she had wished to marry. An "old setter" and near by neighbor met with deputies and suggested they scout out the "big cave" about 2 miles west of the Drown and Scott house. The cave was only known to a very few people in the area.

Upon arriving at the cave, one of the deputies was lowered into the cave by rope. Descending about 20 feet and carrying a lighted lantern, the deputy found in the very dark recesses of the cave, a saddle and a skeleton of a man wrapped in a saddle blanket. A bullet hole was found which had entered in the back of the head and came out the forehead. The person had been shot from behind, that was plain. The clothes and saddle were recognized as belonging

to Harris. Frank Scott was the last man seen in the company of Harris riding off toward the mountains in the direction of the cave. It was known that Scott did not want Harris to marry his sister. Scott was arrested and taken to the Bexar County jail.

Meanwhile, deputies following up on a complaint by an area rancher, who claimed property had been stolen and by all indications, it had gone over to the Drown place. Searching the home, some important discoveries were made. Seems as though there was an organ in the corner of the big room. Nailed to the back of the organ was a tag that said, "Balcones School". Behind the organ, deputies found mail delivery pouches and registered mail envelopes addressed to parties located in the upper country. Immediately, Pitts and old man Scott were arrested and taken to jail. The Balcones School recovered their organ. It was determined that some of the mail pouches were from robberies at the "Big Hill".

Frank Scott later confessed and was convicted of murdering Harris. Upon hearing of her brother's confession, the young Scott girl told authorities that Pitts and a man named Yeager had been holding up the U.S. mail hack at the "Big Hill" and Balcones Creek and that they had also burned down the Balcones School.

Frank Scott had been found guilty of murder and sent to the penitentiary for life. Separately, Pitts and Yeager were found guilty of robbery. U.S. Marshall Gosling was charged with taking the prisoners by train to Austin. Old Mrs. Drown, mother-in-law of Pitts, and Miss Yeager, the sister of the other stage bandit, were aboard the train car transporting the two prisoners. They occupied the seat just in front of the Marshall and the two prisoners.

When the train was out from San Antonio about 10 miles, about where the Wetmore station is now located, both prisoners suddenly drew a revolver and began shooting at the Marshall. The lawman was able to get out his weapon and then he fell dead.

Then the prisoners made a rush for the door of the car. The Conductor was coming forward from the rear of the car with his pistol in hand but was held up by Mrs. Drown who pointed a revolver at him. The Conductor shot from the hip and old Mrs. Drown went down with a bullet in her abdomen. This took all the fight out of the 300-pound woman at once. The prisoners opened the side door and were jumping from the train, when the Conductor fired a few shots at them, as they hit the ground.

The train chugged on to Austin with the dead Marshall and dying woman. A special coach and engine and officers of the law at once returned to the place where the prisoners escaped. Blood was found on the ground where the prisoners had jumped from the train. The officers followed the trail for about 200 yards where they came upon the dead body of Pitts. The Conductor had aimed well.

Pitts was shot through the body and he was laying near a bloody rock with his left arm on it. His hand was missing from the arm. It was evident that Yeager had laid Pitt's hand on the rock and crushed it at the wrist, where the handcuff was, until it was severed. Yeager's right hand had been handcuffed to Pitt's left hand.

The authorities brought in blood hounds the next day to trail up Yeager. The "sniffers" lost the trail. However, a month later, Yeager was captured near Wetmore and then taken to the penitentiary.

Old man Scott died shortly thereafter. Mrs. Drown died of her bullet wound in the gut. Frank Scott died in the penitentiary. This broke up a bad set of highwaymen and murderers and the "**Long and Short**" mail coach robbers were caught at last. **Pitts was the "long" and Yeager the "short"**.

Quintana grew up less than a mile from Locke Hill, played in caves west of there and for the past 34 years has lived less than a mile from the Balcones School and the county line at Balcones Creek along the Boerne Stage Road just south of Boerne.

And, it is near that "Big Hill" that a "**new Stage Coach**" is about to stop to rest the horses and settle in and become host to many a shoot out with "long and short" highwaymen in coming days. Please join in and **welcome the new**

Stage and thank “Old Reed” and others who helped construct and locate the new “thrill ride” at Stieler Ranch along the old San Antonio to Fredericksburg stage line road.

Texican Rangers match – june 14, 2008

Category	1st	2nd	3rd
Men's B-Western	Reverend Trinity	Black Irish Charlie	
Men's Classic Cowboy	Wild Bill Munch		
Men's Cody Dixon	Jonah Stark	Two Shot Tex	Dangerous Don
Men's Duelist	Doc Lee	Hawkeye	
Men's Senior Duelist	Handlebar Bob	Grouchy Spike	Firefly Judd
Men's Frontier Cartridge Deulist	Yuma Jack		
Men's Frontiersman	Texas Gil		
Men's Gunfighter	Squawman		
Men's 49r	Lassiter	Dusty Chambers	Guatemala Kid
Men's Modern	Picosa Kid		
Men's Senior	Lucky Nickel	Sheriff Robt Love	Capt. Samuel Clayton
Men's Super Senior	Alley	Woody Duit	Kid Rico
Elder Statesman	Stampede Al	Shotgun Hammond	Double Dare Kid
Men's Traditional	Dirty Dog Dale	Massanutten Kid	Buck Elk Horn
Ladies 49r	Abiquiu Sue	Sassy Hatter	
Ladies Senior Duelist	Haddy Heard		
Grand Dame	Stetson Hattie		

Ladies Overall	Abiquiu Sue	Haddy Heard	Sassy Hatter
Men's Overall	Picosa Kid	Reverend Trinity	Lassiter

Top 10 Shooters

10) Lucky Nickel		5) Alley	
9) Woody Duit		4) Dusty Chambers	
8) Jonah Stark		3) Lassiter	
7) Wild Bill Munch		2) Reverend Trinity	
6) Handlebar Bob		1) Picosa Kid	

Clean Match Shooters

1) Picosa Kid		3) Jonah Stark	
2) Alley		4) Lucky Nickel	

Texican Rangers match – june 15, 2008

Category	1st	2nd	3rd
Men's Senior Duelist	Grouchy Spike	Gus Miller	
Men's Gunfighter	Guatemala Kid	Wes Virginian	
Men's Cody Dixon	Two Shot Tex	Dangerous Don	Bullfrog Ike
Men's Senior	Blue Thorn	Bad Hand	
Men's Super Senior	Woody Duitt	El Paso Lee	
Grand Dame	Stetson Hattie		
Elder Statesman	Shotgun Hammond	Lightfoot Louie	Will Peso
Men's Modern	Dusty Leather		
Ladies 49r	Haddy Heard	Sassy Hatter	
Men's 49r	Dusty Chambers	Blacky Vela	
Ladies Traditional	Lil Bingo		
Men's Traditional	Dirty Dog Dale		

Top 10

10) Dirty Dog Dale	5) Woody Duitt
9) Shotgun Hammond	4) Grouchy Spike
8) Two Shot Tex	3) Dusty Leather
7) Blue Thorn	2) Blacky Vela
6) Guatemala Kid	1) Dusty Chambers

Clean Match Shooters

1) Dusty Chambers	3) Dirty Dog Dale
2) Blacky Vela	4) Sassy Hatter

Cowboy Tradin' Post

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Or email the Secretary – Fatal Star Fatal.Star@hotmail.com

TEXICAN RANGERS
2008 WAIVER/MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

Alias: _____ **Name:** _____

Address: _____ **City:** _____

State: _____ **Zip:** _____ **Contact Phone #:** _____

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NEW MEMBER ONLY: Initiation Fee \$25.00 (per family – one time fee) \$ _____

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TOTAL \$ _____

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This is a legal and binding obligation from date of signature to 31 December 2008, inclusive.

1. Alias: _____ **Name:** _____

Signature _____ **Date** _____

2. Alias: _____ **Name:** _____

Signature _____ **Date** _____

3. Alias: _____ **Name:** _____

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4. Alias: _____ **Name:** _____

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