

The Texas Star

Newsletter for the Texican Rangers

A Publication of the Texican Rangers
An Authentic Cowboy Action Shooting Club
That Treasures & Respects the Cowboy Tradition

SASS Affiliated
January, 2017

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Words from the Judge



Hello the Camp:

For those who came out to our first match of 2017, Thank you, your presence let me know we have a great bunch of cowboys and cowgirls in our club. I do not know how many came out and then left, but I do know that there were 11 brave souls who shot with us. For those who were not there, there is one word that describes the day, MISERABLE.

Our website has the winners and the clean match names, please go there to see who were the iron men and women of January 2017. My thanks to Sheriff Robert Love and Shooting Iron Miller for staying and running the timer and scoring the match.

Just a reminder about Comancheria Days and the State Championship, we already are more than half way to our 300 participants, many of those registered are not club members, so club members get your entries in. Contact any officer if you have questions.

See you in February.

Judge GeePee

Riding Off into the Sunset
By Tombstone Mary, Secretary
Regulator/Life #19524



Bad Hand

July 1, 1945 – January 16, 2017

John Michael Fifield (Bad Hand), 71, of Salisbury NC passed away on Monday January 16, 2017 at Forsyth Medical Center surrounded his family, and his beloved Dot Dog, and Rusty. John was born on July 1, 1945 in Oakland, CA to the late Johnny Fifield and the late Maxine Gibbs. Bad Hand proudly served his country in the United States Navy for over 20 years. He travelled the world and it is a better place for his service.

He served as an Onslow County Deputy Sheriff, then moved on to serve the Jacksonville NC Police Department. He was an avid member of SASS. He was proud to be a Texican Ranger and enjoyed gunsmithing, and black powder shooting. He was also a “Hoodlum” and spent many an hour learning survival techniques from his mentor, Ron Hood. His “handles” were “90 North” and “Bad Hand”. He taught classes at Coastal Community College,

preparing officers for service and training officers. He worked for several years in the Alaska Tour business. He was preceded in death by his wife, Glenda Murphy Fifield.

He is survived by his wife of eleven years, Lee Strong Fifield of Salisbury; a brother-in-law, Craig Murphy and wife Mary of River Falls, WI. and nephews, Colin Murphy and Stewart Murphy and niece Hannah Murphy. He maintained close friendships in the military, SASS, law enforcement community, civic leaders, and the press. John never hesitated to assist other agencies throughout the great state of North Carolina.

The Texican Rangers have lost a good friend but we have our memories.



Taking the Last Train Out (A Cowboy has his last wish granted)

By Dutch Van Horn



Drifter

November 21, 1941 – January 22, 2017

Carl Hardy Raborn (Drifter), passed away on January 22, 2017. He was born in San Antonio to J. Herman and D. Gertrude Raborn on November 2, 1941. Carl proudly served in the U. S. Navy for four years before returning to San Antonio. He worked as a railroad engineer for twenty years. He is survived by Mary Etta, wife of 56 years, sons Kenneth and James, grandson Cody, sister Jo Anne Larivee, 6 nieces and 3 nephews. He is preceded in death by his brother James.

Carl loved life, always telling stories and jokes. Drifter enjoyed cowboy action shooting, coastal fishing, finding treasures at the flea market, restoring old cars, camping and deer hunting.



Drifter use to say, “The first liar never stands a chance” and “Why let truth interfere with a good story.” A few years ago, Drifter let friends and family know that when he died he wanted to have all Cowgirls as his Pall Bearers. Drifter referred to them as his Paula Bearers. He wanted them to wear white shirts, jeans, and boots. Well I am happy to say he got his wish.

Winchester 1873 One of One Thousand By Dutch Van Horn



We all know and love the 1873 Winchester Rifle. It was known as “the Gun that Won the West”. It has also been the title star of a motion picture. Was it as good as it’s legend would have you believe?

Oliver Winchester was many things. As a successful businessman, he was one of the first to recognize the link that successful marketing was critical to a successful business. Well he must have done something right because between 1873 to

1919 he manufactured 720,000 Winchester model 1873s. This is even more impressive when you consider, at this time’ America’s population was about 76 million.

The ’73 was the culmination of a 25-year evolution of the lever-action repeating rifle. It began with Walter Hunt’s Volition Repeating Rifle, which featured a tubular magazine and a complex and relatively fragile linkage system. That rifle’s patent was purchased a year later by Lewis Jennings. Jennings improved the linkage somewhat, producing a few rifles through the firm of Robbins & Lawrence of Windsor, Vt., until 1852. Horace Smith and Daniel Wesson bought the patent from Jennings and acquired Jennings’ shop foreman, Benjamin Tyler Henry, to oversee further improvement and manufacturing, calling their new company the Volcanic Repeating Arms Company.

One of the first improvements was Smith’s incorporation of a copper case with a priming compound held within the folded rim of the cartridge to replace the “Rocket Ball” ammunition, which was a Hunt invention. Rocket Ball ammunition held the powder charge within the hollow base of the bullet, and like all forms of so-called “caseless” ammo it has never proven to be reliable or accurate. The cartridge Smith developed became the .22 Short. The rifle and cartridge had limited success, because of the lack of power and reliability of its ammo. Eventually the Volcanic Repeating Arms Company produced a lever-action pistol to go with its rifle.

The largest stockholder in this fledgling firm was a shirt maker from New Haven, Conn., Oliver Winchester. Wesson left Volcanic in 1856, and Smith followed him eight months later to form the Smith & Wesson Revolver Company. Volcanic was in receivership, and Winchester—who was reputed to have a keen eye for a bargain-bought controlling interest in the company in 1857, renaming it the New Haven Arms Company. Henry remained with Winchester and continued to develop Smith’s cartridge concept on a larger, .44-caliber scale. He redesigned the rifle to handle the powerful ammunition, culminating with the 1860 Henry rifle. The rifle saw a fair amount of service with the Union army during the Civil War.

When the war was over, Winchester renamed the firm the Winchester Repeating Arms Company and set about improving the Henry rifle. The 1866 model featured a bronze alloy frame, an improved magazine and a walnut fore-end to protect the shooter’s off-hand from heat during firing. It retained the .44 Rimfire chambering of the Henry.

The year 1873 saw further improvement with a new steel frame with sideplates that made it easier to access the rifle’s innards for cleaning, along with a new chambering. This new cartridge had a separate “central-fire” primer with a heavier, stronger case and more powder to

increase the velocity of the 200-grain bullet. Its name was the .44-40 Winchester Center Fire or as it is more commonly known, the .44-40 WCF. A legend and an icon was born.

As the western prairies became highways for fortune-seeking settlers, the 1873 Winchester became wildly popular. The rugged, no-nonsense rifle found itself in the hands of market hunters, in the scabbards of cowboys and under the driver's seat of stagecoaches through the remainder of the 19th century and into the 20th. It was no target rifle. Most 1873s could barely keep five shots on a dinner plate at 100 yards, but that was accurate enough to kill a deer or put down a bad guy. It made up for its lack of accuracy and long-range power by offering a higher volume of shots. You could buy a basic Winchester 73 for around \$18.00 when they first came out. The 1876 Sears catalog had them for \$24.00 but that was with shipping.

To both celebrate and enhance the Model 1873's prestige, Winchester established a coveted "One of One Thousand" grade in 1875. Barrels producing unusually small groupings during test-firing were fitted to rifles with set triggers and a special finish. Marked "One of One Thousand", they sold for a then princely amount of \$100.00.



The gun also had starring billing with James Stewart in the 1950 American Western film "Winchester '73". The film is about the journey of a prized rifle from ill-fated owner to another and a cowboy's search for a murderous fugitive.

It featured the legendary James Stewart at his leading-man finest in this timeless western that set the standard for all that followed. Frontiersman Lin McAdam (Stewart) is attempting to track down both his father's murderer and his one-of-a-kind rifle, the Winchester '73, as it passes among

a diverse group of desperate characters, including a crazed highwayman (Dan Duryea), an immoral gunrunner (John McIntire), a savage young Indian chief (Rock Hudson) and McAdam's own murderous brother (Stephen McNally). Featuring Shelley Winters as the rifle's only rival for McAdam's interest and Tony Curtis in one of his first screen performances, the gripping tale of the men (and gun) who won the West is one of Stewart's most memorable films and one of the genre's most enduring classics.

This is an important western. It was James Stewart's first attempt at an action hero. Up until then he had only done romantic comedies. The movie features early film performances by Rock Hudson as an American Indian, Tony Curtis, and James Best. In 2015, the United States Library of Congress selected the film for preservation in the National Film Registry, finding it "culturally and historically significant."



Interestingly, only 136 One of One Thousand grade 1873s were made. That is why that today a rusty standard 1873 will fetch as much as \$3,000, and a One of One Thousand? The sky is the limit but count on at least six figures.



Bat Masterson

By Dutch Van Horn



1853 - 1921

William Barclay "Bat" Masterson spent the first half of his life in the "Wild West". During that period, he distinguished himself as a buffalo hunter, Indian fighter during the celebrated Second Battle of Adobe Walls, civilian scout for the U.S. Army, and gunfighter and lawman in Dodge City and elsewhere. The "Wild West" phase of Masterson's life was essentially over by the mid-1880s when he was still in his early thirties.

Masterson moved to Denver and established himself as a leading "sporting man," or gambler. He took an interest in prizefighting and became a leading authority on the sport.

He would attend almost every important match and title fight in the United States from the 1880s until his death in 1921. He knew, and was known by, all the Heavyweight Champions from John L.

Sullivan and James J. "Gentleman Jim" Corbett to Jack Johnson and Jack Dempsey. He moved to New York City in 1902 and would spend the rest of his life there as a reporter and columnist for the New York Morning Telegraph.

In his late teens, he and his brothers Edward John "Ed" Masterson and James Patrick "Jim" Masterson left their family's farm to become buffalo hunters. During July, 1872 Ed and Bat Masterson were hired by a subcontractor named Raymond Ritter (no relation to Newt) to grade a five-mile section of track for the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad. Ritter skipped out

without paying the Masterson brothers all the wages. It took Masterson nearly a year but he finally collected his overdue wages from Ritter – at gunpoint. On April 15, 1873 Masterson learned that Ritter was due to arrive in Dodge City aboard a Santa Fe train and that Ritter was carrying a large roll of cash. When Ritter's train pulled in, Masterson entered the car alone and confronted him and marched him out onto the rear platform of the train, where he forced him to hand over the \$300 that was owed to him, his brother Ed, and a friend named Theodore Raymond. A loud cheer then went up from a large crowd who had witnessed the event.

Bat was once again engaged in buffalo hunting on June 27, 1874 when he became an involuntary participant in one of the Wild West's most celebrated Indian fights – the five-day siege at a collection of ramshackle buildings in Texas known as "Adobe Walls." The two hundred Indians were led by famed Comanche Quanah Parker. The Indians suffered the most losses during the battle. The actual number of Indians killed is not known, and the number reported ranges from a low of 30 to a high of 70. The Adobe Walls defenders lost only four men – one of whom shot himself by accident. After being fought to a standstill, Quanah Parker and his followers rode off.

His first gunfight took place on January 24, 1876 in Sweetwater, Texas. He was attacked by a soldier, Corporal Melvin A. King, allegedly because of a girl named Mollie Brennan, who was accidentally hit by one of King's bullets and was killed. King died of his wounds. Masterson was shot in the pelvis but recovered.

Masterson soon made a complete recovery and settled in Dodge City. On June 6, 1877, Masterson tried to prevent the arrest of a certain Robert Gilmore – who was known to the locals as "Bobby Gill." To do this, Bat somehow managed to wrap his arms about the girth of 315 lb. City Marshal Lawrence Edward "Larry" Deger, thereby permitting "Bobby Gill" to escape. Masterson was grabbed by friends of Deger and pistol-whipped by the balloon-shaped lawman. The following day, Masterson was fined \$25 for disturbing the peace. "Bobby Gill," the cause of Masterson's fine, was assessed only \$5. During July 1877, Masterson was hired to serve as "Under-Sheriff" to Sheriff Charles E. Bassett. Sheriff Bassett was prohibited by the Kansas State Constitution from seeking a third consecutive term. With the job up for grabs, Masterson wasted no time throwing his derby into the ring. The sheriff's race became particularly interesting when Masterson's opponent turned out to be Larry Deger. On November 6, 1877, Masterson was elected county sheriff of Ford County, Kansas by the narrow margin of only three votes. Within a month of Masterson's election, on December 6, 1877, Ed Masterson replaced Larry Deger as city marshal of Dodge. Together, the Masterson brothers now controlled the city and county police forces. However, Masterson's critics claimed that he spent too much as sheriff, and he lost a bid for reelection in 1879.

For several years, Masterson drifted around the West. Early in 1881, news that his younger brother, Jim, was in trouble back in Dodge City reached Masterson in Tombstone, Arizona (this is why Bat wasn't at the gunfight at the OK Corral). Jim's dispute with a business partner and an employee, A.J. Peacock and Al Updegraff respectively, had led to an exchange of gunfire. Though no one had yet been hurt, Jim feared for his life. Masterson immediately took a train to Dodge City.

When his train pulled into Dodge City on this morning in 1881, Masterson wasted no time. He quickly spotted Peacock and Updegraff and aggressively shouldered his way through the crowded street to confront them. "I have come over a thousand miles to settle this," Masterson reportedly shouted. "I know you are heeled [armed]-now fight!" All three men immediately drew their guns. Masterson took cover behind the railway bed, while Peacock and Updegraff

darted around the corner of the city jail. Several other men joined in the gunplay. One bullet meant for Masterson ricocheted and wounded a bystander. Updegraff took a bullet in his right lung.

The mayor and sheriff arrived with shotguns to stop the battle when a brief lull settled over the scene. Updegraff and the wounded bystander were taken to the doctor and both eventually recovered. In fact, no one was mortally injured in the melee, and since the shootout had been fought fairly by the Dodge City standards of the day, no serious charges were imposed against Masterson. He paid an \$8 fine and took the train out of Dodge City that evening.

Masterson never in his life again fought in a gun battle, but the story of the Dodge City shootout and his other exploits ensured Masterson's lasting fame as an icon of the Old West. He spent the next four decades of his life working as sheriff, operating saloons, and eventually trying his hand as a newspaperman in New York City (sportswriter). The old gunfighter finally died of a heart attack in October 1921 at his desk in New York City.



Bat was supposedly the first person to order a custom Colt Single Action Army in 4 3/4 inch barrel. While most everyone else was carrying a Colt with either a 7 1/2 inch barrel or a 5 1/2 inch barrel, Bat ordered his Colt with the barrel cut right at the end of the ejector housing. He wanted the gun to be nickel plated and have the Colt hard rubber grips. Others followed his lead and soon Colt was offering their Single Action Army in a 4 3/4 inch barrel.

You will never see a gun in any museum that belonged to Bat Masterson. Later in life Bat became something of a con artist. He would be asked to speak about his adventures in the old west at some get together. He would tell his stories and afterward he would be mobbed by fans. He would pick a likely candidate and tell them that due to financial difficulties he had to sell the pistol he carried in all his gunfights. He would sell the mark his pistol, usually for \$200.00. They said he would buy his Colts a case at a time and that he pulled this scam as often as he could.



Home on the Range

By A.D. Texaz, Rangemaster



Howdy Rangers:

I look forward to the February shoot! I anticipate better weather. The stages and side match stages are complete for the SASS Texas State Championship – Comancheria Days 2017. A few little adjustments remain.

Newt Ritter is writing the story lines, I can't wait to see what he has for us. Getting the range ready for the State Match is the next order of business. Cleaning up the downed oaks, rebuilding High Noon, and the Man – on – Man stages are the next major

projects. I greatly appreciate the work of the membership. All the hard work will pay off!

Keep the feedback coming! See you in February... Email me if you have any questions or concerns.

AD

Tombstone Mary, Secretary

Regulator/Life #19524



Thank you to all our members who mailed or dropped off their waiver and dues for 2017. We still have a few members who need to pay and sign a waiver. You can find the waiver on our website at www.texicanrangers.org. Remember you must sign a waiver before you shoot a match for 2017.

Comancheria Days our SASS Texas State Championship is right around the corner. We are filling up fast so please get your application to Madam Ella Moon as soon as possible. We do not want our club members to miss out on all the fun we have planned.

If I can answer any questions or help in anyway, please do not hesitate to contact me at maryn58@sbcglobal.net

Famous Quotes

If you get thrown from a horse, you
have to get up and get back on, unless you
land on a cactus then you have to roll around
and scream in pain.

Unknown

When in doubt, let your horse do the
thinkin'.

Unknown

Speak your mind, but ride a fast
horse.

Unknown

Just 'cause trouble comes visiting
doesn't mean you have to offer it a place to
sit down.

Unknown

If you're ridin' ahead of the herd,
take a look back every now and then to
make sure it's still there with ya.

Unknown

The only good reason to ride a bull is
to meet a nurse.

Unknown

Texican Rangers Regulators

Tombstone Mary	2003
A.D. Texaz	2004
Dusty Lone Star	2008
Handlebar Bob	2010
Dusty Chambers	2010
Sheriff Robert Love	2012
Grouchy Spike	2013
Agarita Annie	2016
Nueces Slim	2016
Skinny	2016



January Birthdays

Blacky Vela	1/7
Smoke Jensen	1/9
Hawkeye	1/12
Skyhawk Hans	1/12
Three Fingered Dutchman	1/21
Big John Mesquite	1/23
Kidd James	1/26
Leather Lung	1/27



Key Links

www.sassnet.com
www.texicanrangers.org
www.greenmountainregulators.org
www.pccss.org
www.stxpistoleros.com
www.tejascaballeros.org
www.darbyroughregulators.com
www.trpistoleros.com
www.texasjacks.com
www.cimarron-firearms.com
www.tsra.com
www.wildwestmercantile.com

TEXICAN RANGERS 2017

January 14-15	Monthly Match
February 11-12	Monthly Match
March 11-12	Monthly Match
April 6-9	COMANCHERIA DAYS
April 29	Wild Bunch, BAMM, Long Range
May 13-14	Monthly Match
June 10-11	Monthly Match
July 8-9	Monthly Match
July 29	Wild Bunch, BAMM, Long Range
August 12-13	Monthly Match
September 9	SHINDIG 2017
September 10	Monthly Match
September 30	Wild Bunch, BAMM, Long Range
October 14	Final Match of 2017
November/December	Range Closed

CENTRAL TEXAS MONTHLY CLUB SHOOTING SCHEDULES

1st Saturday	Plum Creek (Lockhart)
1st Saturday	South Texas Pistoleros (San Antonio)
2nd Saturday	Texas Riviera Pistoleros (George West)
2nd Saturday	Travis County Regulators (Smithville)
2nd Sunday	Rio Grande Valley Vaqueros (Pharr)
2nd Weekend	Texican Rangers (Comfort)
3rd Saturday	Tejas Caballeros (TX Republic Ranch)
4th Saturday (Cowboy) and 4th Sunday (Long Range)	Green Mountain Regulators (Marble Falls)

2017

Feb 10-12	Jail Break	Oakwood Outlaws
Feb 20-26	Winter Range	Phoenix
Mar 10-12	Bayou Blast	Lake Charles, LA
Mar	Trailhead	THSS
April 6-9	Comancheria Days	Texican Ranger (Comfort)
May ?	Battle of Plum Creek	Plum Creek
June 15-25	End of Trail	Founders Ranch, NM
Oct 12-14	SASS Southwest Regional Red Dirt	Oklahoma

A Blast from the Past Best Pictures from 2016















