



# 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  
June 2019

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### Hello Texican Rangers



The June Saturday match had 57 shooters and 11 clean matches and Sunday we had 20 shooters and 3 clean matches.

The trial Side Match stage on Saturday was a success. 32 shooters took advantage of the opportunity to shoot an additional stage. I am planning to do the same thing for the July shoot. The optional stage will be one of the stages from the 2018 Western Regional. It looks like a really good stage.

Finally, I was able to follow the End of Trail postings on the SASS wire and Facebook this week. Saturday night the qualifiers for the Top 16 Shoot Off were announced. EOT asks the top 16 men and the top 16 ladies if they want to participate in a match held Sunday morning.

SASS squads the men and ladies in their own bracket. 2 shooters at a time face off with the winner advancing. It takes 5 wins to win each bracket. Then the fun starts with the Match Director asking the ladies champion if she wants to compete with the men's champion. I seem to remember Holy Terror and I think SASS Kicker both have won the overall championship.

I mention this because it's a good story and the fact that 4 Texican Ranger members qualified for the EOT Top 16 Shoot off! For the ladies, it was Hey You & Panhandle Cowgirl, and for the men, it was Preacher Kid & Waterloo.

Looking forward to seeing how our other members fared.

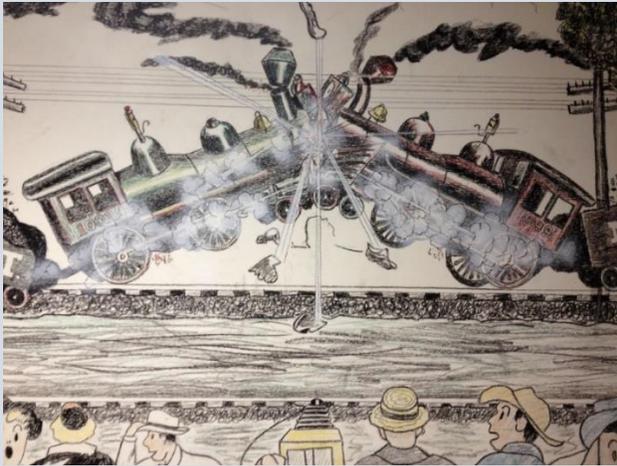
See you in July

A.D.

President

## **Train Smash in Texas**

**By Dutch Van Horn/Regulator 51153**



Entertainment in the old west was very different and sometimes dangerous. People considered lectures, hangings, and political debates as high entertainment. Why wouldn't they get excited to see an organized train wreck?

William Crush (yes, that was really his name) was a railway man who had an idea of dubious brilliance in 1894. The idea was to create such a massive public spectacle it would secure the future of the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad Company, more popularly called the Katy. Crush decided to set up the temporary city of Crush, featuring a carnival and the main attraction, which

was two 35-ton train engines smashing together. Yes, we are talking about real entertainment.

How did this come about? The Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad had first reached the Crush area in the 1880s, during the construction of a route between Dallas and Houston. As the railroad expanded, the Katy replaced its 30-ton steam engines with newer, more powerful 60-ton engines, and subsequently a stockpile of the older units, for which the railroad now had no use, began to accumulate.

A locomotive crash staged by the Columbus and Hocking Valley Railroad near Cleveland, Ohio several months earlier had been a huge success, and Crush imagined a similar spectacle for which Katy could advertise to thousands of potential passengers. Crush's superiors agreed to his proposal and put him in charge of the project.

Two water wells were drilled at the site and a circus tent from Ringling Brothers was erected, as well as a grandstand, three speakers' stands, a platform for reporters, two telegraph offices, and a special train depot, over which a giant sign proclaimed the new town as "Crush, Texas". Events from the Midway Plaisance, including lemonade stands, carnival games, medicine shows, cigar vendors and other sideshows were highly anticipated, with a construction foreman saying that "This feature alone will be worth going to Crush [City] to see." A separate four-mile segment of track was built for the event alongside the Katy railroad so that there was no chance a runaway train could end up on the main line, after all you must be safe when you have an organized train wreck. The trains toured the state for months in advance, advertising the event.

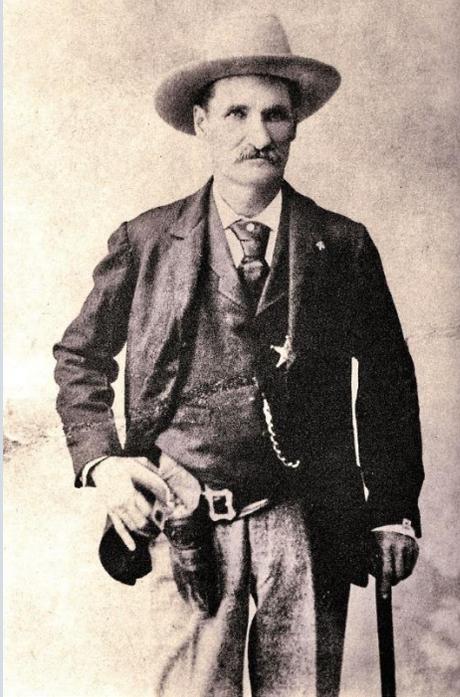
This was a huge deal at the time. According to newspaper accounts, conversation about everything else took a back seat to the train smash. No admission was charged, and train fares to the crash site were offered at the reduced rate of \$2.00 from any location in Texas. When the big day finally came, Crush became the second-largest city in the state as around 40,000 people came flooding in. The epic event went off somewhat as planned, but if you were wondering whether boiler-driven steam trains would explode on impact ... they do.

The crash was delayed for an hour because police officers working for security couldn't move the onlookers back to what they considered a safe distance. The trains were each going about 50 mph when they hit, and according to reports, there was a heartbeat of silence before they exploded in a shower of hot debris. The safe distance didn't prove to be safe; At least two people were killed and no one's sure how many were injured. One

survivor, local photographer J.C. Deane, got \$10,000 and a lifetime railway pass for his lost eye. Crush was fired, then immediately re-hired when they realized how popular he'd made the railroad. You know, among people who hadn't lost eyeballs.

## **Belly Gun Shootout**

**By Dutch Van Horn/Regulator 51153**



Though by far, not the most well-known of the Old West's infamous characters, John Henry Selman's life was certainly one of the most notorious. Sometimes referred to as "Old John," or "Uncle John," he would variously operate in a number of roles, including soldier, lawman, vigilante and vicious outlaw.

At the time of the gunfight, Selman was in El Paso where he made his living primarily as a gambler and sometimes as a City Constable.

He was best known as the man who shot and killed John Wesley Harding, but that is another story.



Back in the Old West, Bass Outlaw was an enigma: a brave and respected Texas Ranger when sober and a raving maniac when drunk. Fired from the Rangers for drinking on the job, Outlaw was immediately hired as a deputy U.S. Marshal. Outlaw was the black sheep of a genteel Georgia family. He had an inferiority complex, and always had something to prove. He was around 5'4" and weighed maybe 150 lbs. His eyes, cold and unfriendly, were pale blue. He sported a mustache best described as bushy, not the heavy, flowing types worn by the likes of Doc Holliday or Wyatt Earp which were the fashion of that era.



They say that his bravery was a match for anybody, and he could whip out a Colt so fast you could hardly see the movement. He like many of his gunfighting counterparts favored a belly gun for close encounters. His choice was a short-barreled Colt with the trigger guard and front sight removed. He would use it at point blank range, and he would fan it causing the bullets to go everywhere.

On April 5, 1894, John Selman met Texas Ranger, Bass (Baz) Outlaw. Outlaw who was in a drunken stupor, made his way to Tillie Howard's brothel and Selman followed. As Selman sat in the parlor, Outlaw made his way to the back. A short time later, Bass dropped his gun and it accidentally went off (probably had six rounds in the gun). Then all hell broke loose. Selman, as well as Texas Ranger Joe McKidric who was in the neighborhood, ran to see about the commotion.

As both tried to calm down the drunken gunman, Outlaw pointed his gun at McKidric and shot him in the head and back, killing him instantly. This was the only incident where a Texas Ranger has ever been killed by another active or former Texas Ranger. Outlaw then fired at Selman, nearly striking him in the face and causing deep powder burns (they were that close). Selman returned fire, hitting Outlaw just above the heart. As Bass staggered back, he fired two more shots, hitting Selman above the right knee and in the thigh. Bass then staggered into the street where he surrendered to Texas Ranger Frank McMahan. He died four hours later. John Selman was then put on trial for killing Outlaw, but the judge instructed the jury to find him not guilty.

### **Tombstone Mary, Secretary Regulator/Life #19524**



There are only 4 matches left for 2019. If you need to know how many times you have shot in one category email me at [Texicanrangers@yahoo.com](mailto:Texicanrangers@yahoo.com).

Please remember to write legibly when filling out the scoresheet. Do not fill in zeros or dashes for all the empty spaces it makes the sheet hard to read.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at:

[Texicanrangers@yahoo.com](mailto:Texicanrangers@yahoo.com)

Tombstone Mary

## Trick Shooting in the Old West By Dutch Van Horn/Regulator 51153



MISS LILLIAN SMITH.

The Celebrated Californian Rifle Shot.

Copyright. Woodbury.

The wild west shows around the late 1800's to the early 1900's were popular exhibitions. Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show gave rise to a plethora of exhibition shootists like Annie Oakley, the husband and wife team the "Fabulous Topperwins" in the mid-20th century carried on the tradition.

So, do trick shooters use tricks? First the accomplishments of these marksmen and women were the result of huge ammunition consumption. A person may perhaps be a 'natural' but will still require considerable practice.

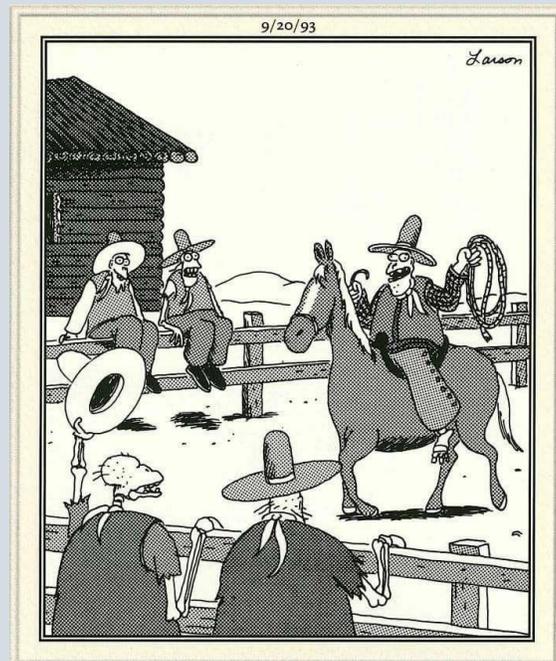
Some of the tricks or methods used by these shootists to ensure success during live shows, not retakes, are still used today. Annie Oakley used shot shells in some of her rifle exhibitions. This was done when shooting at thrown targets. She once, while shooting targets tossed in the air, hit 4472 out of 5000 in a single day. Another trick is to shoot the largest round possible. A near hit with a .45 caliber bullet is a clean miss with a .38 or .22.



Another famous trick was to shoot a playing card in half with a rifle bullet at long range. Now how could she do that reliably. Sure, up close she could hit the card with no help, but how could she do it a longer range, in fact, how could she even see the card? It is true she was a fantastic shooter, but she did have a little help with the target stand. The stand was an ornately decorated table with a lot of inlay designs. In fact, there was one inlay just below where the card was held. This inlay was her point of aim and the rifle sights was set to fire above the design at just the right height to hit the card. Still a good shot, but not the impossible shot that the audience thought she was making.

## Parting Shots Western Slang Phrases

1. Ace-high ~ first class, respected.
2. According to Hoyle ~ Correct, by the book.
3. A lick and a promise ~ to do haphazardly. "She just gave it a lick and a promise."
4. All down but nine ~ missed the point, not understood. (Reference to missing all nine pins at bowling.)
5. Bear sign ~ cowboy term for donuts. A cook who could and would make them was highly regarded.
6. Beef ~ to kill. (From killing a cow to make beef to eat.) "Curly Bill beewed two men in San Antonio."
7. Bend an elbow ~ have a drink. "He's been known to bend an elbow with the boys."
8. Bone orchard ~ cemetery.
9. Calaboose ~ jail.
10. California widow ~ woman separated from her husband, but not divorced. (From when pioneer men went West, leaving their wives to follow later.)
11. Difficulty ~ euphemism for trouble, often the shootin' or otherwise violent kind. "He had to leave Texas on account of a difficulty with a gambler in San Antonio."
12. Dry gulch ~ to ambush. Reference from abandoning a body where it fell.
13. Fish ~ a cowboy's rain slicker, from a rain gear manufacturer whose trademark was a fish logo. "We told him it looked like rain but left his fish in the wagon anyhow."
14. Get a wiggle on ~ hurry.
15. Gospel sharp ~ a preacher. (Apparent opposite of a card sharp!)
16. Grass widow ~ divorcee.
17. Like a thoroughbred ~ like a gentleman.
18. Pony up ~ hurry up!
19. See the elephant ~ originally meant to see combat for the first time, later came to mean going to town, where all the action was.
20. Take French leave ~ to desert, sneak off without permission.
21. The Old States ~ back East.
22. To beat the Dutch ~ to beat the band. "It was rainin' to beat the Dutch."
23. Who-hit-John ~ Liquor, beer, intoxicating spirits. "He had a little too much who-hit-John."
24. Wind up ~ settle. "Let's wind up this business and go home."



Vacationing from their jobs of terrorizing young teenagers, zombies will often relax at a Western dead ranch.

## 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
Joe Darter	2016
Nueces Slim	2016
Skinny	2016
Dirty Dog Dale	2017
Dutch Van Horn	2017
Shooting Iron Miller	2017

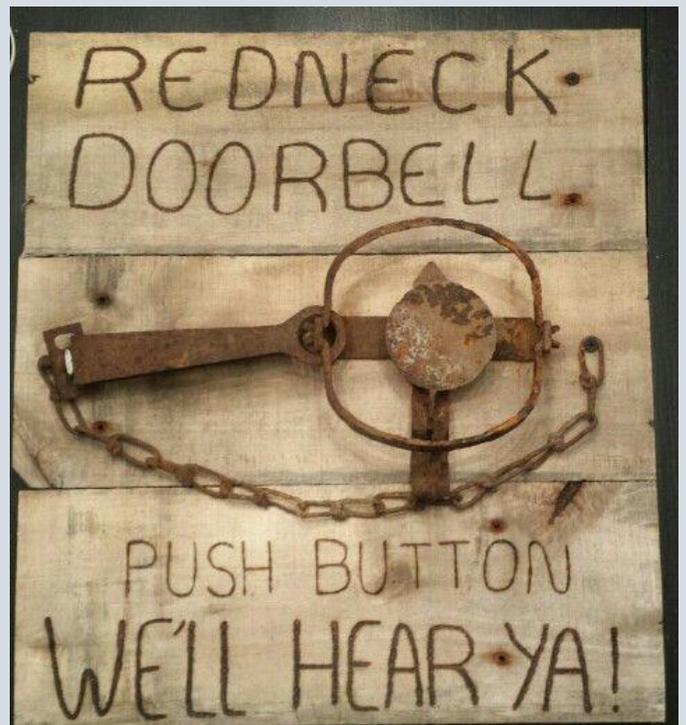


### June Birthdays

Leon Springs Bill	6/2
Rusty Bang Stick	6/4
Hey You	6/7
T.H. Boland	6/8
Thunder Mountain	6/9
Nueces Slim	6/16
Quintana	6/18
Mad Dog McCoy	6/19
Skinny	6/21
Colorado Horseshoe	6/27
Burly Bill Brocius	6/30

### July Birthdays

Ruby Redheart	7/1
Texas Terror	7/5
Shotgun Hammond	7/5
Squaw Man	7/9
Pedernales Drifter	7/9
Sheriff Robert Love	7/10
July Smith	7/10
Dirty Dog Dale	7/11
Judge GeePee	7/14
Picosa Kid	7/15
Bisbee Jackson	7/25
Bandera Kid	7/26
Bison Jim	7/29
Little Bit Sassy	7/31



### Key Links

[www.sassnet.com](http://www.sassnet.com)  
[www.texicanrangers.org](http://www.texicanrangers.org)  
[www.greenmountainregulators.org](http://www.greenmountainregulators.org)  
[www.pccss.org](http://www.pccss.org)  
[www.stxpistoleros.com](http://www.stxpistoleros.com)  
[www.tejascaballeros.org](http://www.tejascaballeros.org)  
[www.darbyroughregulators.com](http://www.darbyroughregulators.com)  
[www.trpistoleros.com](http://www.trpistoleros.com)  
[www.texasjacks.com](http://www.texasjacks.com)  
[www.cimarron-firearms.com](http://www.cimarron-firearms.com)  
[www.tsra.com](http://www.tsra.com)  
[www.wildwestmercantile.com](http://www.wildwestmercantile.com)

## TEXICAN RANGERS

2019

January 12	Monthly Match
January 13	Monthly Match
February 9	Monthly Match
February 10	Monthly Match
March 9	Monthly Match
March 10	Monthly Match
April 11 – 14	Comancheria Days
May 11	Monthly Match
May 12	Monthly Match
June 8	Monthly Match
June 9	Monthly Match
June 29	Wild Bunch, BAMB, Long Range
July 13	Monthly Match
July 14	Monthly Match
August 10	Monthly Match
August 11	Monthly Match
August 31	Wild Bunch, BAMB, Long Range
September 14	Shindig
September 15	Monthly Match
October 12	Monthly Match & Final Tear Down
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	Darby Rough Regulators (West Point)
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)

2019

Feb 8-10

Jail Break

Oakwood Outlaws

Feb 18-24

Winter Range

Phoenix

Mar 21-24

Trailhead

THSS

April 11-14

Comancheria Days

Texican Ranger (Comfort)

April 25-27

SASS Southwest Regional Land Run

Oklahoma

June 13-23

End of Trail

Founders Ranch, NM

Oct 19-20

SASS Texas State Black Powder

Championship

Groesbeck, TX

Oct 18-20

SASS Texas State Wild Bunch

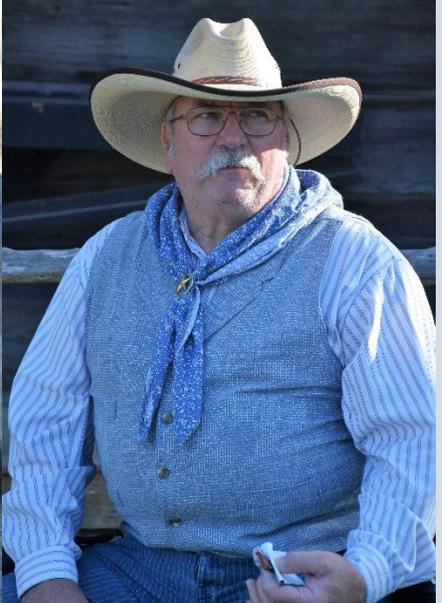
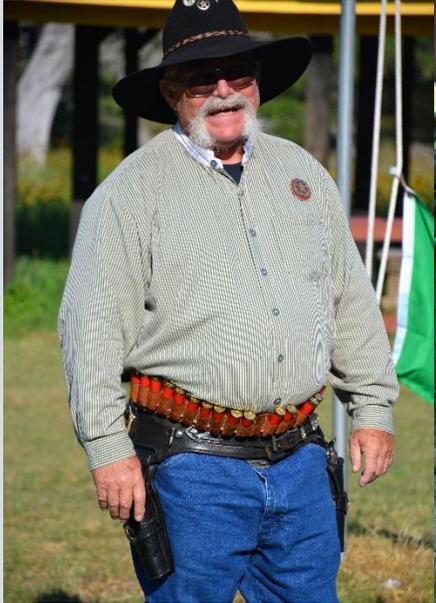
Championship

Cleburne, TX



"It's a buzzard picnic, son—and you best remember to nary take a look inside one of them baskets."

Photo Album





ADDO PUT  
SE  
TARGETS  
MIDDLE!

