



THE VIGILANTE



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Editor: Nasty Newt SASS # 7365

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The Monthly Chronicle of the Robbers Roost Vigilantes

From The President

Candy, Diamonds, Bullets, and Presidents

We just barely got the New Year out of the way, and around the bend came Valentine's Day and Presidents Day. But that's OK, because there's nothing a vigilante likes better than a loud party, and as long as we have ammunition, we'll keep celebrating. A few more holes in the ceiling of the saloon won't even be noticed.

We had two parties in February. At the first one, down on the south end of town at the jail, we had hearts and flowers both near and far, but in the end, we decided a good vigilante woman would rather have extra ammunition than any other Valentine's gift. At the Hotel we dealt with miscreants on the run and standing still, and at the Saloon we turned the tables on that tinhorn gambler from south of the border, Jose. The order of finish for the day was Bad Bascomb, Venomous Doc, M.C. Ryder, Nasty Newt, Wrangler Red, Buckhorn Bud, and Silver Badger.

For the second get-together of the month, in honor of Presidents Day, we took a look at what we used to have, and what we've got now, using presidential quotes as shooter lines. The "then" lines were uplifting and inspiring, and the "now" lines were, well, they were kinda depressing, is what they were. Let it suffice to say that the current occupant of the Oval Office didn't come off too well when compared to George Washington, Ronald Reagan, and John F. Kennedy.

Bad Bascomb was top gun on the day, with Venomous Doc, M.C. Ryder, Cowboy Earl, and yours truly rounding out the top five. Your humble correspondent also shot the match clean.

We had a first-time-ever visit from Bitterwater Hank, and Goode Bascomb came out for a post-operative trial run. She shot three stages and did very well before withdrawing to shoot another day.

All of the scores from both matches are posted on our website at www.robbersroostvigilantes.com.

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Editor's note: Last month, I re-ran an article I wrote about Roy Rogers, which was first published in *The Vigilante* in 2000. The following book review was originally published in *The Cowboy Chronicle* in 2006. It was heavily edited by Tex at the time, and is presented here in its entirety.

COWBOY PRINCESS

Life with my Parents, Roy Rogers and Dale Evans
By Cheryl Rogers-Barnett & Frank Thompson

Book Review by Nasty Newt, SASS # 7365

Roy Rogers and Dale Evans lived privileged lives in many ways, but most of their fans know they also endured more than their share of heartbreak, including the loss of three children. Cheryl Rogers-Barnett is Roy's first child, and her goal in this book is to put the great happiness and awful sadness in context, and set the record straight on some things we've all probably wondered about—including the burning question, "Just how many Triggers were there, anyway?"

Cheryl was adopted as an infant by Roy and his wife Arline, whom she calls "Mommy Arline" because even though she has fond memories of Arline, the woman she grew up calling Mom is Dale Evans. After several miscarriages, the doctors told Roy and Arline that it would be dangerous for her to conceive another child. But Roy and Arline wanted a baby, and while Roy was in Dallas promoting a movie he visited a foundling home and saw Cheryl. He liked to tell the story that she was the only baby there that didn't cry when he made funny faces and talked baby talk to her.

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In March we will be shooting on the 7th and the 21st. We're on winter hours, so we'll start sign ups at 8:00, have the meeting at 8:45, and the new shooter class would be at 7:30. We'd like to know in advance if a new shooter is coming out. See ya out there!

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UPCOMINGEVENTS

Monthly shoots:

The Cajon Cowboys shoot on the: 2nd and 4th Saturday at the Gem Ranch in the Cajon Pass on old route 66. Contact Luke Warmwater at (909) 987-7017. www.cajoncowboys.com.

Five Dogs Creek Cowboys in Bakersfield shoot on the 1st weekend of each month. Call Utah Blaine, (661) 203-4238. www.5dogscreek.com

High Desert Cowboys shoot in Acton on the 3rd Sunday. Contact Doc Silverhawks, (661) 948-2543, or Lumpy Grits or Ima Schofield at (661)265-1923.

Double R Bar Regulators, Lucerne Valley, shoot the 2nd Sunday. www.rrbar.com. Contact Little Jersey Jo, 1-760-247-5012, joed56676@gmail.com.

Lone Wolf Shooters, Pahrump, NV, shoot the 4th and 5th Sunday. Call Lash Latigo or Penny Pepperbox, (775) 727-4600 days, (775) 727-8790 evenings. www.lonewolfshooters.com.

El Dorado Cowboys, Boulder City, NV, shoot the 1st weekend (Sat & Sun). Contact Charming at 702-565-3736, or Creeker at 702-328-4867. www.eldoradocowboys.com.

Chorro Valley Regulators shoot the 2nd Sunday and most 5th Sundays at Morro Bay. www.chorrovalleyregulators.org.

Cowboy Princess Continued from page 1

Instead, she reached up and grabbed his finger. When he got back to the hotel, he called Arline and said, "I found our baby."

Despite the miscarriages and doctors' warnings, Arline would go on to give birth to Linda Lou, and become pregnant again with Roy Jr. (Dusty). Both pregnancies were difficult, and Arline, weak and worn out from taking care of one baby while carrying another, was in no shape to handle the rambunctious Cheryl all day by herself. So four-year-old Cheryl often got to go to work with her dad, and had as her playground the movie lot at Republic Studios. There were guards everywhere, and they all knew who she was, so she literally had the run of the place. She learned right away that "quiet on the set" meant you had better be quiet or you would get yelled at, and she fit right in. Plus she got to go to school, if she chose to, with the "big kids" like Robert Blake and Patrick Curtis.

At Republic, Cheryl became friends with actors Ben Johnson, Gabby Hayes, Richard Farnsworth, Harry Carey, Jr., and the nice lady who was in the movies with her dad, Dale Evans. Sometimes on the way home, Roy and Cheryl would stop at the Sportsman's Lodge and catch trout to take home for dinner. But Cheryl's idyllic life was short-lived. In November of 1946 Arline gave birth to Dusty, and shortly thereafter developed a blood clot. Five days after Dusty's birth, Arline died, and on New Year's Eve, 1947, Roy Rogers married his co-star, Dale Evans.

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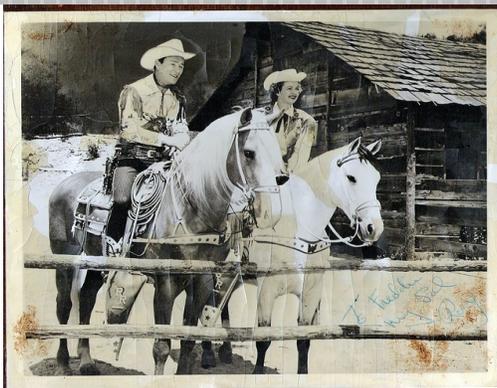
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How to Join the Robbers Roost Vigilantes...

Come out to a RRV match, held the third (and sometimes first) Saturday of every month, or call Nasty Newt at 760-375-7618, or MC Ryder at 760-384-2321, or mail it in. Our membership application is here [RRV Membership](#).

Application Annual membership dues for the RRV are: single membership \$25, member and spouse \$30, family membership (including children under 18 living at home) \$35. First time shooters will be able to take their **FIRST (1) NEW SHOOTERS CLASS** for \$10, any subsequent new shooters class or RRV match shoot will be \$10 members, \$15 nonmembers. Donations for shooting regular monthly RRV matches will be \$10 members, \$15 non-members. Memberships run from September 1 - August 31. New memberships purchased after September will be prorated depending on the number of months remaining and the type of membership. **RRV members are encouraged to become Single Action Shooting Society (SASS) members.** Please call SASS at (505) 843-1320, or go to www.sassnet.com. SASS first year single initiation membership is \$55, renewal for single membership is \$45. As part of your SASS membership you will receive The Cowboy Chronicle (12 issues/year), registration of your alias, a SASS badge with your SASS number on it, a membership certificate and membership card, a SASS Marshall lapel pin, and SASS Shooters Handbook. SASS membership is not required for membership in RRV, or participation in RRV regular monthly matches. **RRV encourages all shooters to join and support the NRA and the NRA Foundation, and Ridgecrest Gun Range Association.** For further information visit our website at www.robbersroostvigilantes.com.



Roy, Dale, Old Trigger, and Buttermilk

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Schedule of Monthly Matches

RRV Match Dates:

March 7, 2015

March 21, 2015

**Winter Hours: Sign up starting
 ~ 8:00, Safety Meeting ~ 8:45.**

New Shooter Class ~ 7:30.



Dale, Roy, and the Little Horse

I remember Dale Evans as she was late in life, a matronly Christian proponent of family values and bible-thumping morality, and a staunch defender of the vows of holy matrimony. So, I was surprised to learn from this book that Dale, born Frances Smith in Texas in 1912, was married at 14, a mother at 15, and a divorced working mother at 17 years of age. She had grown up in a Baptist family where singing was something you did at church, and dancing was a sin, but she loved to sing and dance. She copyrighted her first song at 16, sang on the radio, and performed with big bands in Chicago and San Francisco, finding time along the way to marry and divorce twice more. While singing in L.A. she was offered a two-movie contract by Twentieth Century Fox. Although she hoped this would lead to starring roles in MGM musicals, it led instead to Republic Studios where she met her destiny. Cheryl's relationship with her stepmother was rocky at times, and for a while after Roy and Dale's marriage she refused to live with them. Not surprisingly, she saw Dale as a usurper and her rival, but over time she came to love her deeply and respect the role Dale played in the family.

There were pros and cons to being the child of Roy Rogers. Dusty didn't like the fact that his dad was loved by millions of other kids, and resented having to share him. He was also a rowdy noisemaker and wasn't allowed to spend much time on the set, which added to his general unhappiness with the situation. But Cheryl, by virtue of being older and having grown up on the back lot, understood the larger than life appeal of a movie star, and accepted that her dad didn't just belong to her and her siblings. And speaking of pros, once she had learned to ride well enough, she was allowed to saddle up Trigger and go for a ride around the family's twenty-acre Chatsworth ranch—unsupervised. How's that for a perk?

And speaking of that horse (or horses), here's the deal. There was the original Trigger, called Old Trigger by the family, there was Trigger Jr., and there was the Little Horse. Trigger Jr. was a studio publicity stunt. The fans even participated in naming him, and he was never kept under wraps in any way. The Little Horse, on the other hand, was a secret. In fact, Roy Rogers never publicly admitted there was more than one Trigger, because he didn't want to confuse the kids who loved Trigger.

Old Trigger started life as a movie rental horse. He was $\frac{3}{4}$ thorough bred and $\frac{1}{4}$ what Roy called "cold-blooded mare," a slang term for a mixed breed. His first movie, so far as anybody knows, was *The Adventures of Robin Hood*, starring Errol Flynn, in 1938. He was ridden in that film by Olivia De Havilland, which is not a bad combination if you're going for pretty. Roy rode Trigger that same year in his first starring role at Republic, in *Under Western Stars*. He fell in love with the registered palomino named Golden Cloud, and although he was making \$75.00 a week at the time, he didn't want anybody else using that horse and bought him for \$2,500.00. It took years to pay for him. Old Trigger appeared with Roy in every one of the 82 movies he made between 1938 and 1952, and in all 100 TV episodes of the *Roy Rogers Show*.

Old Trigger was billed as "The Smartest Horse in the Movies," but he got that reputation off the back of the Little Horse. The Little Horse was smaller and darker in color than Old Trigger, but they were never seen together, so the Little Horse was close enough. Roy bought The Little Horse a couple of years after buying Old Trigger, primarily to save wear and tear on Old Trigger. He wanted to save Old Trigger for the movies, and take the Little Horse on the road for public appearances. The Little Horse was a show horse who could do lots of tricks, and was also housebroken, and he was so well-behaved that Roy could take him into hospitals to visit sick kids. But he was also ornery, and when he learned what Roy *didn't* want him to do, he would often do it during a live performance just for the fun of it. Roy would know it was coming, but couldn't do anything about it.

Old Trigger's main job in the movies and on TV was to stand around looking beautiful, but he could also run. In their preparations for the TV show, Roy and Dale set out to find a horse for Dale that would look good, but not *too* good, next to Trigger. They eventually settled on Buttermilk, a buckskin gelding that Dale had ridden in several of their movies together. From the get-go, some of the scenes where Roy and Dale took off side-by-side needed to be re-shot because Buttermilk, a quarter horse trained for roping, could easily beat Old Trigger off the line. This aggravated Roy, who would snap at Dale, "Can't you control that horse?" Dale always apologized, and she would hold Buttermilk back for the next take, but Cheryl thinks Dale enjoyed getting the jump on Roy and Trigger once in a while. But to give Old Trigger his due, once up to speed he could easily overtake Buttermilk, and in shots of Roy and Dale galloping side-by-side you can see Roy holding Trigger back.

I readily admit I skimmed over the parts about Cheryl's teen angst. I've been there and done that, both as a teenager and a parent, and will probably get to do it again as a grandparent, and that will be plenty for me, thanks. But the book is an enjoyable read, and very entertaining and informative for the most part, with lots of photographs—including one of Roy Rogers with a moustache, which is just wrong.

The losses of her sisters Robin and Debbie, her brother Sandy, her mother, and her Mom and Dad have given Cheryl Rogers-Barnett enough sadness for anyone to endure. But she doesn't think she would change anything, even if she could. She had parents that millions of other kids prayed they could have. Roy Rogers always made sure she knew that he had specifically chosen her to be his daughter. Like her dad, she believes that from the moment she reached up and grabbed his finger, it was meant to be.

The End

