



THE VIGILANTE



Volume 17 Issue 7

Editor: Nasty Newt SASS # 7365

March 2015

The Monthly Chronicle of the Robbers Roost Vigilantes

From The President

March Madness, Cowboy Action Style

We shot two great matches in March, on a range covered in wildflowers, as you will see elsewhere in this newsletter. Actually, there's a close-up of one at the top of this page.

Anyway, on March 7, Venomous Doc, Buckhorn Bud, and Bad Bascomb put together a classic Week One shoot with all the trimmings. Some of this, some of that, something old, and something new. Eight shooters turned out, including Maggie Thom and Rum Runner from the other side of the hill. A couple of elder Statesmen, Bad Bascomb and Venomous Doc, finished 1 – 2, respectively, a couple of seconds apart for the 6 stages. These old guys are taking over. When they invented Social Security in the 30's, they promised it would take care of the old people. Heck, we've got more old people now than ever! M.C. Ryder, Ozark Lawdog, and Maggie Thom completed the top five. Nobody shot the match clean.

On March 21, it was M.C. Ryder's annual tip o' the Ivy cap to St. Patrick's Day. This is a match that many of us, including your humble editor, look forward to each year. The stages are usually a little different, and always a lot of fun. This time, as always, M.C. built in a challenge that, properly executed, would earn the shooter a shamrock pin. Only this year, he went one better and offered two chances to win a pin. Nine pins were awarded, six on the pistol knockdowns, and three on the long shots at the buffalo, but pin or no pin, everybody had a good time. The only bad lick is that M.C. Ryder had to miss his own match, and missed out on the Guinness I brought for the after match toasting.

Eleven shooters turned out on a beautiful if slightly breezy day. Bad Bascomb, Cowboy Earl, Orland Granger, Yours Truly, and Duelin' Tom finished in the top 5, respectively. Zig Mar and Bad Bascomb shot the match clean, and earned one of M.C. Ryder's knives.

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

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Wyatt Earp, Trona Claim Jumper

By Nasty Newt, SASS # 7365

Recently I saw in the paper that the local historical society was hosting a presentation about Wyatt Earp's adventures, or misadventures, in Searles Valley. I planned to attend, but on the day of the event I wasn't feeling well and decided not to go, so I looked it up on the magical internet, and there it was.

At the age of 62, Wyatt Earp was a participant in the Trona "Potash War" of 1910. Depending on which article you read, he was either a partner or a \$10-a-day armed guard for a group of investors who were seeking to take over some potash claims that had previously been owned by a company that had gone bankrupt.

Forty-four men, many of them armed, came up from L.A. and commenced surveying and staking. When confronted by a representative of the receivers who owned the assets of the defunct company, the survey party ran him off with instructions that he not return, but he did, with several armed men. A tall, thin gentleman stalked out to meet them. "How dare you bring firearms onto my property!" Wyatt yelled. "I'm taking that."

He then attempted to wrest a shotgun from the hands of one of the men, who wouldn't give it up. Furious, he stepped back, stuck his finger in the man's face, said, "I'll fix you!" and stomped off to get a rifle. The accounts diverge a bit at this point. You can take your choice between: (1) By the time Wyatt returned, cooler heads had prevailed, or (2) Wyatt returned and fired a shot into the ground between the man's feet, and said, "Back off or I'll blow you apart, or my name is not Wyatt Earp!"

Either way, that put an end to the festivities for the day, but the next day a Federal Marshal showed up and arrested twenty-seven of the survey party, including Earp, who gave his name as "W. Stapp," Stapp being one of his two middle names.

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In April we will be shooting on the 4th and the 18th. We're still 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!

Robbers Roost Vigilantes

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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.rbar.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.

Wyatt Earp, Trona Claim Jumper *Continued from page 1*

They were served with a summons for contempt of court and sent home. The incident occurred near Slate Range City, a location that is now inside the Navy's fence. It is rumored that a ghost town remains on the site.

That wasn't the end of the potash war, but it apparently marked the end of Earp's involvement. He spent a lot of time over the years in the California desert, but there is no indication he ever returned to Searles Valley.

Prior to the 1931 publication of Stuart Lake's "Wyatt Earp, Frontier Marshal", which came two years after Wyatt's death, Earp was infamous as the referee who stopped the 1896 Sharkey-Fitzsimmons championship prize fight on a disputed low blow and awarded the fight to Sharkey, who was on the verge of being knocked out. It was widely believed that there was no low blow, and that Earp had bet on Sharkey. Lake's highly fictionalized biography reinvented Wyatt, transforming him into an old west hero who stood up for law and order where outlaws ran amock, and who tamed one lawless frontier town after another.

Wyatt Earp devoted most of his eighty years to a largely vain attempt to get rich quick. He ran brothels and saloons, gambled, owned race horses, speculated in real estate, and ran off to one gold or silver rush after another, sometimes to stake claims and sometimes to try to empty the pockets of the miners, sometimes both. He went to the silver boom town of Tombstone to get rich. There he made both loyal friends and bitter enemies, and wound up working as a cop, which he often did when he needed a job. I find it ironic that a man who fancied himself an entrepreneur, an astute politician, a smooth operator, and a wily businessman is remembered today for a deadly 30-second gunfight that might just as easily have been avoided. Had it been, his name would now be all but lost to history.

The End

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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.



Wyatt Earp ca 1869

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Schedule of Monthly Matches

RRV Match Dates:

April 4, 2015

April 18, 2015

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

New Shooter Class ~ 7:30.



Wyatt and Josephine Earp ca 1910



Cowboy Earl Carefully Avoids Shooting Flowers



Zig Mar Goes for a Shamrock Pin



Just Another Day in Cowboy Paradise



Pushin' up Desert Dandelions on Boot Hill



Who Wouldn't Want to be Next?

Everywhere You Look, it Just Gets Better



Not a Bad Little Western Town to Hole Up in for a Few Hours on a Saturday Morning