



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

December was another great month at the RRV range, but then again, most months out there are great. If you like to shoot your guns, it's the place to be.

For the Week One match, Bad Bascomb gave us a look at some of the stages shot at the recent SASS Western Divisional match, and Venomous Doc gave us a look into the dark recesses of his troubled mind. I'm only kidding about Doc. His mind isn't troubled, just weird. Those two finished 1 – 2, respectively, followed by Cowboy Earl, Zig Mar, and Wrangler Red in the top 5. Cowboy Earl shot the match clean. The rest of the scores are posted.

Week Two featured our fourth Trail Walk. Cowboy Earl put together another good one with a chance to win a prize by shooting a face-down playing card. Your humble editor lucked out and shot an ace, and scored the GUNS4US gift card. Two other lucky shooters got nice cedar-lined ammo cans donated by M. C. Ryder. Yours truly also collected the most tags and won the match, a feat I expect won't be repeated any time soon. The rest of the gang, in no particular order of finish, was Silver Badger, Rum Runner, M. C. Ryder, Cowboy Earl, Zach Newton, and Ed Hinkley.

On the 17th, we rang in the holidays with our annual Christmas Turkey Shoot. Everybody collected lots of drawing tickets along the way, by making good on up to eight ticket shots, not to mention one ticket dynamite- toss. And, may I add, everybody had a good time shooting my stages. ☺ When all was said and done, Venomous Doc came out on top, with Cowboy Earl right on his heels. Zig Mar and MC Ryder were three and four, followed by Kris Kringle who flew in from the North Pole especially for this match, and shot Gunfighter. Yours truly, Zig Mar, Rum Runner, and Kris Kringle shot the match clean. All the scores are posted elsewhere on this site.

When the guns were put away we enjoyed hot dogs grilled up by Cowboy Earl, and drew tickets out of the can. Some lucky cowboys went home with great prizes from GUNS4US, Todd's Outdoor Supply, Desert Willow, and MC Ryder. *Continued on page 2*

Warren Earp

by
Nasty Newt, SASS # 7365

There were five Earp brothers who passed through the old west. We've all heard of Wyatt, who along with brothers Virgil and Morgan and their pal Doc Holliday took part in what is probably the most celebrated gunfight of all time. That Tombstone street fight on October 26, 1881, in a vacant lot near the O.K. Corral lasted about thirty seconds, but 120 years later it still resonates among wild west enthusiasts. In terms of stories written, movies made, and arguments started, the only other incident that comes close is the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

Two other Earp brothers, James and Warren, had been in Tombstone off and on, but weren't around on the day of the big fight that left cowboys Tom and Frank McLaury and Billy Clanton dead, and Virgil, Morgan, and Doc wounded. In the wake of the gunfight, Virgil was shot from ambush and badly wounded, and Morgan was murdered, shot in the back as he bent over a pool table. Both James and Warren probably participated in the legendary vendetta that followed, as the Earps, Doc Holliday, and friends hunted down and killed at least four men whom they believed to be responsible for the shootings of Virgil and Morgan. After that, James seems to have managed to avoid any further notoriety and slipped into a more or less routine life. But Warren's date with destiny awaited him 70 miles northeast of Tombstone and nineteen years later in the little town of Willcox, Arizona Territory.

The youngest of the brothers, Warren was born in 1855 and had spent the 1870's in San Bernardino with his parents while Wyatt and the others were establishing their reputations as lawmen in several Kansas cowtowns. After the O.K. Corral he seems to have spent the next ten years hanging out with Wyatt and Josie in various locations around the west, eventually returning to Arizona in 1891.

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In January, we will have Cowboy matches on the 7th and 21st. There **will not** be a black powder muzzleloader Trail Walk in January.

However, we are planning a Bolt Action Military Match (BAMM) for the fourth Saturday, January 28. Additional information for our BAMM matches is available on our website. Get yourself out to the range and have some fun!

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He worked as a stagecoach driver between Willcox and Fort Grant, and as an investigator for the Cattlemen's Association. He also spent some time bartending in Willcox. He doesn't appear to have been well-liked. He was seen as a bully and a loudmouth who drank too much, and who liked to throw the Earp name around.

Warren had one known run-in with the law, in Yuma in 1893. He had arrived in Yuma in the company of a woman, but she soon left him after claiming he abused her. Earp blamed a Professor Behrens for the loss of his girlfriend, and attempted unsuccessfully to throw the professor off a bridge. After the scuffle Earp told Behrens he would not kill him and would leave town if the professor gave him \$100. Behrens talked Warren down to \$25, and when Warren showed up that night to collect the money, the law was waiting and arrested him on the spot. The charges against him were dismissed in exchange for his promise to leave town and never return, which he did, vowing that this was the last time he would ever get into trouble "over a woman."

By 1900 Warren Earp was working as an undercover inspector at the Sierra Bonita ranch, trying to curb rustling for the Arizona Cattlemen's Association. On the Fourth of July several cowboys from that ranch, including foreman Johnny Boyett, rode into Willcox to celebrate. It is unclear whether Boyett knew Earp was an inspector or if Boyett was a suspected rustler, but in any event the two men didn't get along. According to witnesses, Earp and Boyett, both of whom had been drinking, entered the Headquarters Saloon around 1:30 AM on July 6. They exchanged words, and then Earp said to Boyett, "You were paid \$150 at one time to kill me." Boyett said he didn't want any trouble, to which Earp replied, "Go and get your gun. I've got mine." *Continued below*

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Boyett said, "I'm not afraid of you," walked to the Willcox Hotel and got two revolvers, then returned to the saloon with a six-gun in each hand and asked, "Where is the s.o.b.?"


Spotting Earp standing in a doorway between the saloon and a restaurant, Boyett fired two shots that missed as Earp ducked through a side door into the street. Boyett then for some reason fired two shots into the floor, and Earp came back in through the side door and walked toward Boyett. Earp opened his coat and vest and said, "I have not got any gun. You have a good deal the best of this." Although Boyett warned him to stop, Earp continued to advance until Boyett fired one final round and Warren Earp fell face down on the floor. The youngest of the Earps was dead at the age of 45.

Boyett was arrested but released the next day following a preliminary hearing. Earp didn't have a gun on him (he had a half-open pocket knife in his hand when he died) and had apparently posed no real threat other than his earlier comments to Boyett that the latter should get a gun and fight. Even so, Judge W.F. Nichols ruled that this was a case in which the grand jury would not indict, and if it did, a jury would not convict.

Like many old west events, the shooting of Warren Earp raises more questions than it answers. The doctor who examined the body said he was shot in the left side, the bullet travelling downward. Boyett was 5-foot-6, and it's hard to see how he could shoot down into a man who was over six feet tall. This leads some to believe Earp was sitting down

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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 877-411-SASS. SASS membership information can be found here:

<http://www.sassnet.com/Membership-Main-001A.php>

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.

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Schedule of Monthly Matches

RRV Match Dates:

Jan 7, 2017 Cowboy

Jan 21, 2017 Cowboy

Jan 28, 2017 BAMB

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

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when he was shot, but this contradicts the sworn testimony of three eyewitnesses. It is also surprising that Earp would continue to advance on an armed man who was warning him to stop. And finally, why did the authorities rush to bury Earp the next day in an unmarked grave? And how could the judge have known what a grand jury would do? Tombstone historian Ben Traywick writes, "It would appear that this case was already decided before the hearing was held." It may simply be that the citizens of Willcox were glad to be rid of the lowly-regarded Warren Earp, and were willing to do and say whatever was necessary to keep Boyett from getting into trouble over the killing.

After being released from custody, Johnny Boyett appears to have vanished into thin air. There were rumors that Wyatt and Virgil had a hand in his "disappearance", but that is something we will never know.