



# 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

#### The RRV Had it Goin' On in May

If there wasn't anything to your liking at the RRV range in May, MAYbe you really don't like to shoot guns all that much. Okay, Okay, I'm kidding. I know we all have lives that don't involve gunpowder. I didn't shoot all four weekends, but I sure had fun when I did shoot.

Eight shooters came out for our CAS match on the 6<sup>th</sup>, and nobody went away mad. Cowboy Earl and M.C. Ryder made some smoke, and when it cleared, the order of finish was Bad Bascomb, Buckhorn Bud, Cowboy Earl, Zig Mar, yours truly, M.C. Ryder, Tank, and Silver Badger.

Nine front-stuffing aficionados shot the trail walk match on the 13<sup>th</sup>. It was a great match, including some shotgun shots at clay pigeons. I sometimes have a shot at winning if Ed Hinkley doesn't show up, but he showed up, so the standings look like this: Ed Hinkley, yours truly, Cowboy Earl, John Newton, M.C. Ryder and Rum Runner (tie), Buckhorn Bud and Silver Badger (tie), and Zach Newton.

On the 20<sup>th</sup>, M.C. Ryder put together a great match and nine shooters came out and had a great time shooting six stages. I missed the match because of a family commitment. Rum Runner brought his better half, Maggie Thom. When everything shook out the order of finish was Bad Bascomb, Venomous Doc, Zig Mar, M.C. Ryder, Buckhorn Bud, Rum Runner, Tank, Silver Badger and Maggie Thom.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> we had our third BMM match, and it was quite a match. We made some changes since the last one, adding a lever action category, and putting some pistols into the mix. You could shoot in both categories, bolt and lever, and a couple of us did. That added up to more than 150 rifle rounds, and I got tennis elbow from twisting on that bolt and slamming that lever, but what fun!

I lucked out and beat Zig Mar by a few seconds with the lever action. *Continued on page 2*

### Posthumous Medal of Honor Recipients

#### Freddie Stowers – World War I



In 1990, at the instigation of Congress, the Department of the Army performed a review to learn if there were any deceased service members who deserved the Medal of Honor but never received one, posthumously or otherwise. Freddie Stowers' recommendation was uncovered soon after, and a team travelled to France and verified the details of the recommendation.

On September 28, 1918, Stower's company was ordered to assault Côte 188 in the Ardennes region of France. Although American forces steadily advanced on the hill, the Germans faked surrender and eliminated half of the company in one barrage of gunfire. A lieutenant and several NCOs were killed, leaving Stowers in charge of his platoon.

Stowers encouraged the platoon to continue the advance, and they successfully dispatched a German trench line. He then consolidated the platoon and led them to advance on another German trench line. During the second advance, Stowers was shot twice and collapsed from blood loss. He encouraged his men to keep going, and died. The platoon successfully drove out the second trench line and took the hill.

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*From the President Continued from page 1*

The bolt action order of finish was M. C. Ryder, Yours Truly, Zig Mar, Wrangler Red, and Red Rock.

In June, we will have Cowboy matches on the 3rd and 17<sup>th</sup>, and a black powder muzzle loader Trail Walk on the 10<sup>th</sup>. **We have switched to Summer Hours, and we will start signing up around 7:00.**

## **Robbers Roost Vigilantes**

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## **Ben L. Salomon – World War II**



Ben L. Salomon served as a dentist during World War II, but he came to be a replacement field surgeon for the 2nd Battalion of the 105th Infantry. He served in this capacity in Saipan from June until July 7th, 1944. On that fateful day, Salomon worked in an aid station tent, 50 yards from the forward foxhole line. The Japanese eventually overran the forward line and encroached on the tent. Salomon ordered the tent to be evacuated while he provided covering fire.

Salomon's fate wasn't clear until an Army unit returned to the scene of the battle several days later. The Army dentist's body was slumped over a machine gun and 98 dead Japanese troops lay in front of him. He had received 76 bullet wounds and just as many bayonet wounds. It was determined that he had sustained up to 24 wounds while he was still alive.

Although he was frequently recommended for the Medal of Honor, the Geneva Conventions clearly state that anyone wearing the Red Cross armband cannot bear arms against the enemy, and that only small personal arms such as pistols and rifles can be used in self-defense. In 2002 a USC Dental School doctor resubmitted a request through Congressman Brad Sherman, and it was finally accepted.

## **William H. Pitsenbarger – Vietnam**

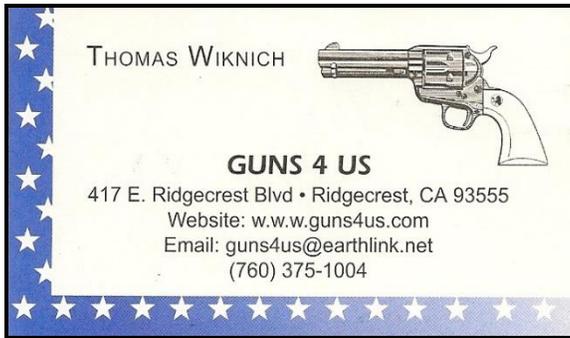


William H. Pitsenbarger wouldn't receive the Medal of Honor until 2000, about 34 years after his death. Pitsenbarger joined the Air Force in 1962 and qualified for Pararescue. Eventually flying over 300 rescue missions in Vietnam, Pitsenbarger risked his life almost every day to save fellow service members.

On April 11, 1966, Pitsenbarger was part of an operation to rescue soldiers near Cam My. Pitsenbarger was lowered to the ground and secured the wounded. Six soldiers were loaded and flown to an aid station, and the crews returned to evacuate the rest of the men. Pitsenbarger had remained with 20 who were left over, and when the returning helicopters took damage under small arms fire, Pitsenbarger waved them off. For about 90 minutes, Pitsenbarger tended to the wounded with splints made out of vines and stretchers made out of saplings. He gathered ammunition and dispersed it to the active survivors, then picked up a rifle to help fend off the Viet Cong. Later that night he was killed by a sniper. His body was found with a rifle and medical kit still clutched in his hands. Nine more soldiers made it back to safety that day.

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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](http://www.robbersroostvigilantes.com).



Paul R. Smith – Iraq War



In April of 2003, Sgt. Paul Smith took part in a battle that led to multiple Iraqi combatants being captured and held, but 50 to 100 enemy combatants were taking position to attack from a nearby trench line and affect a rescue. Firing from a disabled M113 and using up three boxes of machine gun ammunition, Sgt. Smith's covering fire allowed a team of soldiers to rout the enemy and clear the trench. Smith was shot 13 times and died during the battle. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor on April 4, 2005.