



THE VIGILANTE



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Editor: Nasty Newt SASS # 7365

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The Quarterly Chronicle of the Robbers Roost Vigilantes

From the President

Things Are Heating Up, in More Ways Than One

We did a lot of shooting this spring. Ten cowboy matches, three trail walks, and a BMM. That's not too bad for a bunch of Medicare recipients, although we have added some youngsters this year. Anyone under 60 is a youngster around here. Speaking of Medicare, I recently got a Life Alert bracelet. That way, if I ever get a life, I will be alerted immediately (rimshot).

Desert Willow and I had an eventful RV trip in June. We spent a couple of weeks at Joseph, Oregon, which we do just about every summer. It's a really nice RV park at the foot of Mt. Howard right beside the Wallowa River and Wallowa Lake. There's lots to see and do in the area for adults and grandkids alike.

Anyway, we take our time getting there and spend the first night at Fallon. The RV wouldn't start after we checked in. We called AAA and it started right before he got there an hour later, which was good, because he was prepared to do nothing but jump start it, and the battery was fine. It fired right up the next morning, and we made it to Catfish Junction, it started the next morning, and we made it to Joseph.

On the way home we did the same trick, letting it run all day until we reached our stopping point for the night. Worked great until we got to Fallon, where it would not start JUST ONE MORE TIME so we could go home.

This was on Wednesday, and after trying in vain to get a mechanic to come and look at it in the Fallon RV park, AAA eventually found a tow truck in Gardnerville and it was towed to the shop Friday around noon. Two or three hours later we drove off with a shiny new starter installed.

I thought that was a terrible experience until the 6.4 quake hit, and I thought *that* was pretty bad until the 7.1 hit. I'm not prone to panic, and I didn't, but let's just say I was somewhat concerned.

After the 6.4, some still wanted to go ahead and

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The Sad Tale of Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce

by
Nasty Newt, SASS #7365

The little town of Joseph, Oregon, is named for Chief Joseph, a Nez Perce chief who led his band in the final days of their struggle against white settlers and the U. S. Army. Up to that time he wasn't a war chief, but a camp or village chief, sort of a mayor and police chief combination, whose job was to maintain peace and tranquility within the band, and deal with wrongdoers. He was the son of Old Chief Joseph. Needless to say, these were names given them by whites, and their real names which are unpronounceable to you and I will not be used here.

The Nez Perce story is a familiar one. They had cordial relations with white settlers at first, but as more and more settlers arrived and needed more and more of what had always been Nez Perce land for farming and grazing livestock, tensions escalated. To head it off, the government in 1855 entered into the Treaty of Walla Walla with Old Chief Joseph and several other chiefs. The treaty set aside 7.7 million acres in Idaho, Washington, and Oregon for the Nez Perce, and included the Wallowa Valley, the homeland of Chief Joseph's band. But an 1863 Gold Rush prompted the government to tear up that treaty and propose a new one, reducing the Nez Perce reservation to 760,000 acres in Idaho, which didn't include the Wallowa Valley. Chief Lawyer and other chiefs signed the treaty, by old Chief Joseph and others did not. The "treaty" Indians moved to Idaho, the "non-treaty" Indians did not. Old Chief Joseph marked the Wallowa Valley with a series of poles, and said, *"Inside this boundary all our people were born. It circles the graves of our fathers, and we will never give up these graves to any man."*

Those who remained in Wallowa Valley were
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shoot on the 6th, but the 7.1 made believers out of everybody. We've called off matches on account of rain, wind, heat, and "everybody's gone," but this was our first earthquake cancelation, and I hope it will be the last.

We're on **Summer Hours**, so we will start signups around 7:00, and try to have the meeting by 7:45, for all matches unless otherwise announced.

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harassed and intimidated, but there was no effort to force them to leave. Old Chief Joseph died in 1871, and said to his son, "*This country holds your father's body. Never sell the bones of your father and your mother.*" Chief Joseph would later say, "*I clasped my father's hand and promised to do as he asked. A man who would not defend his father's grave is worse than a wild beast.*"

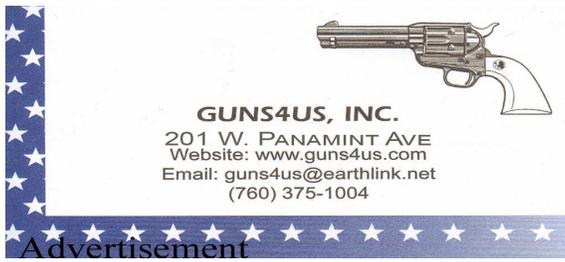
In 1873 Joseph was assured that he and his band could remain in Wallowa Valley, but by 1877 Civil War General O.O. Howard was sent to put an end to it. He offered the non-treaty Nez Perce a different reservation, which they would not accept. He angrily told Joseph he and his band had 30 days to leave for the reservation in Idaho, and if they did not, he would consider it an act of war. Joseph called a council, and argued for peace, but the young men spoke for war. During the council a young man spoke up and said he and others had killed four whites. Joseph knew that war was inevitable.

The pursuit of Chief Joseph and around 750 Indians by the U.S. Army became known as the Nez Perce War. The Nez Perce headed for Montana, hoping for sanctuary on the Crow reservation. When turned away, they set their sights on Canada, where Sitting Bull and the Lakota had gone after the Little Bighorn battle. For three months, and nearly 1200 miles, they engaged the army in several battles as they attempted to flee. In one fight, they killed 34 soldiers while suffering only three wounded. The final battle took place only 40 miles from the Canadian border, at the Battle of Bear Paw. General Nelson Miles captured Chief Joseph under a flag of truce, but was later forced to exchange him for a captured officer. After a five-day battle, having lost 150 warriors during the odyssey, and with all the war chiefs dead and having no food or blankets, Joseph surrendered.

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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
Matches are announced on the web site and via email to all club members. Cowboy matches are first and third Saturday. Trail Walks are second Saturday, and BAMB is fourth Saturday, when scheduled.

Summer Hours: Sign up starting ~ 7:00, Safety Meeting ~ 7:45.

Chief Joseph *continued from page 2*

Although Chief Joseph apparently thought he had reached an agreement with Miles and Howard that his people could go home, it wasn't to be. If there was such an agreement, William Tecumseh Sherman, Commanding General of the Army, over-ruled it. They were sent to Ft. Leavenworth for a time, and in 1878 were sent to a reservation in Indian Territory, now Oklahoma, where they remained for seven years.

They never returned home, and were settled permanently on the Colville reservation in Washington. Chief Joseph continued to argue his people's case, and spoke out against the unfairness of the government's policy toward Indians. He made trips to Washington DC, and rode in parades, but was seen as a novelty and wasn't taken seriously. He never again set foot in the Wallowa Valley, and died in 1904 at the age of 64.

One piece of Chief Joseph lore may be fiction. During the surrender, he is reputed to have said, at the end of an eloquent speech, "*From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more forever.*" However, the original pencil draft of the army report of the surrender was revealed to show the handwriting of the later poet and lawyer Lieutenant Charles Erskine Scott Wood, who claimed to have taken down the great chief's words on the spot. In the margin it read, "Here insert Joseph's reply to the demand for surrender". So, Wood may have made it up.