



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

As is often the case around here, it seems like we had a short Spring and rushed straight from Winter to Summer. I know we had at least a semblance of Spring, because the wind blew a lot. But before we knew it, Summer was here, and it has been a hot one. "How hot is it?" Johnny Carson's studio audience might ask. And Johnny might reply, "It's so hot, yesterday here in beautiful downtown Burbank, two fire hydrants were fighting over a dog." Ba-bump tish.

Hydration is really important this time of year, and it needs to start before you get to the range. Having a glass or two of water or a sports drink before leaving the house is always a good idea.

These are interesting times for SASS. The Wild bunch is or will soon be retired. Misty Moonshine is at the helm, and from what I've seen, that's a good thing. There will be no more End of Trail at Founder's Ranch in New Mexico. This year's recently concluded EOT was staged in Indiana, and by all accounts it was well done. People who live in the eastern half of the country appreciated the location. But it looks like it won't happen there again. Current plans call for EOT to move to Phoenix next year, and the displaced National Championships will relocate to Oklahoma City. If you like change, you've got to love SASS.

Cast bullets are getting easier to find, but powder and primers are still scarce. New brass in popular SASS calibers is a challenge. If I need something and the vendor allows backorders or will let me know when it's available, I take advantage of that and wait. I look at the SASS Wire once in a while, and you see posts that say "Powder Valley has Unique" or "Mid-South has primers" and the first reply on the thread is usually, "they're sold out as of ten minutes ago." I think this, too, shall pass, as it always has. Some clubs are writing stages that require less than 24 rounds to conserve ammunition.

I hope you all had an enjoyable Independence Day and I'll see you at the range.

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I GOT ME A MODEL 92 25-20 AND IT ONLY TOOK 57 YEARS

By Nasty Newt, SASS # 7365

When I was 16 years old, I went pre-season deer scouting in the Paiute Mtns with my uncle, Ray Belvin, and his friend, Don Sweany. You leave Hwy 178 at Weldon, and if you go to the top and back down the other side, you come out at Bodfish. Somewhere along the way my Uncle's car broke down—it was a Studebaker Lark, what did he expect?—but we managed to make it to the house of a guy my uncle knew.

While the men worked on the car, I was inside drinking coffee with the lady of the house. There was a lever-action carbine on the wall. Eager to show off my firearms expertise, I said, "Nice 30-30." She smiled and said, "It's a 25-20. Model 92." I didn't know there was such a thing. I thought all lever-action cowboy-looking rifles were Model 94 30-30s. She took it down and let me look at it, and I decided then and there that I wanted one.

Next thing I knew, I was a young man raising a family. Due to my childhood, I knew what poor was, and my wife and I and our kids weren't poor, but I had a hard time splurging on myself. I felt like, as the dad, it was my job to take care of my family first. As Will Sonnett said, "No brag, just fact." Even so, in my late twenties I felt wealthy enough to treat myself to a Model 94 30-30, for less than \$100 out the door at K-Mart. I still have it and still shoot it.

It wasn't until I joined SASS in 1995 that I handled another Model 92. It was a Rossi clone in 44 magnum, and I was struck by the smoothness of the action compared to my Model 94. I wanted a 45 Colt to match my pistols, but there were none available. SASS *continued on page 2*

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We're now 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.

And please try to make it out there a little bit before 7:45. Being fashionably late may be in fashion on Broadway, but at the corner of Brown and Wiknich, it ain't.

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was growing exponentially at the time and they couldn't make guns fast enough. The Model 92 was the cock-o-the-walk in those days, used by all the top shooters. The Marlin Cowboy had a brief heyday in the late 90s, then the short-stroked 73s took over and have never looked back.

Over the years I handled some original Model 92s at matches. M.C. Ryder has one, and a fellow that used to shoot with us had one in 32-20. But I don't think anybody ever brought out a 25-20, even though that little bottleneck rifle cartridge is specifically allowed by SASS as a main match caliber. All the while I was thinking I needed one.

Earlier this year I was in GUNS4US and saw an old Model 92 in the rack. And lo and behold it was a 25-20! I was concerned that it might have been modified, because the barrel and magazine were connected like a rifle instead of the normal carbine barrel band. But it turns out that's the way they made the 32-20 and 25-20 carbines. Desert Willow convinced me some years back that it was okay at this point in our lives to live a little and splurge on nice-to-have stuff. I told her about this gun and she said, "If you want it, buy it." Duelin' Tom offered me a good deal and I took it.

While sweating out the waiting period, I went to work on reloading supplies. I ordered a set of Lee dies, and put some Meister bullets on order. I had small rifle primers and powder that would work. I knew brass would be the bugaboo. Bad Bascomb told me, "Don't forget the SASS Wire Classifieds. You never know what's out there."

The first hit on my ad put me onto a source for new brass. All the vendors I had tried were "out of stock, no backorder", so I bit the bullet and paid about a buck fifty each for 50 cases. Then a miracle happened.

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Back in 1964 when I first thought I'd like to have a Winchester Model 92 in 25-20, this gun was 37 years old. It is 94 today, and has weathered the years pretty well.



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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. Usually, Trail Walks are second Saturday, and BAMM and Cowboy Rifle are fourth Saturday, when scheduled.**
Summer Hours: Sign up starting ~ 7:00, Safety Meeting ~ 7:45.

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I was contacted by a cowboy shooter named Tully Mars. He said he knew someone who had some 25-20 stuff he wanted to sell, and asked if I wanted him to find out what the guy had. I said "please", and he later told me the fellow had four boxes of 25-20 and he wanted \$25 a box for it. He offered to bring it to the state match if I was going. I told him I wasn't, but my bud Cowboy Earl was. And the deal was done. I got 200 rounds of factory jacketed soft point cartridges for only a few bucks more than I paid for 50 pieces of brass. But I am now set for a while. I plan to plink away one box of ammo for reloading, and use that brass until it wears out.

The Winchester factory loads run about 1250, and 3 grains of Unique under an 85 grain cast bullet goes out at about 1100, which I think will be perfect for what I need. I haven't put it on paper, because I don't like doing that, but the bore is good, and it is plenty accurate for what we do. It holds ten in the tube, and functions like a new gun, which it isn't. Winchester made the Model 92 until 1932, and mine was made in 1927, the year Babe Ruth hit 60 home runs. It will be 100 before you know it.

I love this old rifle just as much as I thought I would, and I'm thinking maybe waiting 57 years to get it makes it even sweeter. I'm shooting it at the next cowboy match. But I will probably not use it on the "lost brass" sets with the cracks in the sidewalks. I want to get all of those little fellows back. 😊