



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

Sixteen Years and Counting...

Maybe

I'm sitting here at my desk on a cold and rainy January afternoon contemplating my tenure as the editor of the Vigilante. I got the job in 2006 when the original editor, Coso Kid and his wife, Kazarah Jane, were retiring and getting ready to move to Utah.

Coso Kid said he believed a newsletter was something a successful club needed to do, and he was right; everybody did it. Not only that, but they mailed out hard copies of the document every month. At one time I mailed out about 60, while big clubs like the Cajon Cowboys mailed out 200 or more. It was just what you did back in the old days.

Probably ten years ago (I'm not researching to find an exact date) I once again did what everybody else was doing and stopped mailing hard copies. We had a nice web site, and a terrific person maintaining it in M.C. Ryder, and putting it on there meant you could also see it in living color. I still sent a few copies in the mail to people without internet, but before too long, everybody was on-line.

In this column, I've tried to cover news pertinent to Cowboy Action Shooting and the RRV. In the right hand column, I put out stories about RRV members, threw in some occasional humor, and wrote about countless old west characters, from pioneers to buffalo hunters to outlaws to lawmen, and back again. Did Wyatt Earp really have a Buntline Special? Did Pat Garrett really kill Billy the Kid that night? Did Billy Dixon really shoot an Indian at 1,000 yards? Other RRV members contributed articles and stories as well.

And here I sit today, editing the Fall newsletter into the Winter newsletter, looking at Buck Owens' big grin and Cameron Diaz' pretty face and wondering if anybody read that article. I was cracking myself up when I wrote it, but the only conversation I've had about it was one I initiated. I'm starting to wonder who reads the newsletter anymore. *Continued on page 2*

Time Marches On

By

Nasty Newt, SASS # 7365

I joined SASS in 1995. I was 47 at the time, and now here I sit going on 75. It's hard to imagine, and yes, the passage of time really does speed up as we go along.

I've changed quite a bit. Just a couple of years before I started this game, my 25th high school reunion was coming up. I didn't want to be the fattest guy there at 230 pounds, so I bought a Nordic Track ski machine and worked my way down to 205. Needless to say, I'd love to weigh 230 today.

I thought for a while I was going to be a competitive shooter, but it wasn't long before I was disabused of that notion as I traveled to some big matches and got a good look at what fast really meant. In those days, it meant 30 seconds or so, not 12-18 like Matt Black today. Those shooters were just as good as today's shooters, but, like me, the game has changed quite a bit. Stage design, target placement, and guns and ammo have, as they say, evolved.

In one sense, that's a good thing. Most of the people shooting today couldn't do some of the things we did back then. I've started stages lying on my back with my head on a saddle, shot my rifle from a kneeling position over the top of a horse trough that had water shooting out of tubes to mimic bullet hits, and shot an entire stage from a motorized raft that swayed and pitched as if in rough waters. The typical SASS shooter was probably 25-50 years old. That is obviously no longer the case.

But evolution isn't always good. The SASS founding fathers, aka The Wild Bunch, had all cut their eye teeth in other shooting disciplines, and a big issue for all of them was that their old games had gone to hell *Continued on page 2*

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So, as you have doubtless surmised, I am seriously thinking about suspending publication of the Vigilante. I haven't decided to do it, but a decision is coming soon. It's a lot of work, and even if everybody looked at it, the audience is tiny.

If anybody is interested in picking up the blue pencil, taking on the editor's task, and writing the newsletter, this is your invitation to apply for the position. NN

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Time Marches On continued from page 1

in a hand basket by allowing the game to turn into an equipment race. They all hated that, and vowed that Cowboy Action Shooting would never, ever, go down that road.

They held out for quite a while. In 1995, about all you could do was slick up the innards of your guns, and put in lighter springs. But as time went by the Wild Bunch influence diminished, and the age of "If the rules don't say I can't, I can" dawned. This line of thinking led not only to a raft of equipment modifications, but also stupid stuff like crotch holsters, double strong side holsters, brastyle shotshell belts, and duelists resting their pistol barrel on their forearm.

As a result, we now have three rule books instead of one booklet like we had in 1995, and we have rules committees and modification committees and who knows what all. The good old days when the Territorial Governors got together and voted on various proposals appear to be long gone. When SASS was the self-proclaimed "fastest growing shooting sport in the world" and enthusiasm was off the charts, Territorial Governors were happy to travel to the Sass Convention in Las Vegas, and End of Trail, even if they weren't shooting.

The Wild Bunch has been out of the picture for a few years, and SASS is now in the capable hands of Misty Moonshine, the CEO. I think she has the best interests of the game at heart, and if anybody can keep it going, she can, but it won't be easy. Not only is SASS no longer growing, it is shrinking. There are people who deny that, but their argument can be summed up as, "Who you gonna believe? Me, or your lyin' eyes?"

It has been a fun ride for me, and, like SASS, I'm not quite done just yet. In the From the President column I wondered if anybody reads this newsletter, yet it occurs to me I haven't read the Cowboy Chronicle in quite a while. I probably should catch up on the continuing adventures of Matt Black. I should, but I probably won't. NN

Reloading Components

Without getting into why, which is an interesting debate but kind of a waste of time, we all know that finding stuff to make ammo, which used to be easy, is now hard. Remember when just about all we had to complain about was HAZMAT fees? Turns out, those were the good old days. Primers seem to be easing up a bit, and cast bullets and shot never got too tough to find, just pricey. But powder, at least the kind we want, is really hard.

I've accepted the reality that Trail Boss is probably a thing of the past. I know it was dirty and expensive, but the low recoil and virtual impossibility of double charging a case with those funny flakes made it worth it to me. Accurate #2 and Tite Group are available, and work okay, so that's my pistol and rifle plan going forward.

I have "notify me" requests for Unique, Clays, and Red Dot all over the place, and have never gotten a single email. So, I will just keep plugging away and I know eventually things will mellow out.

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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

Note: Both GUNS4US and KZGN TV are at a new location at 409 S. China Lake Blvd, Ridgecrest, CA. 93555



KZGN TV

201 Panamint St
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
(760) 375 - 6555

www.KZGN.net "Your Community Station"
info@kzgn.net Ridgecrest, Inyokern, and China Lake

Schedule of Monthly Matches
Matches are announced on the web site and via email to club members. Cowboy matches are first (sometimes) and third Saturday. Usually, Trail Walks are second Saturday, and BAMB and Cowboy Rifle are fourth Saturday, when scheduled.
Winter Hours: Sign up starting ~ 8:00, Safety Meeting ~ 8:45.

A Reasonably Priced Source for Shot

The other day I was looking for shot, and tried all the usual suspects, including Amazon Prime. They all had it, but boy has the cost gone up. It seems to run \$90 to \$100 for 25 pounds shipped. I almost ordered some, then I remembered that there is a cowboy shooter on the SASS Wire Classifieds who makes and sells shot.

I did a little looking and found him, Shootin' Fox. He was soliciting orders to be picked up at End of Trail. I asked if he was still shipping, and he is, 65 pounds for \$150 shipped, which is a good price these days.

My shot arrived in a USPS "if it fits, it ships" box, which I was expecting. Unfortunately that box was in a USPS mail crate, along with a lot of loose shot rolling around. It wasn't the first time I've received projectiles that were too much for a flat rate box. He mailed the shot in two plastic jugs, and a small amount in a taped up baggie. The lids stayed on the jugs, but the box had taken a lick that broke open the box and punctured the bottom of one of the jugs.

As luck would have it, I had saved three 25 pound Eagle shot bags. I divided the shot between them, twist-tied them with bailing wire, and all's well that ends well.

I haven't done it, but MC Ryder has bought reclaimed shot from Rich Clodt at the Inyokern Trap Club, so that is another good possibility.