

AGARITA GAZETTE



A Chronicle of the Plum Creek Shooting Society



Agarita Ranch

March 2013

Lockhart, Texas

Officers

President - **Dragon Hill Dave**

David Donaldson
Austin, TX 512-626-8189
dhdonald@mindspring.com

Vice President - **Joe Darter**

Tom Morris
Seguin, TX 210-464-3969
darterjoe@yahoo.com

Secretary &

Editor, Agarita Gazette -

Long Juan

John Soule
Austin, TX 512-750-3923
jsoule@scotttdoug.com

Treasurer - **True Blue Cachoo**

Nancy Forage
Austin, TX 512-775-0699

Territorial Governor - **Jake**

Paladin

J.P. Forage
Austin, TX 512-970-4990
jforage@austin.rr.com

Range Marshal - **Delta Raider**

Chuck Leshikar
Lockhart, TX 512-227-1389
chuck@agaritaranch.com

Safety Marshal - **Elroy Rogers**

Stage Marshal - **Phantom**

Flag Marshal - **Artiman**

Range Deputy - **Lightning McQueen**

www.pccss.org

The President's Word

by *Dragon Hill Dave*



We at the Plum Creek Shooting Society were blessed with an abundance of riches on March 2, Texas Independence Day. Mild weather cool enough to be comfortable but not too cold to shoot gave us a spectacular shooting day. We had 95 shooters come out to join us in wishing Texas Happy Birthday. This was a record turnout for a monthly match at Plum Creek.

The shoot went great; then we had a really fine party afterward. We were only shooting 5 stages, so the posses ended up being pretty big (and took us a little while to put together—sorry about that). But once we started shooting any concerns just faded away. The stages gave us a chance to say rousing lines from the Texas Revolution. Even with late start, by only shooting 5 stages we finished by about 1:15 or so.

When I say we had a fine party, I mean it. We had breakfast and lunch served by the Spoiled Doves, who put on some really fine grub. Lone Star Beer was



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Find Delta Raider

Must have hidden pretty well last month. Only five readers reported finding **Delta Raider** last month. He was hiding on the buffalo's snout. Mentioned in the dispatches are **Boon Doggie**, **Hoss Roonwright**, **Six Goin' South**, **Sterling Sage** and **Lincoln Drifter**. **Delta Raider's** hidden again this month. Pray that you find him and

The President's Word *continued from Page 1*

selling adult beverages that we could enjoy after the shoot (I admit I had one or two). We had spangly red,

seemed to work well as a supplement to our normal parking pattern, and we had no trouble fitting the larger posses into our shooting stages. We had a few hiccups here and there with shotgun targets, but no one was complaining—in fact we got a lot of compliments on how the range looked and worked. Our hard work is paying off, and with the State Match only a little over a month away, I think we are very close to ready.

white and blue cowgirls riding white horses in formation with Texas flags, we had a dramatic reading of Colonel William Barrett Travis's February 24 "Victory or Death" letter seeking help at the Alamo, we had longhorn riding and picture taking, and we had country western troubadours and bands entertaining us during and after the shoot. I had to marvel at what all was going on.

This month's match was a good warm-up for the state match--it gave us an opportunity to see how our stages would work and how we could handle more shooters than we normally see in a monthly shoot. We won't have the same start-up problems at the state match because we will already have the shooters in the system. (Same should be true for future monthly matches because new folks in March are now in our system.) I think the range performed just fine. Our new parking area



Lone Star Cowgirls

I have had a chance to travel a little these last few weeks and shoot at other clubs. I spent some time shooting Wild Bunch up in Cleburne in late February, and the second weekend in March **Barely There** and I traveled to Lake Charles Louisiana to do the Bayou Blast with the Up the Creek Gang. I was spreading the word about the

Texas State shoot, but mostly I wanted to shoot at some places I had never been to before.

Traveling to other clubs to see how they handle their targets and the stages is very enlightening. In the finest tradition of imitation being the sincerest form of flattery, I am shamelessly stealing ideas from other clubs that we might incorporate at Plum Creek. We may not see these ideas at State

The President's Word *continued from Page 2*

this year, but great thoughts are percolating as we continue to seek ways to make the shooter's experience at Plum Creek one of the best in the state. I hope you make us one of your regular stops in your cowboy shooting schedule.

For April we are going to have our regular monthly shoot on the first Saturday based on the movie *Cat Ballou*, which has been showing recently on cable and satellite TV. The movie is cute and a load of fun (try not to think about Jane Fonda's activities

outside the movies). You might want to watch it before you come out to shoot. I am working on having some troubadours join us to do music from the movie as we move from stage to stage. I invite all of you cowboys to dress like Kid Shelleen or his evil brother Tim Strawn or other characters in the movie. For ladies Cat Ballou sports several different outfits in the movie that might be in your wardrobe. We will shoot six stages, the specific stages TBD. Should be fun; hope you can make it out.



The Dispatches *(f/k/a Long Juan Here)*

Long Juan here. I've made reference many times to being "Mentioned in the Dispatches." In the February 2012 issue of the *Agarita Gazette*, I noted that a soldier

whose name appears in an official report written by a superior officer and sent to the high command has been "Mentioned in the Dispatches." In that report (dispatch), the superior describes the soldier's gallant or meritorious action. In many countries, a soldier's name must be mentioned in dispatches as a condition for receiving certain decorations or being promoted. I have decided to rename my monthly column, "The Dispatches." I am not sure what decorations or promotions will befall those mentioned here, but anyone mentioned in these dispatches deserves hearty thanks from all of us. Mentioned elsewhere in the dispatches each month will be those who

found **Delta Raider** the previous month. See page 2 of this issue.

This month, I would like to give special mention to **Agarita Annie**. She comes with husband **Nueces Slim** to almost every monthly match of the *Plum Creek Shooting Society*. They drive from Camp Wood, which is located in the approximate center of a triangle made by San Antonio, Del Rio and Junction. It is a three plus hour drive.

Annie helps with registration. She enters the match scores. She is Assistant Match Director for the SASS Texas State Championship match that will be hosted by

the *Plum Creek Shooting Society* in May. In a phrase, she is our "Energizer Bunny", our organizer extraordinaire. Be sure to tell her thanks over and over next time you see her. I should also note that she performs similar services for the *Texican Rangers*. I would be remiss if I did not mention that **Annie** will miss our April shoot in order to help the *Texican Rangers* with their annual match, **Comancheria Days**. If you have never shot,



Miss Sassy Fras compares scores with Agarita Annie

The Dispatches *continued from Page 3*

Comancheria Days, you have missed one of the great cowboy action shooting matches in Texas, in fact in all of the U.S. of A. Many of our members and several of our officers will be shooting this year, April 4-7. If you do not have other plans that weekend, it's a great match.

Dragon Hill Dave provided a good report on the March match in the President's Word. I will add my apologies for the delay in registration and announcement of posses. We are making some changes, which together with having more and more shooters already entered into the scoring system, should help avoid similar problems in the future. I will note that having lots of shooters is a good problem to have.

As **DHD** also reported, the State Match is almost here. We have more than 180 registered shooters at the time I am writing this column. The Wild Bunch side match is full, with a waiting list. Last month we announced a Texas Hold 'Em tournament that will be held Friday night. We are offering RO1 and RO2 classes and last week added a Wild Bunch RO class that will be taught by **Goatneck Clem** – also on Wednesday, May 1st. Send me (**Long Juan**) an email if you would like to attend any of the RO classes or use the contact page at www.pccss.org. Speaking of the website, we use the News page there and our PCSS Yahoo group for most communications to

those with an interest in our activities. Be sure to join the Yahoo Group and to check the website often. Also, don't forget to let **Agarita Annie** know when and how you are able to assist as a waddie before and/or during the State match. You can send her an email or use the Contact page at www.pccss.org.

My thanks to **Lefty Leo**, **Sterling Sage** and **Dutch Van Horn** for some of the photos that appear in this issue.

In closing, several of you from the distaff side of life have mentioned you would like to see more articles about women in Texas and Old West history in the *Agarita Gazette*. My wife, **Powderkeg Patty**, gave me book I am enjoying – *Lady at the O.K. Corral*, a biography of Josephine Marcus Earp by Ann Kirschner. It will serve as the basis for a future article about Wyatt Earp's wife, Josephine. The first nugget I gleaned from the book is that the O.K. Corral got its name from a club in President Martin Van Buren's home town of Old Kinderhook, NY. The club was originally called the Oll Korreect club, later changed to the Old Kinderhook club and then shortened to O.K., which was used in Van Buren's 1839 re-election campaign, which he lost. As we all know, the abbreviation survived the test of history and is used by all to mean, "All correct." More about Josephine later.



Six Goin' South - Gotta love those feathers!



Texas Independence Day at the Agarita Ranch

Winter Range 2013

by Long Juan

Monday, February 18th.

After several weeks of potential complications that might have kept us from participating, **Sterling Sage** (my daughter) and I left Austin about 3:00 p.m. for Winter Range. We stopped for dinner at the Sutton County Steakhouse in Sonora (good chicken fried steak) and stopped for the night in Fort Stockton.



Tuesday, February 19th. My birthday,

#67. We were up early to continue our journey. Sure seems like we are stopping for gas often. Sterling Sage gave me a card and road again. We had planned to take IH10 all but as we were Lordsburg, New Mexico, we decided to try through Safford AZ. Parts of the drive were interesting (some decent photo opportunities),



parts were frustratingly slow and parts were downright disappointing.

Driving through the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation was particularly disappointing - looking for the most part like no one has any pride in the land or their homes, at least what we could see from the highway. Once we were in the Tonto National Forest, we enjoyed the scenery, including Ponderosa Pine and Saguaro Cactus. Globe is an interesting



mining town - initially silver and now copper, complete with its own copper smelting plant. We reached the city limits on the east side of Phoenix just in time for rush hour. An hour later, we arrived at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility (Winter Range venue), just north of Phoenix on IH17. Shooter check-in had already closed for the day, so we ate dinner at Plaza Bonita, a Mexican food restaurant in Happy Valley just down the road from Ben Avery, and called it a day.

Wednesday, February 20th. We were at

the range by 10:00 a.m. to pick up our shooter packets and do a little shopping on vendor row (actually rows, plural). Winter Range has the best stable of vendors in all of cowboy action shooting. There was, however, little shooting and little shopping because it was raining. Must be why some call it *Winter Rain*.

Virtually all of the vendor tents were closed and most of the vendors we saw were digging trenches to direct water away from their tents. Fortunately we had read the



forecast and brought our Walmart rubber boots that look sort of like cowboy boots from a distance. We did manage to purchase a couple of tee-shirts from one of the vendors, including a neat red Henley **Sterling Sage** bought for my birthday.

With nothing to do relating to Winter Range, we decided to journey north to Sedona for lunch. We touched base with **Jake Paladin** about dinner plans and he asked if we knew it was snowing north of Phoenix, with more than a foot forecast for Flagstaff, not too much further north than Sedona. Somewhat surprised, we headed north anyway and made it to Sedona, where it was in fact snowing. We had lunch the Wildflower Bread Company. We took advantage of some photo opportunities and



were back in Phoenix in time for dinner with **Jake Paladin, True Blue Cachoo, Jim**

Bowie of the Cowboys & Indian Store fame, and Jim's wife, **Cheryl**. We discovered later that evening that there had been snow, sleet, hail and thunder in Phoenix while we were in Sedona. There were great photos on the news of snow on the highways, golf courses and just about everywhere else in Phoenix, Scottsdale and other area communities. Guess that's why they call it *Winter Range*.

Thursday, February 21st, **Sterling Sage** and I were assigned to Posse #23, scheduled to shoot with the middle wave starting on Stage 11 at 11:00 a.m. We met our posse, which included contingents from Texas and California and one shooter from Iowa. All seemed nice when we met them, which turned out to be true, as we spent the next three days shooting together. We were particularly pleased to be shooting with **Jake Paladin, Sheriff Robert Love, Shootin' Iron Miller, Dutch Van Horn** and **General Burleson**, all shooters we know from Texas – the *Plum Creek Shooting Society* and the *Texican Rangers*. **True Blue Cachoo** was there, but not fully recovered from the flu and was not shooting. There was a missing



man fly-over by restored military aircraft to honor our fallen veterans.

Before we started shooting, our posse marshal, **Snakebite**, laid down the law – “If you know it's a hit, it's a hit. If you know it's a miss, it's a miss. If you just *think* it's a miss, it's a hit.” **Sterling Sage** and I had

read the stages in the shooter's book the night before, but it was good to have **Snakebite** read them again as we were getting ready to shoot. The stages were well written with few, if any ambiguities. There were potential P's, but if one paid attention, they were pretty easy to avoid. The targets



Shooting Iron Miller negotiating the puddles.

were close and, in most cases, pretty big. There was a fair amount of movement, often between shotgun targets. **Sterling Sage** commented that the *Green Mountain Regulators* had a recent shoot where they emphasized movement with the shotgun. It was a real help to her on the stages at Winter Range.

Interestingly, many of the stages used the same targets for rifle and pistol. After shooting the rifle and staging it *vertically*, the shooter would move forward to shoot the same targets with the pistols. Obviously, such



Sterling Sage enjoys one of the vendor rows.

movement requires berms between stages.

We had a pretty good first day. I shot clean and mostly in the 40's (pretty fast for me). **Sterling Sage** was a little nervous and had more misses and shot a little slower than usual, but enjoyed herself. Before and after shooting, we visited vendors and made a few small purchases. In particular, we were looking for some stag grips I had given **Sterling Sage** for Christmas for her OMV's. We looked at stag and elk. Because of the prices, we were leaning toward elk and said we would be back with her guns the next day. That night we had dinner at The Station, a rustic cowboy restaurant, bar and saloon. I had the cowboy macaroni casserole.



Sterling had chicken fried steak. We hit the rack early because we were scheduled to shoot with the early wave the next morning.

Friday, February 22nd. We were up early and at the range by 7:30. It was *COLD* and we did not have enough clothing. Not sure it would have been possible to have enough

clothing and the wind did not help. We were scheduled to shoot Stages 1-4, which are pretty wide open. I shot the first stage clean and was beginning to think about a clean match.

Jake Paladin was also clean and hoping to shoot the match clean, having had just one miss last year. We moved on to the next stage. Not as cold and still clean. Then came



Long Juan looking happier than he feels after first (and only) miss for the match.

our third stage of the day, Stage 1. I had a miss with my second pistol. DARN!! Turns out that was my only miss for the match. After a chilly first couple of stages, **Sterling Sage** began to hit her stride. She improved significantly from the first day. After finishing our four stages, we placed an order with Eagle Grips for a set of elk grips for **Sterling's** OMV's.

We had pretty much visited all the vendors at the match, so we decided to make a run to Wild West Mercantile in Mesa, which is "part" of Phoenix. How far could it be from the

Ben Avery Shooting Facility? Answer according to our GPS, 54 miles. We went anyway.



bought a heavier duster, which I wish I had purchased the day before. We returned from Mesa in time to clean up and join **Jake Paladin, True Blue Cachoo, Jim Bowie** and **Cheryl** for dinner at the Chuck Wagon. JP

and TBC were staying in their RV at the Pioneer RV Park, a couple of miles north of the Ben Avery Shooting Facility. The Chuck Wagon is a restaurant at the Pioneer Living History Museum. The museum is an old 1800's town on 90 acres, with authentic buildings and accurate reproductions of the Opera House where Lilly Lantry sang, an actual cabin that survived Arizona's bloodiest range war, an 1890's dress shop, a



blacksmith shop, sheriff's office and jail, and complete ranch complex. During dinner, a local councilman visited our table and told us how the Chuck Wagon had been rescued from financial demise. Together with the museum, it is located on public land, which

is a buffer for the Ben Avery Shooting Facility, which is also on public land, just south and across a good-size hill. The restaurant had been closed for about a year, but is now open again for



dinner Friday night and brunch Saturday and Sunday. The ambiance was great; the food was good. After talking to **Jim Bowie** that evening, I decided to send **Sterling's** back-up '92 to him for tuning. If you need some action work done, **Jake Paladin** says Jim can handle just about anything at the Cowboys & Indian Store in Santa Ana, CA. <http://www.cowboysandindianstore.com/>

Saturday, February 23rd. It's the last day of the main match. We are scheduled to shoot the last wave, starting at 2:00 p.m. Our original plan had been to leave for home after shooting, but knowing we would not be finished until after 5:00, we decided to spend another night in Phoenix. We drove to Ben Avery a little early in order to watch some of the cowboy mounted shooting. In truth, it is a better spectator sport than cowboy action shooting.



Leaping ahead, we learn Monday afternoon back in Austin that neither of us finished "DAL" in our respective categories, Lady Wrangler and Senior Duelist. We had respectable scores for our first big national event and enjoyed the heck out of it. Next year, Winter Range will be held March 3rd through 9th. We are planning to attend.

After we finished shooting, we said goodbye to all of our new-found friends. We hope to shoot again with **El Lazo, Sinful, Mica McGuire, Little Doggie, Tumbleweed Pete, Memphis Raines, Snakebite, Sierra Rider, Kid Rich, EZ GZ, Sunset, Gypsy Shooter** and the others on our posse. Before I forget, **Jake Paladin** did shoot a clean match this year! I can tell you that he was VERY deliberate shooting the last day, especially the last couple of stages.

Congratulations JP!
Sterling Sage and I enjoyed eating our last dinner in Arizona for the year, pizza at Streets of New



Today we are going to shoot Stages 5-8, which include the saloon and the trestle. The weather is GREAT. It is not too warm and not too cool – beautiful blue, almost cloudless skies. Folks, it just doesn't get any better for cowboy action shooting. We had a great day. Both **Sterling Sage** and I shot clean.



York. Anticipating an early start back to Texas in the morning, our lights were out before 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 24th. We were on the road by 5:45 a.m. We made a short stop just north of Tucson for breakfast. Lunch was in Las Cruces. Then we hit the blowing sand and dust. It lasted almost to Fort Stockton, but the worst was over by the time we passed through Van Horn. **Jake Paladin** called to say they were stuck in a “parking lot” on IH10 west of Deming, NM, with the highway closed after someone stopped on the highway in a dust storm white out and was rear-ended. Turns out they were home by Monday. **Sterling** and I stopped in Ozona for dinner at a convenience store, where we filled the gas tank for the last time. Having split the driving, the day was not too bad. We arrived home about 11:00 p.m.

Winter Range is big. 743 shooters completed the Main Match for score. One who didn't finish was a shooter on our posse who had two Stage DQ's, which means a

Match DQ. The shooter moved with a loaded shotgun after reloading to make-up a missed target at the first position and then moving with the unfired second round to shoot the last two knock-downs. The last day, the shooter dropped a pistol that just didn't get into the holster. Too bad! Central Texas made a good showing. In addition to the one's already mentioned above, **Skin Dawg, Kickshot, Wildcat Bob, The Adobe Kid, Boosey Babe** and **Miss Cubbie** all competed in and completed the main match. I also saw lots of aliases that I recognize from registrations for *Ride with Pancho Villa 2013*. In closing, congratulations to **Skin Dawg**, who finished first in Buckaroo and 31st overall (that's 31st out of 743), one place in front of his grandfather, **Evil Roy**, who finished 32nd overall. For those interested in checking out the complete scores for Winter Range 2013. See

<http://www.winterrange.com/2013results.html>





True Blue Cachoo in “Rattler” Motiff!

I mentioned earlier that **True Blue Cachoo** attended, but did not shoot Winter Range 2013. She nevertheless was the style-queen, at least in my book. Above she is wearing her rattlesnake vest and newly acquired rattler earrings. On each ear, she is sporting a set of rattles AND a rattlesnake fang. The fang can be seen in the blow-up on JP’s vest - top left. Not seen in this photo are her rattlesnake boots.



WR Stage 5 - The Saloon



WR Stage 6 - The Trestle

Winter Range 2013



Jake Paladin performing posse duties as a timer. Nice flag!



Abilene and A.D. Texaz showing guns at Cimarron's tent on vendors row.



Dutch Van Horn looking especially dapper on the first day of competition.



Shooting Iron Miller showing the form that earned a Top 10 finish in the Cowgirl category

General Burleson shooting Gunfighter



More Winter Range



From the expression on Long Juan's face, this is the shot right after the MISS!



Snow on the Pampas Grass in Sedona

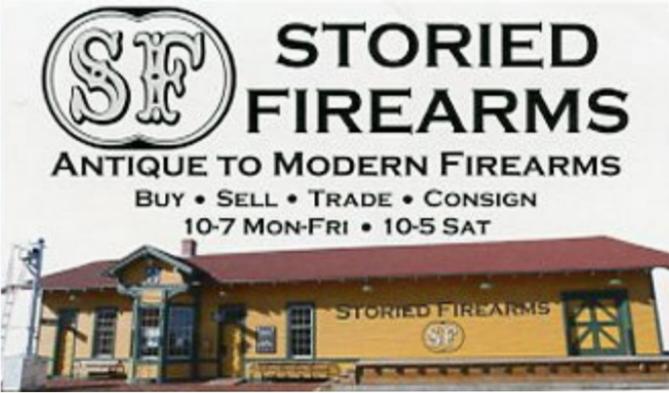


Sterling Sage bundled, happy and ready to shoot on the second day

Good sermon on the schedule for today



Always lots to eat at Winter Range



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Ride 'em Big Iron!



Long Horn Cowgirls



The Spoiled Doves of Texas served breakfast, lunch and other refreshments

Not sure what Anna Long Longshot & G.T. Sharps did wrong

Plum Creek Shooting Society March 2013 Match



No, L.W. Is not shooting himself. It just looks like it.



Sterling Sage & Tascosa both shot CLEAN



Shooting Iron Miller showing off good form



Kettleman shooting Gunfighter



SkinDawg, Rattlesnake Wrangler & Colt Faro sharing some good shootin' strategy.



Lars goes after the pistol KD's



Several shooters, including Jake Paladin, wore the "headcam" to help Farr Ranger with the cowboy action shooting documentary he is shooting.



Jake Jones, Ruskie or railroad conductor?



Circuit Judge enjoyed his new Marlin



Dragon Hill Dave catches his own brass



Frank Longshot apparently thought it was cold

RIDE WITH PANCHO VILLA

2013

Texas State Championship

Presented by



Poster by Phantom

Evil Roy Shooting School

April 27-28, 2013

The Tejas Caballeros are proud to announce an **Evil Roy Shooting School**



at the Caballeros' Flat Creek Shooting Range west of Dripping Springs, Texas.

Evil Roy, a past World Champion, National Wild Bunch Champion and Silver Senior Cowboy Action Champion and trainer for many other World Champions, will be in central Texas **April 27-28** to share his insights, skills, and tricks of the trade that can make you a better shooter. This **2-day school on Saturday the 27th and Sunday the 28th** will teach you how to be a smarter and better shooter. This is the same school offered at Winter Range, in Phoenix AZ.

Some of the best shooters in the world have taken this class to improve their shooting, transitions, and stage management. Even if you don't want to be a world champion contender, you can learn a lot of tricks and techniques that will improve your game.

Has your shooting plateaued? Want to move to the next level? Evil Roy's school can give you tips and procedures that can help you shave seconds and misses from your time.

EVIL ROY IS MAKING A SPECIAL TRIP TO HOST THIS SCHOOL. WE NEED TO GET A MINIMUM OF 20 SHOOTERS ENROLLED TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GET A WORLD-CLASS COWBOY ACTION EDUCATION WITH HANDS-ON TRAINING CLOSE TO HOME FROM ONE OF THE PREMIER TEACHERS IN OUR SPORT.

The price per person for the 2-day school is \$250.00. Additional immediate family members are \$150.00 and SASS juniors shoot free with a paid adult.

Payment terms are cash, Visa, or Master Card.

Contact the **Shooting School** through Wicked Felina (aka Karen Pearcey) to register.

Phone: 970-247-1234

fax: 970-259-6111

email: evilroy@evilroyshootingschool.com

website: www.evilroyshootingschool.com"

For **Cabins and Rooms** available separately from Flat Creek Ranch: <http://www.txsranch.com/pictures.htm>.

Rick Gambino:

512 426-9691

rgambino@childinc.org

LONGHORN BULLETS



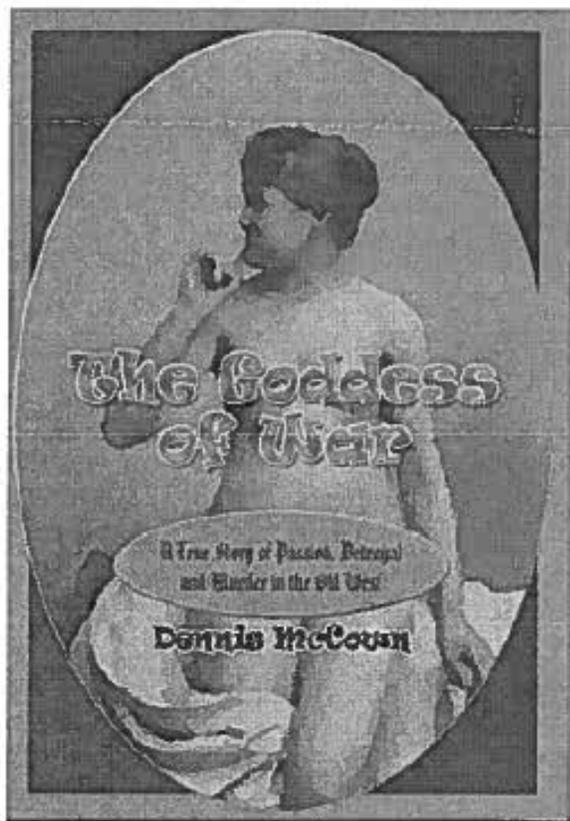
Hopalong
Donald Herbert
210-602-6994

Rick Page
210-844-9362

CALIBER	WEIGHT	CONFIG	PRICE-500	PRICE-1000
.38	100	RNFP	29	58
	105	FP	30	60
	125	RNFP	32	64
	125	FP	32	64
	130	RNFP	32.5	65
	158	RNFP	35	70
	158	FP	35	70
	158	SWC	35	70
	.380	100	RNFP	29.5
.38-55	245	RNFP	51	102
0.41	215	SWC	42.5	85
0.44	180	RNFP	37	74
	240	SWC	45	90
.44-40	200	RNFP	39	78
.45 COLT	160	RNFP	42	84
	180	RNFP	37	74
	200	RNFP	39	78
	250	RNFP	46	92
9MM	124	RN	32	64
	125	CN	32	64
40 S&W	180	FP	37	74
.45ACP	200	SWC	39	78
"New"	200	RN	39	78
	230	RN	43.5	87
45-70	405	FPT	92.5	185

If you need bullets, contact Hopalong!

Here's book by fellow SASS member, **Seven Ladders**. SASS #75152. It's another chance to read about women in Texas and Old West history.



John Wesley Hardin was a legendary gunfighter, now gone straight.

Helen Beulah Mrose was a beautiful woman with a mysterious past.

Their illicit, tempestuous affair scandalized the borderlands and resulted in two of the most famous murders in Texas, yet their relationship has been little understood.

Until now.

Announcing publication of
Dennis McCown's

The Goddess of War
A True Story of Passion,
Betrayal, and Murder in
the Old West

Available from your local bookstore or online from amazon.com at \$26.95.

e-book will also soon be available

