

AGARITA GAZETTE



A Chronicle of the Plum Creek Shooting Society



Agarita Ranch

February 2014

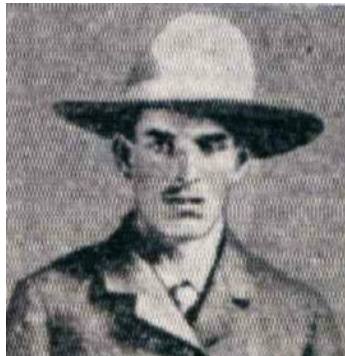
Lockhart, Texas

The Legend of Sam Bass

by Long Juan

Sam Bass was born in Indiana, it was his native home;
And at the age of seventeen young Sam began to roam;
Sam first came to Texas, a cowboy for to be -
A kinder-hearted fellow you seldom ever see ...

Sam Bass was born in 1851 on a farm near Mitchell, Indiana. Orphaned at the age of 10, he lived for the next several years with his siblings on a nearby farm with an abusive uncle and his nine children. In 1869, Sam ran away. He traveled down the Mississippi River and worked for a year in Charles' Mill, where he learned how to handle a pistol and honed his card-playing skills. Sam always wanted to be a cowboy. In 1870, he moved to Denton, Texas, where he was employed by Sheriff W. F. "Dad" Eagan as a farmhand. Sam curried horses, milked cows and cut firewood. He also worked as a teamster, where he learned all the trails, back roads and thickets that he would later use to elude the Texas Rangers



Sam Bass

In Denton, Sam saved his earnings and developed an interest in horse racing. In

1874, he bought a little sorrel mare, Jenny, nicknamed "the Denton Mare, the fastest horse in Texas." Sam soon "retired" to a life of horse racing, gambling and saloon patronizing. In 1875, he moved to San Antonio and never again held a permanent job, living instead on gambling and eventually as an outlaw.

In San Antonio, Sam hooked up with Joel Collins, a young cowboy working as a bartender. For more than a year they traveled around the Texas frontier race-track circuit. When they were caught cheating, Sam told Collins, "The jig is up in this country. I don't believe we can do anything." But Collins had other ideas. He was well known in the area and had no difficulty buying a herd of several hundred cattle by signing notes to be paid after the cattle were sold. They drove the herd north, first to Dodge City and then to Ogallala in the South Platte Valley of Nebraska, where the prices were higher. After selling the herd and paying the hands, they had \$8,000 in their pockets. Instead of returning to Texas to pay off the notes, they squandered the money gambling in Ogallala and in the Black

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www.pccss.org



President's Word:

Few things are more satisfying for someone in charge of a cowboy shoot than for absolutely everything to go right. I was lucky to have one of those days for our February shoot, and I have to give credit to a lot of people who made that happen. First to PT, who designed the stages and set up the targets not only for the February shoot but in advance for the March shoot as well. Lucky Nickel was out at the same time as PT and got all the targets painted, then arrived on Friday before the shoot to get the range ready. You might have noticed how clean the firing line looked this time—Lucky Nickel said he raked up a dumpster load of shotgun wads and trash.

Lightning McQueen helped with the setup and take down and, as always, Delta Raider had the signs out, the coffee brewing, the lunch lined up, and all the big and little details that make the Agarita Ranch so inviting.

I even remembered to get the words to the Texas pledge out during the shooter's meeting so we could all remind ourselves of that promise again. Long Juan shot thru, did the scores, and handed out 20 (yes, 20 out of 47—no, I was not one of them) clean shooter pins along with the announcement of our category winners.

We had plenty of folks step up to take on posse duties, posses moved smoothly, and we had no significant downrange calls. New shooters blended right in and found lots of helpful folks. The targets

performed well and we had significantly fewer splatter problems. And I am real sure that a lot of people had FUN. A good day for the Plum Creek Shooting Society.

In that vein, we need some volunteers to help us with the post-game cleanup. Our deal with Agarita Ranch is that we get to use the place for Cowboy Action Shooting, but it is also an event venue as well as having livestock around. We have to tend to our own items like targets and shotgun ropes, but we also have to close the barn doors and windows, close the gates, and do general cleanup to put it back like it was. We have been lucky to have PT, Lucky Nickel, Lightning McQueen, Long Juan, Lincoln Drifter and others help get us setup.

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We need a crew who will take the responsibility of take down—putting the blankets, counter sticks, pickers, clipboards and shotgun target ropes back in the stage boxes, taking down the temporary tables in the saloon/hotel, putting away the coffee pots and closing up the gates and doors on the range. If we can get one or two volunteers per month to help, that would really make a difference.

Speaking of volunteers, we are starting to make our volunteer list for the Battle of Plum Creek. We already have some folks who have stepped up to help, but we need more. We particularly need some folks helping with side matches Thursday all day and Friday afternoon. Long range and the speed stages will need folks to help move the shooters through. It won't require an all day commitment—just an hour or two will be fine as long as we get enough folks. Volunteering won't interfere with shooting the side matches or the main match. Contact Long Juan, Delta Raider, Joe Darter or Dragon Hill Dave by email if you would like to help.

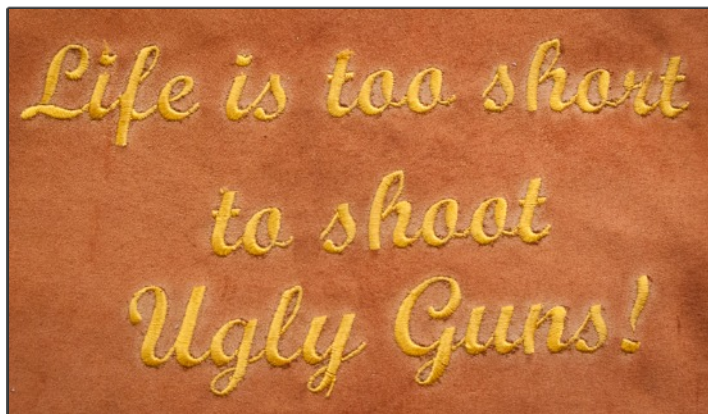
Let's get back to talking about shooting! If you haven't already registered for the Battle of Plum Creek, get after it! May will be here before you know it. Forms are on the PCCSS website.

Next month we will have our Texas Independence Day shoot. The big event that weekend is the Texas Independence Day festival that Agarita Ranch is hosting. To finish up in time for that to start, we are only shooting 5 stages. We will shoot Stages 1-4, and then repeat Stage 7, the Bath House.

The 20 knockdown targets were a big hit, so we thought we would bring them back for folks who shot it to test out their "What-I-should-have-done" plan and for those who haven't tried it yet to learn what the rest of us are talking about. Shooters pay half price (\$5) to stay around and enjoy the Texas Independence Day festivities.

While we were shooting our monthly match on February 1, Fort Parker was hosting a Texas State Rifle Association Cowboy Match set up by my good friend and fellow Classic Cowboy and Magnificent 7 member Texas Ghost. They had 79 shooters come out to support the TSRA. Several of our Plum Creek shooters attended and acquitted themselves very well. Our own Matt Black took overall honors and his dad Colt Faro came in second overall and was the top Wrangler. Tres Equis was the top Cowboy, and Spur Broke won Cowgirl and was the second lady overall. Kit Carson was the 2d Gunfighter and Czexican Dave was the top Senior. The Adobe Kid came in 2d in Cattle Baron and Boosey Babe came in as the first Cattle Baroness. Yuma Jack was the top Frontier Gunfighter (I bet that was fun to watch, especially as it got darker.) Congratulations to all of them, and we thank them for supporting the TSRA.

On a personal note, thank you to the members who have elected me for a third term as president. I am honored to serve in a club and venue whose reputation as a great place to shoot builds every month. See ya' at the Agarita!



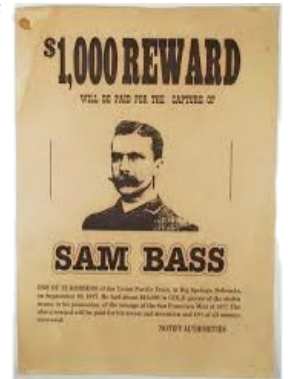
Hills town of Deadwood, South Dakota. They bought a saloon, sold it, bought a gold mine and promptly went broke. Finally, they recruited a gang and held up several stagecoaches without making much money. On September 27, 1877, Sam and five others held up a Union Pacific train at Fort Bend, Nebraska. They netted \$60,000 worth of freshly minted \$20 gold pieces being shipped from the San Francisco Mint to an Eastern



bank. The six bandits split the money and went their separate ways. In disguise and \$10,000 richer, Sam headed straight for Texas on a wagon. On the way, he even gave a ride to some of the lawmen who were hunting him.

Once in Denton, Bass told his friends that his new found wealth came from a strike he made prospecting in the Black Hills. His money and good spirits attracted many people, some of whom became part of the "Sam Bass Gang." In February 1878 the gang robbed four trains within 25 miles of Dallas. They first robbed the Texas Central at Allen Station and netted \$1,300. They held up the Texas Central again in March. They hit the Texas and Pacific Railroad on April 4th near Eagle Ford and on the 10th near Mesquite. The Mesquite robbery was the last for Sam Bass. The people of North Texas were angry. Concerned about the presence of gangs of outlaws in the state, they demanded action. The governor called on the Texas Rangers to capture or kill Bass

and his gang. During the next four months, the gang became legend. They were the object of a manhunt by the Texas Rangers and Pinkertons. Relying on a thorough knowledge of the back trails and thickets learned during Sam's days as a teamster, they led their pursuers on long chases, making many narrow escapes.



In April 1878, the Rangers were able to take the gang by surprise while they were resting at the home of gang member Jim Murphy. Bass was hit by gunfire, but escaped injury, one bullet having hit his cartridge belt and the other his rifle stock. As he left the scene he uttered, "Hell, boys, they've hit me at last. Let's get out of here." The gang was able to continue eluding the Rangers until Jim Murphy turned informant. On their way to Round Rock, Murphy was able to slip away from the gang and send a letter to Major John Jones of the Texas Rangers. He told Jones that the gang was headed to Round Rock to rob the Williamson County Bank. Jones directed Rangers Dick Ware, Chris Conner and George Harold to go to Round Rock and be on the lookout for members of the Bass Gang. Jones then headed for Round Rock himself with Travis County Deputy Sheriff Morris Moore.

Bass, Murphy, Seaborn Barnes and Frank Jackson arrived in Round Rock Sunday night, July 14th. Monday they went into town to case the bank and get a shave. Bass and Barnes wanted to steal some fresh horses and hit the bank as soon as possible. Murphy, stalling for time, suggested that stealing horses would raise suspicions. Instead, he suggested that they rest their horses and rob the bank later in the week. After some discussion, the gang decided they would rob the bank on Saturday, July 20th. On Friday, July 19, Bass, Jackson and



Jim Murphy, Sam Bass and Seaborn Barnes

Barnes went into New Town (*see Editor's Note below*) to case the bank one final time. Murphy stayed in Old Town hoping to contact Major Jones. In New Town, the bandits hitched their horses in an alley and walked up the street to Kopperal's General Store. At the same time, Ranger Ware crossed the street from the livery stable to the barber shop, passing the bandits without realizing who they were. The bandits were also observed by Deputy Moore and Williamson County Deputy Sheriff A.W. Grimes.

Seeing them in long overcoats with suspicious bulges, Grimes told Moore that he thought they were wearing a pistols, which was against the law in Round Rock. Grimes followed them into the general store where the bandits were purchasing tobacco. Still not realizing they were members of the Bass Gang, Grimes asked Barnes if he was carrying a firearm. Barnes tore open his coat and shot the startled Grimes twice. The deputy died on his feet. Bass and Jackson shot the deputy four more



A.W. Grimes

times before he hit the ground. Two of their shots struck Deputy Moore as he rushed through the door after hearing the initial shots. While falling to his knees, Moore got off one shot, which hit Bass in the hand.

The three bandits ran for their horses in the alley. The shooting attracted the attention of Ware, who was getting a shave. He raced out of the barbershop with a striped bib on and his face still lathered. He pursued the bandits, firing as he ran. He chased them into the alley, where he saw Bass struggling to get on his horse. The shooting also attracted the attention of Major Jones, who was in the Great Northern telegraph office when the shooting began. He joined Ware shooting at the bandits as they fled. While the bandits were in the alley attempting to mount their horses, Rangers Harold and Conner also shot at them with their rifles. Barnes died in the alley and Bass was mortally wounded.

Many witnesses attributed a great deal of gallantry to 20-year old Frank Jackson. With Barnes dead in front of him and Bass severely injured, Jackson held off the Rangers with his gun and helped Bass mount his horse. As the bandits fled from New Town and through Old Town, Jackson warned a little girl who was playing in a tree to get in the house away from the gunfire. Jim Murphy, who had stayed behind in Old Town during the shootout, reported that he saw Bass and Jackson come up the street on the way to their camp, which was near the Round Rock Cemetery. Bass was being held in the saddle by Jackson while Jackson reloaded his own pistol. After grabbing their things at the camp, Bass and Jackson turned north and headed into some woods. Bass told Jackson he was in too much pain to continue. He urged Jackson to leave him and to try to save himself. Not wanting to leave his friend and leader, Jackson delayed, but ultimately rode off.

Little effort was made to pursue the fleeing bandits the day of the shootout.

Although the gang was now composed of only four persons, one dead, one mortally wounded and another having betrayed the gang, the Rangers feared the gang would retaliate if there was immediate pursuit. The next morning, searchers spotted a man propped up against a tree. When they approached the man, Bass held up his hand and uttered, "I am Sam Bass, the man that has been wanted so long." Bass was taken back to Round Rock in a wagon. Major Jones questioned him, but was unable to get any useful information about the other members of the gang. Bass said, "It's agin my profession to blow on my pals. If a man knows anything he ought to die with it in him." Bass went on to say that, "If I killed Deputy Grimes, he is the first man I ever killed."

Bass clung to hope for life, but when the doctor told him that death was near, he said, "Let me go!" He closed his eyes for a few moments. Then he opened them and exclaimed, "the world is bobbing around" and died. It was his 27th birthday. Bass is buried in the Round Rock Cemetery. His grave was unmarked for a year. The summer after his death, his sister came from Indiana and had a tombstone erected with an epitaph that



read, "A brave man reposes in death here. Why was he not true?" Souvenir hunters chipped away at the marker until it virtually vanished. It has since been replaced with a granite tombstone erected by the Sam Bass Centennial Commission. What remains of the original marker is on display at the Round Rock Public Library.

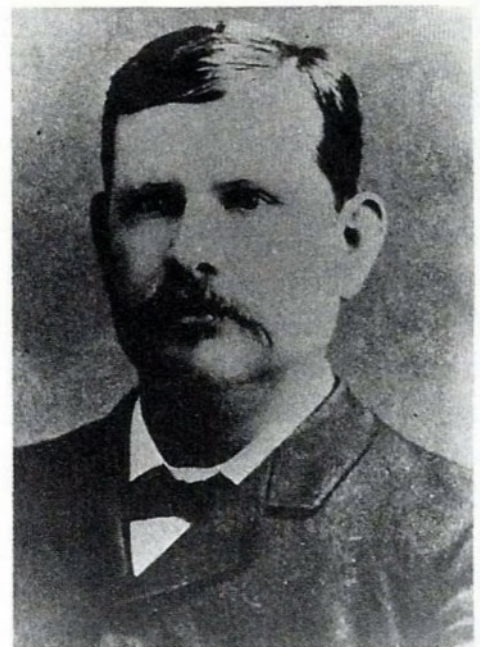
Who actually killed Sam Bass is unknown. The dying Bass declared that the man who killed him had lather on his face. That man was Ware, who had been getting a shave when the shootout began. In the shootout report, the Rangers reported that Ware was the one who fired the fatal

shot. At the official inquest, however, Ware stated that he did not kill Bass. Ranger Harold claimed he had and therefore received credit in the official record.

There are many accounts of what happened to Frank Jackson after he escaped from Round Rock. He was rumored to have ended his days as a rancher in New Mexico, Montana, or Big Spring, Texas; as a drummer in Houston; or as a law officer in California. Ranger Ware claimed that he later saw Jackson in the Arizona State Prison, using the name of Downing. Jim "Judas" Murphy killed himself in 1879, although there was much speculation that Jackson killed him in retaliation.

As with many figures of the American Old West, Bass captured the public's imagination. His fame spread to Great Britain in the late 1800s, culminating in a wax statue in *Madam Tussaud's Waxworks* in London. His life has been dramatized over the years in numerous radio and television shows and films. His legend was helped along by *The Ballad of Sam Bass*, which was sung by night riders on stormy nights to sooth herds of longhorn cattle moving north to the Kansas cow towns. The cowboy detective, Charlie Siringo, called Sam

"the hero of more Texas cowboys than any other bad man." Sam is often pictured as a smiling, reckless young lad who remained true to his



Ranger Ware

friends to the last, shared his stolen gold with the poor, was gallant with the ladies, loved children and horses and was lured to his death by a Judas in his ranks - in brief, the classic western Robin Hood. Behind the legend and folklore was an illiterate, likable cowboy and teamster who drifted into the "robbing business" as an easy method of getting money without having to work too hard. He was a charismatic leader who won the admiration of young cowboys, ranchers and farmers for his daring robberies of the hated railroads, but he was no Robin Hood. Bass spent his money freely, but only on whiskey, elaborate gifts for his friends, dance-hall girls and horses.

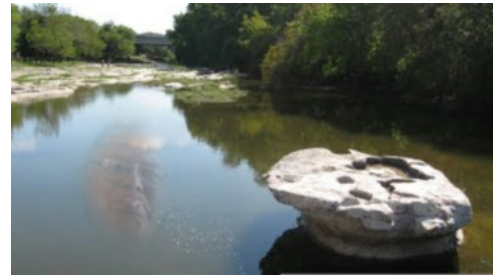
The Sam Bass shootout was a unifying event for the young town of Round Rock. It is easy to imagine someone responding to the statement, "I'm from Round Rock" with "Oh, the place where Sam Bass was killed." Since 1964, the shootout that killed Sam

Bass has been re-created each year during the July 4th Frontier Days Celebration in Old Settlers Park.



The Round Rock bank that the Bass gang attempted to rob is currently located at Fort Tumbleweed in Liberty Hill Texas.

Editor's Note: While researching this story, I discovered New Town and Old Town Round Rock for the first time. Round Rock was not originally called Round Rock and was not originally located where it is now. The initial settlement was on the north bank of Brushy Creek and just west of present day IH35, where Jacob Harrell, a blacksmith from Austin, set up shop during the spring of 1848. The settlement was initially called Brushy Creek. To eliminate confusion with another Brushy Creek in Texas, the town was soon renamed after a large anvil-shaped limestone rock in Brushy Creek. A low-water ford crossed the creek at the rock. As long as the top of the rock was visible, the water was shallow enough for safe passage. The ford was used by 19th Century stagecoaches and horsemen and the Chisholm Trail passed through Round Rock, crossing Brushy Creek near the rock.



Despite a succession of floods, Round Rock flourished at its original location until 1876 when the Great Northern Railroad was built through Williamson County. Rails were laid a short distance south and east of the original Round Rock. Recognizing that businesses would prosper near the railroad, the community moved south east. The new area was first known as "new" Round Rock or New Town. By 1891, Old Town was mostly abandoned. It experienced a revival beginning in the middle of the 20th century and since 1970 the town has developed in all directions. Old Town, consisting of a few restored limestone structures, is now surrounded by the rest of the city.



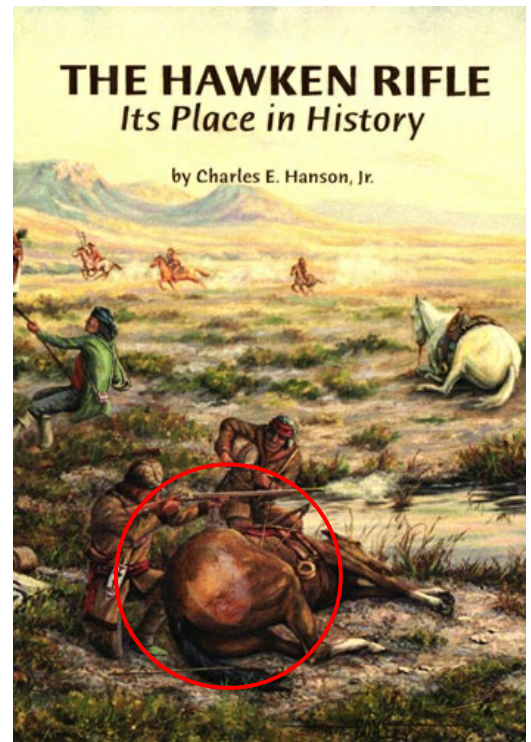
Old Town circa 1880

Find Delta Raider

More people found **Delta Raider** last month. I confess I did not understand why so many said, “How appropriate!” Hereby mentioned in the dispatches for having found **Delta Raider** in the January issue are: **Sterling Sage, Hoss Roonright, Boon Doggle, Boosey Babe, Lincoln Drifter, Meadow Biscuit Slim** and **Preacher Man**. How many of you can find him this month? Remember, there will be a free match in December for the one who finds him the greatest number of times this year. Ties will be resolved by a drawing.

Code of the West

Write it in your heart. Stand by the code and it will stand by you. Ask no more and give no less than honesty, courage, loyalty, generosity and fairness.



Stories from Jake (Paladin that is): “Honeymoon”

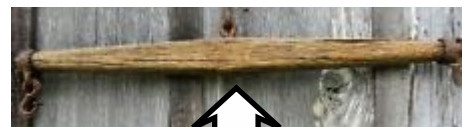
It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month we know today as the honeymoon.

Editor’s Note: I wonder if Judge Roy Bean was on his honeymoon when he’s reported to have said, “Never miss a good chance to shut up.”



What’s it mean? Singletree

A singletree is the cross-bar to which the traces of a horse- or mule-team is attached for drawing a wagon.



Singletree

Match Report by Long Juan

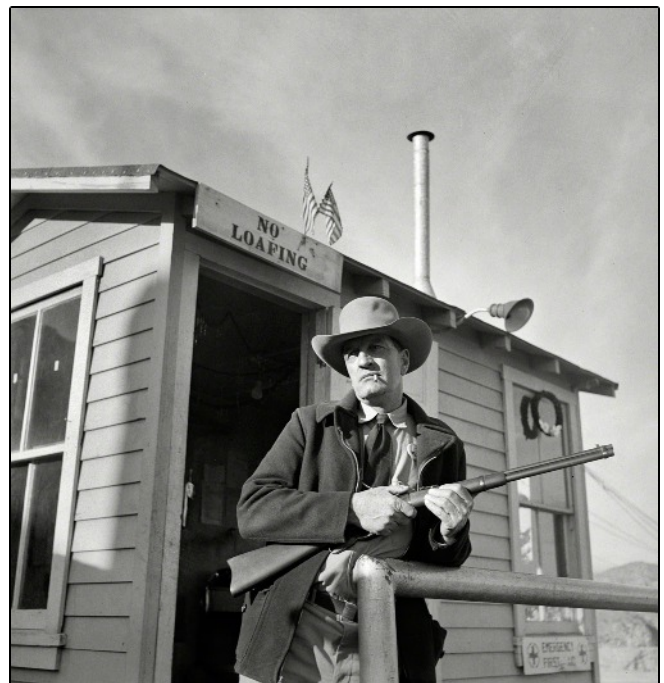


Long Juan here. We had a good turn-out for the February match - 47 shooters, 3 posses and 17 categories. **P.T.** wrote our stages. **Dragon Hill Dave** wrote the stories and starting lines based on a Super Bowl theme. Thanks to you both. The stages were really fun to shoot, especially all the knock-downs at the Bath House. By popular demand, we will shoot that stage again in March. We had 20 clean shooters for the match, maybe an all-time record. Congratulations to **Big John Mesquite, Bisbee Jackson, Bison Jim, Bolo Bob, Bordello Bob, Chisos, Dutch Van Horn, El Sabre, Farr Ranger, Jake Paladin, Kap K. Hawk, Kickshot, Lars Christopherson, Lonesome Doug, Long Juan, Nueces Ranger, Scooter, Skyhawk (a/k/a Seahawk Hans, Sombrero Negro and T Bone Paul.** Congratulations also to category winners: Cowboy - **Lightning McQueen**, Wrangler - **Joe Darter**, Ladies 49r - **Six Goin' South**, 49r - **Phantom**, Senior - **Kickshot**, Silver Senior - **Hopalong Herbert**, Elder Statesman - **Bison Jim**, Cattle Baron - **Kap K. Hawk**, Duelist - **Jake**

Lever-action rifles were not just relics of the Old West. The photo to the right is from December 1942 of an armed guard at a Phelps-Dodge copper smelter in Morenci, Arizona. The plant was supplying great quantities of the copper vital to our war effort. The guard looks sort of like Matt Dillon, doesn't he?

Paladin, Senior Duelist - **Big John Mesquite**, Frontier Cartridge Duelist - **Nueces Ranger**, Classic Cowboy - **Dragon Hill Dave**, Senior Gunfighter - **General Burluson**, Frontiersman - **L.W. Hannabass**, Cody-Dixon Lever - **Lars Christopherson**, Cody-Dixon Single - **Boon Doggle** and GAF Repeater - **Sombrero Negro**. Finally, congratulations to our Top Ten overall: **Phantom, Kickshot, Hopalong Herbert, Skyhawk Hans, Dutch Van Horn, Dragon Hill Dave, Bison Jim, Joe Darter, P.T. And Cowboy Small.**

We hope everyone will be back to shoot with us again in March. Don't forget the big Texas Independence Day celebration at the Agarita Ranch. See flyer on page 19. We will be shooting Stages 1-4 and 7. See you then. Note that we will have two new categories to shoot in March. *See next page.*



New Shooting Categories

Although the Plum Creek Shooting Society strongly encourages participation in standard, SASS-recognized categories, beginning with the monthly match in March, we will offer two special shooting categories in addition to the special categories we already offer (Cody-Dixon and GAF). These two new categories are monthly-match categories only. Except as modified by the category description, all SASS rules apply, particularly SASS safety rules. Participants in these categories will complete only within their category, i.e., they are not eligible to compete in the overall match standings. Shooters in these categories will receive recognition if they shoot a clean match.

Working Cowboy/Cowgirl (WC)

Same as age-based categories, except shoots only one pistol and one rifle. Second pistol and shotgun sequence are not shot.

Wild Agarita (WA)

Shoots 1911 pistol with one reload for “second” pistol. Shoots any SASS-legal rifle and shotgun ('97 or SxS) with any SASS-legal caliber. Shoots same sequence (including loading the shotgun on the clock) as other cowboy shooters. May shoot traditional or modern 1911, one or two hands. Starts with two magazines loaded with 5 rounds each. Follow SASS Wild Bunch rules for handling 1911. See pages 6-8 of the 2013 *SASS Wild Bunch Action Shooting Handbook*. See link below. The applicable SASS rules can be summarized as follows: With slide forward and hammer down, one magazine is inserted at the loading table. Pistol may not be charged (slide cycled placing round in chamber) until on the shooting line ready to shoot the pistol. Starts with pistol holstered. May move to shoot second pistol sequence, if necessary, with empty chamber, pistol in hand, slide back, muzzle downrange. Empty magazine may be left in the gun or released. If shooting sequence has long gun between the two pistols, the pistol is staged empty chamber, slide back, muzzle down range and picked up after shooting the long gun. After shooting second magazine, empty pistol staged, i.e., not in holster, with slide back muzzle downrange. Empty magazine may be left in the gun or released. When the shooter finishes the stage, the shooter clears the 1911 before leaving the stage. Clearing requires showing the RO or his designee that the 1911 has no magazine and no round in the chamber, then releasing the slide and pulling the trigger while pointing the muzzle downrange. The 1911 is then holstered, where it stays until loading at the next stage. Note that shooting in the WA category is NOT the same as shooting in a Wild Bunch match. It is simply substituting one 1911 and two magazines for two cowboy pistols.

Our goal with these categories is to encourage shooters lacking full gear to participate and to allow shooters to practice shooting the 1911. Shooters not already familiar with the 1911 should not plan on shooting in the WA category until they have learned to handle and shoot the 1911 safely. Be sure to read about handling the 1911 in the manual referenced above before you shoot the 1911 in a monthly match. <http://sassnet.com/Shooters-Handbook-001A.php>

Unless problems arise, these categories will be offered at least for all of 2014. At the end of the year, the Board will review the results and make a decision whether to continue either or both in the future. These categories will NOT be available for Battle of Plum Creek 2014 or any other annual or state match hosted by the Plum Creek Shooting Society.

February Match Photos

Thanks to **Six Goin' South** and **Lincoln Drifter** for providing so many of the match photos this month.

Six Goin' South and Kickshot sure have a nice gun cart



Creek Johnson loading or reading about Texas Independence Day festivities. Not sure which?



Six Goin' South always gets a good photo of her posse - Posse 3 this month



Rusty Shackelford



Lefty Leo



Dodge City Mike



L.W. Hannabass & Sombrero Negro



Bolo Bob and new starting position - Lazy Surrender



LOTS of knock-downs!!



Chisos takes dead aim



P.T. shooting one of those great stages he wrote



Farr Ranger on his way to putting Long Juan DAL in Classic Cowboy



Kap K. Hawk



General Burleson and soon-to-be new shooter, Colonel Kelly



Not sure what point True Blue Cachoo is making, but LaDonna is very attentive



Long Juan waits patiently to shoot-through. He just can't wait to enter those scores



Great 'stache, Big John



Phantom and Dodge City Mike share what must of been a great joke as Wildcat Bob just smirks



Sombrero Negro makin' smoke while Scooter runs the timer.



Doubleott from Missouri



Good lookin' couple that Six Goin' South and Kickshot



New shooter, Rotten Rascal

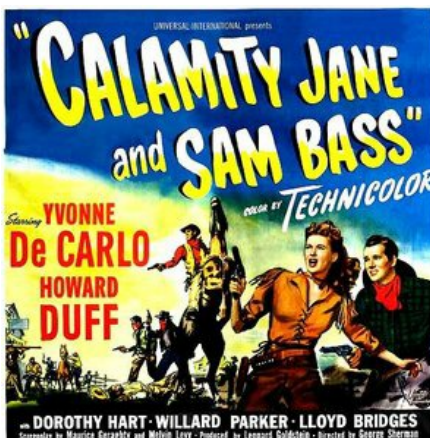
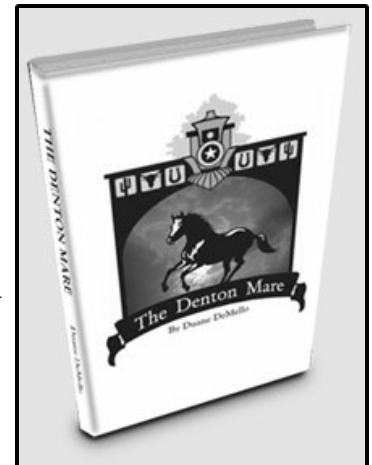
The Denton Mare

by Duane DeMello

More Sam Bass

“Some men are born to greatness, others to tragedy...”

It was a time when a man could be beyond the reach of the law. Or at least for a while before it catches up with him. Set in the Old West in the 1870s, *The Denton Mare* is about the fabled Texas outlaw Sam Bass. Sam led a colorful and exciting life, the stuff legends. He daringly robbed the Union Pacific gold train in 1877 in what, to this day, is the largest single robbery of Union Pacific. He managed to stay one step ahead of the law until, betrayed by a member of his gang, it finally caught up with him in a confrontation with the Texas Rangers. The novel is about events in the train robber's life – from the time he owned and raced the Denton Mare to the now famous shoot-out in Round Rock, Texas. The account of crime and betrayal is told and seen through the eyes of Bass and his betrayer, Jim Murphy. *The Denton Mare* is available from Amazon or from the author's website, <http://www.dentonmare.com/>



How good luck with women and horses pushes Sam Bass toward outlawry.

encounters unfriendly Sheriff Will Egan, who suspects Sam is a gambler. The infamous Calamity Jane and a group of rowdy cowboys then barrel into town, guns blazing in celebration of the upcoming cattle drive. Sam impresses Jane with his ability to calm her horse Thunderbolt, and she later watches him flirt with Will's sister Katherine, the general store proprietor. After the illiterate Sam asks Kathy to read a letter from his sister, she realizes that he is broke and wheedles Will into employing him on their ranch. To kick off the cattle drive, Denton plans a big race, in which riders from miles around will compete against the

M synopsis. At least some of the facts are right. As soon as gifted Indiana horseman Sam Bass arrives in Denton, Texas, having wrangled a temporary job as a stagecoach guard, he

Denton Mare, the fastest horse in the West. On the day of the race, Jane and Sam see the Mare whinnying in pain as she is being shod. Sam asks Will for fifty dollars to buy a horse, and after Will reluctantly gives him the money, Sam bets on Thunderbolt to win. When the Mare falls lame in the final heat, Sam is able to buy her from her owner with the money he has just won. That night, he explains to Jane that he saw the horse was not lame, but just had been shod incorrectly. Jane kisses Sam, even though she says she knows that he loves Kathy. When Will, who detests gamblers, deduces that Sam wagered the money he borrowed, he orders him to leave that night. Before going, Sam professes his love to Kathy, then joins Joel Collins and some ranchers on the cattle drive. They quickly reach Abilene, where Harry Dean and his partner, J. Wells, are running a fixed horse race. The group gamble all their money on Sam's horse, but after Jane accidentally tips off Dean about the horse's identity, Dean and Wells poison the Mare. Upon discovering they have been tricked, the once non-violent Sam kills Wells. The men and Jane are forced to flee into the hills, where they hatch a plan to rob the stagecoach on which Dean is transporting his stolen winnings. As soon as

Continued next page

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they take the money, however, they are branded as criminals. After Sam sneaks into Denton to explain himself to Kathy, she encourages him to give himself up, along with Joel and the ranchers. In the jailhouse, Will reveals they will be tried in Abilene, and they realize they cannot get a fair trial there. Jane frees them, and Sam, sure that Kathy has tricked them, takes Jane in his arms. Their outlaw status soon forces the band to rob again. After a spy sent by Will tips the sheriff off about the next robbery, a shootout ensues and everyone in the group except Sam, Joel and Jane is killed. Will's posse then chases the survivors into the hills. After a long standoff, Joel is killed and Will shoots Sam. Will returns to town and greets Kathy, just as Jane appears, leading Thunderbolt with a dying Sam slumped in his saddle. Sam passes into semi-consciousness, recounting the dream he shared with Kathy about owning their own ranch. Although he is delirious, Kathy realizes he is talking about her when he says he has loved her all along, moments before he dies in Jane's arms.



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Texas Independence

DAY CELEBRATION

February 28 thru March 2, 2014
1000 Pin Oak Rd, Lockhart, TX 78644

JOIN US FOR A 3 DAY FESTIVAL CELEBRATING OUR WESTERN HERITAGE AND TEXAS INDEPENDENCE. ENJOY LIVING HISTORY PRESENTATIONS, VISIT WITH "THE VIRGINIAN" CAST MEMBERS (JAMES DRURY, GARY CLARKE, ROBERTA SHORE), TEXAS RANGERS, AND WATCH DRAMATIC PRESENTATIONS OF EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE DURING THE ALAMO SIEGE.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28 9 AM TILL 3 PM:

A living history day with demonstrations that will include: blacksmithing, broom making; basket & candle making, leather, textiles, spinning wheels and fibers, oxenology, period medical procedures, horsemanship, and more. Open to the public and local schools. \$5 children, \$10 adults (*Group rate available for schools).

Friday Evening is Movie Night at the Chisholm Trail Ballroom in Lockhart. Watch "The Virginian" with the cast members (James Drury, Gary Clarke, Roberta Shore). Enjoy hot dogs, popcorn and beer just like the old days (food included, cash bar for beer/wine).

\$25 *limited seating.



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www.texasindependenceday.homestead.com

www.spoileddoves.com

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SATURDAY, MARCH 1, ALL DAY FESTIVAL OPENS AT HIGH NOON.

Festival includes:

The Virginian cast reunion, book signing and discussions with Former Texas Rangers Joaquin Jackson and others; Junior Texas Rangers induction ceremony, living history presentations (listed on Friday); celebrations & dramatic presentations of Texas Independence, wagon rides, gunfights; carnival games, specialty vendors; great Texas food and much more!

Music all day by some of the top Texas musicians. \$5 children \$10 adults (*discounts available)

Saturday night is movie night at the Chisholm Trail Ballroom in Lockhart.

Another chance to watch "The Virginian", share the evening with the Virginian Cast and our famous Texas Rangers. \$25

(food included, cash bar for beer/wine).

After the movie enjoy a street dance on Lockhart's town square, hosted by the Lone Star Grand Prix and Agarita Ranch. **Free**

SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 10 AM

Enjoy a live gunfight re-enacting a historic event in Lockhart during the 1800's for the Lone Star Grand Prix opening ceremony in Lockhart's Town Square
12:30 pm

Share a special, up close, personal luncheon and private auction with the Virginian cast, former Texas Rangers and other celebrities.

A silent auction of western items will include reproductions of the Virginian cast hats made exclusively by Texas Hatters.

(value \$500)

Tickets: \$50.

***Seating is limited to 60 guests.**

* SPECIAL DISCOUNT PRICING AVAILABLE.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY ADMITTANCE TO FESTIVAL, AND FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES:

\$40 (PER ADULT)

SATURDAY: FAMILIES WITH 2 ADULTS, 2 CHILDREN \$30,

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	125	FP	35	70
	130	RNFP	36	72
	158	RNFP	39	77
	158	FP	39	77
	158	SWC	39	77
.380	100	RNFP	33	65
.38-55	245	RNFP	59	117
.41	215	SWC	49	98
.44	180	RNFP	41	81
	240	SWC	52	104
.44-40	200	RNFP	45	90
.45 COLT	160	RNFP	46	92
	180	RNFP	41	81
	200	RNFP	45	90
	250	RNFP	53	106
9MM	124	RN	35	70
	125	CN	35	70
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*Price increase because of higher cost of lead. Sorry for any inconvenience.