

AGARITA GAZETTE



A Chronicle of the Plum Creek Shooting Society



Agarita Ranch

August 2015

Lockhart, Texas

The Gun that Really Won the West

by Long Juan

Ask different western firearms enthusiasts what gun won the west and they are likely to respond with the Winchester 1873 rifle or the Colt Single Action Army revolver. There is another gun, however, that was more widely available, was used by more folks and was generally considered to be the go-to, all-purpose firearm. That gun was the shotgun. The shotgun was a popular

large diameter, smoothbore barrels and could fire shot as well as solid balls. Firearms intended for use shooting birds were known as fowling pieces. The first recorded use of the term shotgun was in 1776. A scattergun was found at the Alamo after Santa Anna's forces overran the garrison. When the Civil War broke out, cavalry units on both sides favored the



weapon for personal defense in the Old West, requiring less skill on the part of the user than a revolver or even a rifle.

Shotguns, also called scatterguns or pepperguns, existed long before the Winchester 1873 and Colt SAA arrived on the scene. Most early firearms, such as the blunderbuss, arquebus and musket had

shotgun. It was devastating in close quarters and it was much easier to hit a moving target on horseback with a shotgun than it was with a musket or revolver.

The coach gun most cowboy action shooters use is a double-barreled shotgun, generally with side-by-side barrels approximately 18 inches in length. The term

Continued on page 3.

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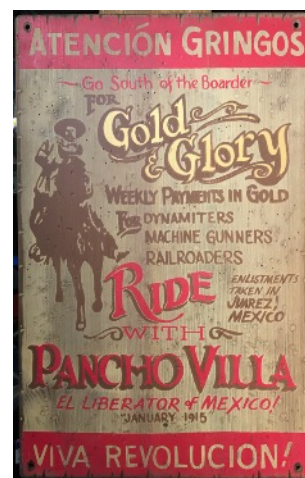


I missed the August match because **Powderkeg Patty** and I were enjoying a respite in Durango, Colorado. The weather was GREAT, with temps in the 70's and 80's during the day and 50's overnight. We had a great ride on the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge RR.



I was interested to find a Ride with Pancho Villa poster in the Railroad Museum in Durango. It was a great old poster that perhaps we can use in connection with a future annual match.

We played some golf and particularly enjoyed the course at Dalton Ranch, just north of Durango. They did a great thing with the trees that had died, carving them to look like various animals and birds. Note the eagles to the right.



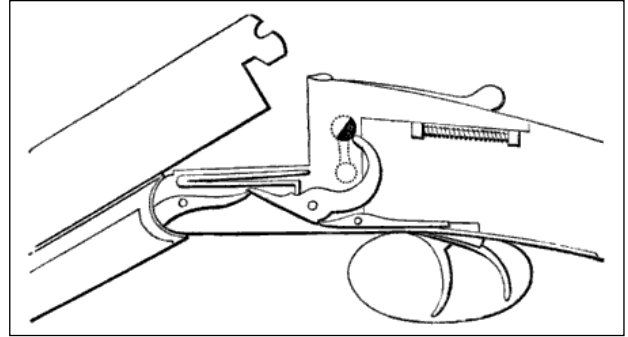


Confederate Shotgun

"coach gun" was coined in 1858 when Wells Fargo began regular stagecoach service from Missouri to California. Wells Fargo issued shotguns to its drivers and guards for defense along the dangerous 2,800 mile route. Who has not heard the term, "riding shotgun?" It originally referred to the guard armed with a coach gun, ready to ward off bandits, Indians, wild animals and other threats to the safety of people, cargo or money being carried by the stage. Today, the term "riding shotgun" simply refers to the person sitting in the front passenger seat of an automobile.

There was no single manufacturer of the traditional coach gun. Coach gun was a generic term used to describe a class of shotguns offered in a variety of barrel lengths from 12 to 20 inches, either by the factory or by owners and gunsmiths who cut

down the barrels. These shotguns featured external hammers and were manufactured by Wells Fargo, Remington, Colt and Sharps, to name just a few. Cimarron Firearms offers a version of the famous Colt 1878 "Coach Gun" with working hammers and barrel lengths of 20 and 26 inches. The



"hammerless" double-barrel shotgun has changed little since development of the boxlock action in 1875.

Doc Holiday used a 10 gauge coach gun to shoot Tom McLaury point-blank in the chest with buckshot during the Gunfight at the OK Corral in Tombstone, Arizona, in 1881. They stood in such close proximity that the town mortician was able to cover McLaury's wound with one hand. Wyatt Earp used both barrels of a 10 gauge coach gun to kill "Curly" Bill Brocius point-blank the next year.

It wasn't only personal defense that helped the shotgun earn its keep. For a farmer who could only afford one firearm, there was simply no more versatile a tool available. He could shoot rabbits and birds, then load up with buckshot when after a deer.



Cowboy action shooters have a choice of shotguns – the coach gun with external

(1878) or internal hammers (1881), the 1887 lever-action shotgun or the 1897



pump-action shotgun. The latter is also used when shooting Wild Bunch. A sometimes category for cowboy action shooting is Sodbuster where the shooter uses only one revolver and a shotgun. Plum Creek offers the Working Cowboy category - one pistol and a rifle. It's a great category for those getting started and for those who just don't like shooting the shotgun.

So, when asked what gun tamed the West, think not of Winchester rifles or Colt revolvers. Instead, think of the shotgun with its variety of gauges and barrel lengths - used on the farm, in the towns and for nearly every purpose conceivable by cowboys, settlers and soldiers of the Old West. It truly was the gun that won the West.



SASS Regulator, National Champion
Classic Cowboy & PCSS President
Dragon Hill Dave

President's Word

Wow! We had 82 shooters in August, actually 84, but two had gun problems and went home early. I am taking a page out of Long Juan's book and will miss the September match. **Barely There** and I will be in Scotland. See you in October!



FIND DELTA RAIDER:

We had a good response last month. Sixteen readers found **Delta Raider** in the window behind **Dragon Hill Dave**. Mentioned in the Dispatches are **Hoss Roonwright, Boon Doggle, El Sabre, Shooting Iron Miller, Manassas Jack, Artiman, Meadow Biscuit Slim, Mad Dog McCoy, Wildcat Bob, Six Wire, Big John Mesquite, Hairtrigger Hayes, Lincoln Drifter, Madamn V, Sole Proprietor** and **Preacher Man Lee**. Also mentioned in the Dispatches for knowing the the Cody-Dixon category is named for famed long-distance rifle shooters, William "Wild Bill" Cody and Billy Dixon of Adobe Walls fame (see Stories from Jake on page 5), are **El Sabre, Hoss Roonwright, Mad Dog McCoy, Hairtrigger Hayes** and **Sheriff Robert Love**. Find **Delta Raider** this month for a mention in the Dispatches in the September issue.





Ditties from Jake (Jones that is):

Forget Jamestown. The oldest settlement in the United States is Acoma Pueblo.

It's no revelation that Native American settlements predate European ones, but it may surprise some people that Acoma Pueblo, west of Albuquerque, New Mexico, has been continuously occupied since the 12th century. The Acoma still inhabit their "Sky City," a settlement of about 4,800 people that sits atop a 365-foot high mesa. Traditionally hunters and traders, the Acoma people now make their income from a cultural center and casino complex. Coincidentally, the oldest state capital in the United States is Santa Fe, which recently celebrated its 400th anniversary.



A distant view of Santa Fe, New Mexico in 1873. Santa Fe is one of the oldest continually inhabited places in North America. Thought to have been settled by native American's in around 1050 AD, the city has grown into one of the most prosperous in New Mexico and the southwestern United States.



Stories from Jake (Paladin that is):

Source: Cody-Dixon Category

Adapted from description by **Charles Goodnight**: The name Cody-Dixon is based on two well-known "Old West" shooters. Buffalo Bill Cody, known for his abilities with a lever-action rifle, and Billy Dixon, famous for his long-range shot at the Second Battle of Adobe Walls with a single-shot rifle. There are two classes in the category. CD-Lever-Action ("Cody"), which requires the use of a "big bore" lever rifle, and CD-Single-Shot ("Dixon"), which requires the use of a "big bore" single-shot rifle. Big bore means a center-fire, rimmed cartridge of at least .30-caliber that was readily available prior to 1899. The 30-30 Winchester, 32 Winchester, 38-55 Winchester, 40-65 Winchester, 43 Spanish and 45-70 Government are a few examples. Any propellant, smokeless or black, is allowed. Bullets must be all lead. Rifles must be of a design and a model that was readily available prior to 1899. Lever-action rifles must be tube-fed, with an exposed hammer. Single-shot rifles must have an exposed hammer. Each stage requires a total six rifle rounds (as compared to 10 rounds for CAS). Target distances are generally between 80 and 125 yards. All rifle shots must be fired off-hand, no leaning, supporting or resting is allowed.

Get Well Soon!!



Plum Creek Safety and Flag Marshal, Artiman, “laid” down his motorcycle recently to save a lady driver from harm. He is recovering his from injuries. We hope he will be back shooting with us again soon.

August Match Photos

Contributed by Dutch Van Horn and Lightning McQueen



Six Going South & Two Spurs



Smoke Jensen

Nueces Slim putting his neckerchief to good use





Gunfighter Extraordinaire Charlie Reynolds



Texas Cutie & Big Sis, Diamond Kate, also a Texas cutie



Kit Carson



Sunny Spurs & canine friend



Phantom the Irreverent



Patriotic & Reverent Joe Darter



Panhandle Cowgirl & Whiskey Kid



Lady Ghost being not-so-period correct



Dutch Van Horn - Great Shooter; Great Photographer



Kickshot



You would laugh too! Wouldn't you? Czexican Dave & Texas Ghost



Deer-in-the-Headlights, aka Farr Ranger



Texas Longhorn



Lefty Leo

Cimarron 2015 Young Gun, Little Bullseye



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Caliber	Weight	Config.	Price/500	Price/1000
.38	100	RNFP	32	64
	105	FP	33	66
	125	RNFP	35	70
	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
40 S&W	180	FP	41	81
.45ACP	200	SWC	45	90
	200	RN	45	90
	230	RN	51	101
45-70	405	FPT	111	222

*Price increase because of higher cost of lead. Sorry for any inconvenience.