

AGARITA GAZETTE



A Chronicle of the Plum Creek Shooting Society



Agarita Ranch

September 2015

Lockhart, Texas

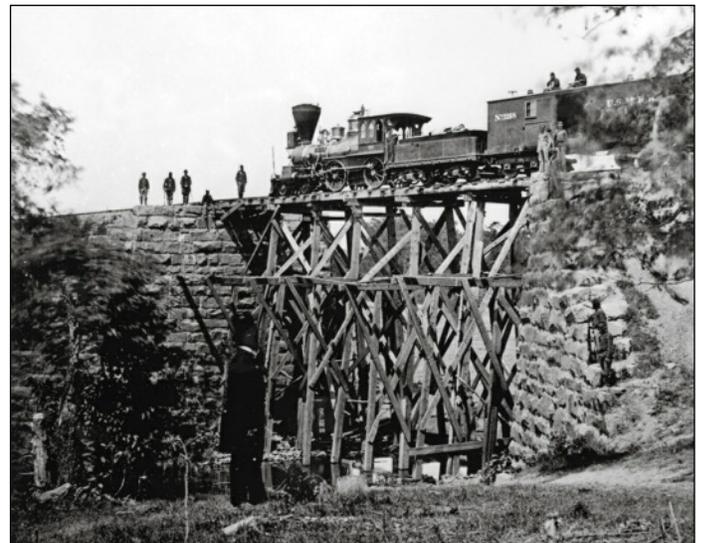
The Role of the Railroad in the Civil War

by Long Juan

Prior to the Civil War, railroads were a new and relatively untried invention. During the war, railroads came of age. Soldiers, material and food were routinely transported by rail. Railroads were second only to waterways in providing logistical support for the armies.

Two-thirds of rail lines in the United States were in the North. Most of the northern rails were standard gauge. In the South the gauge of the rails varied widely. The North could therefore transport more troops and material to more places with fewer transfers. Although they had fewer rails at their disposal, the South was quicker to learn their value, using trains to provide speedy reinforcements that made the difference at battles like Bull Run. The Confederates employed this tactic for the rest of the war. They could not politically afford to abandon any territory to the North and were therefore required to spread their limited number of troops to cover the numerous approaches to its territory that could be used for an enemy advance. When

one area was under attack, the troops would come, usually by rail, from an area not threatened at the time. As the war progressed, both sides developed greater strategic dependence on the railroad as they realized its potential.



Virtually all of the major conflicts fought during the course of the war were at or near important rail junctions. When Ulysses S. Grant was given command of all Union forces, he understood the advantage the South had with its “interior” lines of supply. As long as the North squandered its resources in uncoordinated attacks, the South would be able to transport troops from one area to another in order to halt any Union advance. Grant was determined

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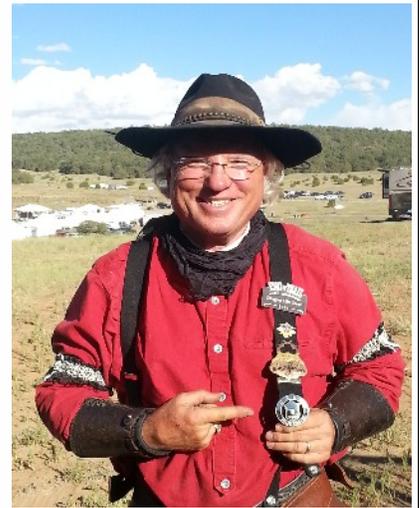
From time-to-time, others have contributed articles for the Gazette. There is lots of good stuff to read. Back issues can be downloaded from the Plum Creek website.

<http://pccss.org/category/newsletter/> For older issues, scroll to the bottom of the page and click on Older Posts. All issues are there, all the way back to January 2011. If you have not been a regular reader, I hope you will take a look. I suspect you will find at least something of interest.

WWW.PCCSS.ORG

President's Word

Our president has been in Ireland with his better half, **Barely There**. His column will return next month.



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

Long Juan Here:

Almost 5 years ago, I was asked to become editor of the Agarita Gazette, the monthly newsletter of the Plum Creek Shooting Society. My first issue was published in January 2011. I have tried over the years to include information that would be in interest to everyone. There are stories about the Old West, old firearms and a variety of other topics. Several of the stories were intended for those new to cowboy action shooting. They include the following:



- Looking the Part: Cowboy Dress – June 2011
- What's a Stage Scenario – September 2011
- RO & RO Training – March 2012
- Advice for New Shooters – April 2012
- Costume Based Categories – June 2012
- The Great Posse – April 2013
- Stage Conventions – March 2014
- Importance of Reading Stage Instructions – February 2015



Stories from Jake (Paladin that is): *Multiculturalism in the Old West*



The classic Hollywood picture of the West involves white, all-American tough guys teaming up with or fighting other American white guys. Sure, you'll get a few black people in there, maybe a handful of Mexicans and the odd Irishman for 'comic' effect - but it was predominantly true-blooded Americans, right? Nope! Like late 19th century New York, the Old West was a hotbed of multiculturalism, with people of all nationalities vying for some room. Rock Springs, Wyoming counted as many as 56 nationalities in a population of under 10,000. Slovaks, Finns, Norwegians, Germans, Ottomans, Swedes and Chinese all poured into the West, an influx that only increased with the Californian Gold Rush. The image of the old West as a bedrock of American values is a Hollywood holdover from a time when casting non-American voices and faces was pretty much a no go.

FIND DELTA RAIDER:

Last month, **Delta Raider** was hiding on the bucket strapped to the golf cart behind and between **Six Goin' South** and **Two Spurs** (see right). Only 16 readers correctly reported finding him for a mention in the dispatches this month: **Madame V, Sole Proprietor, El Sabre, Manassas Jack, Cimmaron Jack, Sheriff Robert Love, Delta Raider, Six Goin' South, Old Bull, Big John Mesquite** and **Lincoln Drifter**. **Cimmaron Jack** (his spelling) gets an extra mention in the dispatches this month. He found **Delta Raider** in July and I failed to mention him in the dispatches in the August issue. My apologies! Find **Delta Raider** hidden in this month's issue for a mention in the dispatches next month.





Ditties from Jake (Jones that is): “Airin' the Paunch”

To vomit, throw-up, regurgitate. He's "airing the paunch" after a heavy bout of drinking.

RO's Corner: Dropped Firearm vs. Malfunction

- An unloaded firearm dropped anywhere between the loading table and the unloading table is a Stage Disqualification (SDQ)
 - A dropped loaded firearm is a Match Disqualification (MDQ)
 - A firearm still containing rounds that falls apart while on the firing line does not result in a penalty if a malfunction is declared and the firearm is made safe (handed to the RO or placed on a prop with the muzzle in a safe direction). *See RO1 Handbook ver. 20.3; App. A - Range Safety Rules, #18, page 17 and #32, page 19. See also App. D, Pocket RO Card, pages 28 & 29.*
-

Old West Sayings:

Angry: He was mad enough to swallow a horn-toad backwards.



Ugly: He's uglier than a new-sheared sheep.



Crazy: He's as crazy as popcorn on a hot stove.

Stupid: He couldn't teach a hen to cluck.



Happy: He's grinnin' like a baked possum.



Crooked: He's so crooked, he could swallow nails and spit out corkscrews.

Singing: His singin' was enough to make a she-wolf jealous.

Nerves: She's as nervous as a long-tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs.



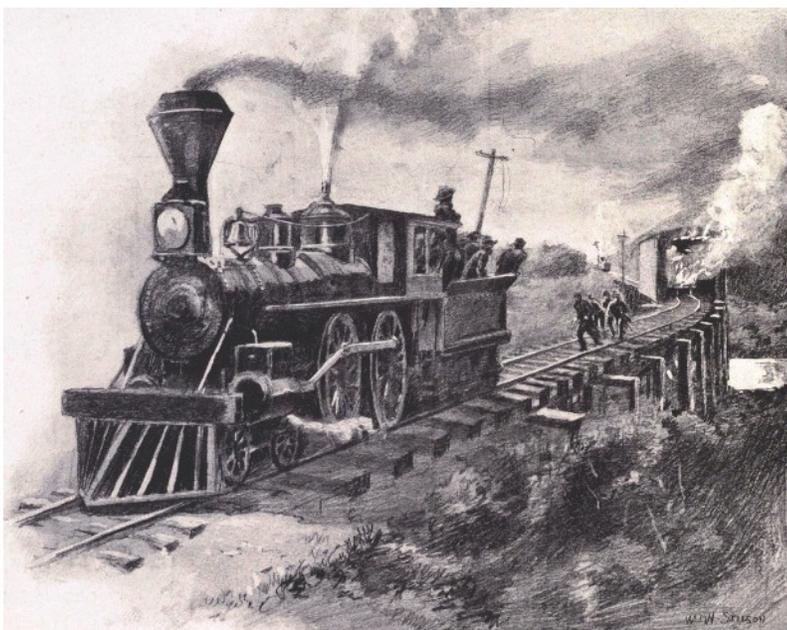
to pressure the South with advances at more than one place. In those areas where troops could not advance against the Confederate forces because of their superior numbers, the Union troops would keep the rebels occupied and unable to reinforce other rebel units.

Large military forces were the greatest danger to the railroads. While armies campaigned, locomotives and rolling stock provided logistical support. Destruction of railroads was therefore often a strategic objective. At the same time, some railroads were used to perform tactical missions. Locomotives were sent to reconnoiter the terrain and to gain information on enemy troop dispositions. While this may seem like a risky venture, gathering information was often worth the risk. Lone locomotives could quickly reverse direction and move as fast as 60 mph, far faster than pursuing cavalry. With such mobility, locomotives were also useful as courier vehicles when commanders had to rush vital intelligence to headquarters. This communications service was an important advantage in a war where raiders frequently cut or tapped telegraph lines.

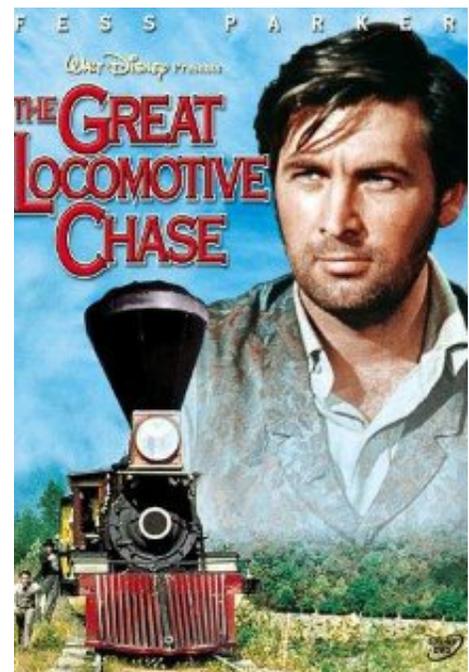
Perhaps the most famous railroading event of the war was the Great



Locomotive Chase. It began in April 1862 when disguised Union soldiers stole the General, a Western & Atlantic 4-4-0 American-type locomotive, in an attempt to destroy Confederate supply lines. The "Andrews Raid" started at Marietta, Georgia and lasted nearly 91 miles until the Confederate train crew was able to catch the locomotive near Ringgold. During the chase the crew used a hand-powered track car as well as the locomotives Yonah, Shorter and Texas before they finally were able to catch the raiders. The 22 Union soldiers attempted to flee after abandoning the General, but were soon captured.



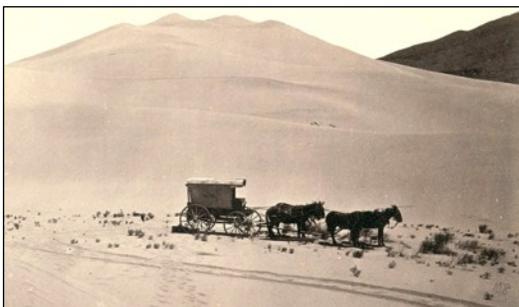
The "Andrews" Raid



Photos of the Old West



Tents can be seen (bottom left) at a point known as Camp Beauty close to canyon walls in Canyon de Chelly National Monument, located in northeast Arizona. The area has preserved ruins of early indigenous peoples, such as the Anasazi and Navajos, and is one of the longest continuously inhabited landscapes in North America.



Photographer Timothy O'Sullivan's darkroom wagon, pulled by four mules. The photo was taken at the Carson Sink in Nevada.

September Match Photos

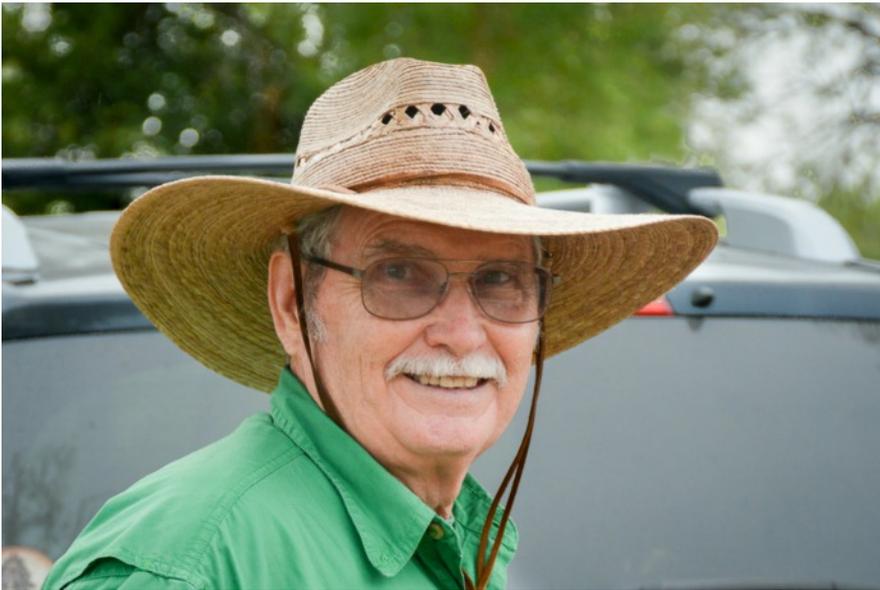
Contributed by Dutch Van Horn and Lincoln Drifter



It was Back-to-School Month on the Agarita Ranch Holiday Tree



Shooting Iron Miller & Sheriff Robert Love



El Zopilote Viejo shoots at Plum Creek for the first time



Letsdoit - another first-time shooter at Plum Creek



Yet another first-time shooter at Plum Creek - Echeconee Drifter from Georgia



Diamond Kate
She's also a great shooter!

Jake Jones - lookin' the part!



Clearly we need some help with painting targets before the match.
Please consider volunteering.



Little Bullseye was a little under the weather, but that didn't keep her from coming out to shoot the new Piettas given to her as a 2015 Cimarron Young Gun!



G.T. Sharps doesn't know what it is. Do you?



You'll have to ask Anna Longshot!



Dusty Mines with grandson, Coyote Chaser, who shot a clean match!



T-Bone Paul & Skyhawk Hans look happy in the heat and humidity!



Six Goin' South looks really happy, doesn't she?



Two Spurs & Joe Darter worked really hard in the heat and humidity to help get us ready for the match. THANKS!



Three stooges for sure! Big Iron Patnode, Pedernales Drifter & Phantom



Rusty Shackleford & son, Flaco Jimenez



Amanda comes often to cheer for Rusty & Flaco and often keeps score. Thanks!



Show Me, Kuckleburr & Dodge City Mike



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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.