

AGARITA GAZETTE



A Chronicle of the Plum Creek Shooting Society



Agarita Ranch

July 2016

Lockhart, Texas

Katie Elder

By Long Juan



Katie Elder was more, much more than the title character in John Wayne's 1965 western, *The Sons of Katie Elder*. She was more than the portrayal by Faye Dunaway in the 1971 film *Doc*. Better known as Big Nose Kate, Mária Katalin Horony was also quite a bit more than the "plainswoman" that history books describe. The Hungarian-born (1850) prostitute and longtime companion and common-law wife of Old West gunfighter Doc Holliday was a rip-roarin', hard-drinkin', gun-slingin' prostitute with proclivities for sex acts frowned upon even by her generation of *Cyprian* sisters.¹

¹ *Cyprian Sisters* is a reference to prostitutes. *Aphrodite*, the Greek goddess of love, beauty, pleasure and procreation was a *Cyprian*, i.e., from Cyprus. Every *Cyprian* woman had to

Kate's family immigrated from Hungary to the United States in 1862 and settled in Davenport, Iowa. Her parents died and, at the age of 16, she ran away from her foster home. She stowed away on a riverboat and was working as a prostitute in St. Louis by the age of 19. Five years later, Kate was fined for working as a "sporting woman" in a Dodge City brothel run by Bessie Earp, Wyatt's sister-in-law. In 1876, Kate



go to the Temple of *Aphrodite* at least once during her life and have sex with an unknown man, who would throw money at her feet while saying, "I invite you in the name of *Aphrodite*."

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President's Word

We had a terrific day at Plum Creek for our monthly

match on July 2nd. 85 shooters showed up to shoot five stages plus a bonus stage for those who wanted to get in a little more practice. It was hot and sunny but luckily around 11 a.m. a breeze started up, keeping us a little bit cooler. I got several questions about when I was going to get the air conditioning turned on. I told everybody I had a call in but I hadn't gotten an answer yet. The breeze was the best we could do.



Plum Creek President
Dragon Hill Dave

To celebrate the 4th of July, we started off our shoot with a rousing *a capella* rendering of the National Anthem. Luckily we shoot a lot better than we sing, but we had a lot of enthusiasm.

Congratulations to our Plum Creek members and frequent shooters who performed well at *End of Trail*, the World Championship of Cowboy Action Shooting. We applaud our World Champion Lady B-Western **Panhandle Cowgirl. Texas Cutie** finished 2nd in Buckarett, and her sister **Diamond Kate** finished 3rd in Junior Girl.

The guys did well too, with **Matt Black** our World Champion Cowboy. **Oklahoma Dee** took 2nd and **Colt Faro** 4th in 49'r. **Mad Dog McCoy** was 3rd in Senior Frontier Cartridge Duelist. Other top 10 finishers were:

Big Iron Patnode-5th in B-Western
Alamo Andy-8th in B-Western
Dragon Hill Dave-5th in Classic Cowboy
Shooting Iron Miller-7th in Cowgirl
Tres Equis-9th in Cowboy
Farr Ranger-9th in Senior Duelist

And while they didn't make the top 10, the following club members and frequent shooters made a good showing at the world championship:

Whiskey Kid-12th in Wrangler
Fairbanks Sam-13th in Gunfighter
Kickshot-13th in Senior
Cowboy Small-14th in Gunfighter

Continued on next page

Sheriff Robert Love-17th in Silver Senior
Stil Smokin'-17th in Cowboy
Nueces Slim-26th in Senior
Jim No Horse-35th in Senior

I hope I mentioned all of our members who were there. There were many other Central Texas shooters who also attended. Texas had a good turnout.

Our shoot next month will be on August 6th. See ya' at the Agarita!



RO's Corner

Question: With a loaded, cocked firearm, may a shooter shuffle his or her feet to maintain balance or to adjust his or her shooting stance without having violated the “traveling rule that requires one foot to remain in place on the ground until the firearm is made safe?”

Answer: New in the 2016 version of the RO1 Handbook – Yes “as long as the shooter does not actually change location.”

Question: If shooting double-duelist, with pistol in right hand, left foot back and right foot forward, when other pistol is drawn to shoot with the left hand, may the shooter move his or her left foot forward and right foot back to adjust the shooting stance after the pistol is cocked?

Answer: Apparently yes, assuming no change in location, but you would be called for traveling if playing basketball, so analogy to basketball traveling rule is no longer truly applicable.

The Wisdom of Doc Holliday

Why should I obtain by force that which I can obtain by cheating?
Conflict follows wrongdoing as surely as flies follow the herd.

moved to Fort Griffin, Texas, where she met Doc Holliday. When Holliday killed a man in a barroom brawl, she helped him escape to Dodge City, where they fell in love. Doc swore to give up gambling and again hung his dentist's shingle. Katie promised to give up prostitution and hanging around the saloons. Neither resolution lasted.



Said to be a Wedding Photo of Big Nose Kate and Doc Holliday

Over the next several years, Doc and Kate lived in Deadwood, Las Vegas New Mexico Territory and Prescott Arizona Territory. Their relationship was sporadic and turbulent. Late in 1880, they moved to Tombstone, Arizona. In early 1881, three cowboys robbed a stagecoach near Benson, Arizona. The driver and a passenger were killed. A friend of Holliday's was implicated in the robbery. Following a particularly



Easy to see where the nickname "Big Nose" Kate came from

bitter fight between Holliday and Kate, Holliday's enemies took advantage of the situation. They plied Kate with liquor and convinced her to sign an affidavit implicating Holliday. He was arrested, but his friends quickly found witnesses who attested to his whereabouts elsewhere at the time of the murders. Holliday was released from jail, but his relationship with Kate never fully recovered. She went to live in Globe, Arizona. In 1887, she traveled to Glenwood Springs, Colorado, to visit Holliday not long before he died. Holliday was destitute at the time and Kate may have helped support him in his dying days.

After Holliday died, Kate married Irish blacksmith, George Cummings. After working for a time at different mining camps throughout Colorado, they moved to Bisbee, Arizona, where Kate briefly ran a bakery. Cummings became

an abusive alcoholic and the two separated while living in Wilcox. Cummings committed suicide in 1915.

In 1931, at the age of 80, Kate applied for admission to the Arizona Pioneers Home, a state home in Prescott for elderly and destitute Arizona residents from frontier days. Kate was accepted and she stayed at the home until her death on November 2, 1940, five days before her 90th birthday. She was buried in the Arizona Pioneer Home Cemetery beneath a modest marker with the name "Mary K. Cummings."



Big Nose Kate while living at the Arizona Pioneer Home

Katie Elder was a larger-than-life character who lived to see stories of her own life and death (in an alleged gunfight in Bisbee) told as legends of the Old West. In real life, she died in bed, having survived a world that was hard on both women and horses. Kate said of life, "Part is funny and part is sad; but such is life any way you take it."

FIND DELTA RAIDER:

Mentioned in the dispatches this month for finding **Delta Raider** snuggled in **Mad Dog McCoy**'s hand in last month's issue of the *Gazette*: **El Sabre, Hoss Roonwright, Preacherman Lee, Mad Dog McCoy, Bronco Six, Big John Mesquite, Hairtrigger Hayes, Dutch Van Horn, Lincoln Drifter, Six Goin' South, Grayrock, Artiman, Delta Raider, Yuma Jack, Sheriff Robert Love** and **Shooting Iron Miller**. You will not find **Delta Raider** hidden this month. Instead, for a mention in the Dispatches next month, identify the owner of the legs below and/or the patriotic cowboy who sported red, white and blue shotshells at our July match.



Ditties from Jake (Jones that is:)

The word "curfew" comes from the French *couvre feu*, or "cover the fire." A curfew was originally the time when you had to extinguish fires, candles and lamps.

Cigars are called "stogies" because pioneer drivers of Conestoga covered wagons made in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, preferred the long, cheap cigars available in that region. Over time, "Conestoga" was shortened to "stogie."





Long Juan Here:

We had an outstanding turnout for our Red, White & Blue match. There were 85 shooters on 6 posses, but only 5 stages planned. We had a 6th stage set up for anyone who wanted to shoot another stage for practice after the match. To accommodate six posses, we integrated the practice stage into the sequence of stages being shot during the match and gave shooters the option to shoot the extra stage when they reached it (Range Stage 7 – The Bath House) or simply to rest in the shade until the next match stage was available. Many elected to shoot the practice stage and I thought you would at least like to know the fastest time overall and the fastest on each posse:

- Posse 1 – 31.48 (Gold Dog)
- Posse 2 – 32.56 (Three-Fingered Dutchman)
- Posse 3 – **17.25 (Two Spurs)**
- Posse 4 – 27.60 (Big D)
- Posse 5 – all elected to rest in the shade
- Posse 6 – 17.96 (Reckon)

So, it was close between **Two Spurs** and **Reckon**, but **Two Spurs** took the honors for fastest time at the Bath House.

DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR TURKEY AT THE NOVEMBER SHOOT. RESERVATION FORM BELOW.

Annual Thanksgiving Turkey Fry Presented by:

Agarita Ranch Events Center

And

Austin Light Artillery Battery

November 5, 2016

Meal cost: \$15.00 per person if paid by September 15, 2016
\$20.00 per person between September 16 2016 and October 1, 1016

Limited to the first 50 paid reservations

Reservation and payment in advance required

Reservation and payment must be received no later than October 1, 2016.

No refunds for cancelations after October 15, 2016

Agarita Ranch Events Center Turkey Fry Registration

Name: _____ Alias: _____

Number of Meals: _____

Amount Included: _____



Stories from Jake (Paladin that is):

DEADLINE

The word “deadline” originated in Civil War prisons, where lines were drawn that prisoners passed only at the risk of being shot. According to one author, the term “dead-line” originated at the Andersonville, Georgia, prison camp and first appeared in writing in the report of a Confederate Inspector-General who wrote:

The Federal prisoners of war are confined within a stockade 15 feet high, of roughly hewn pine logs, about 8 inches in diameter, inserted 5 feet into the ground. ... A railing around the inside of the stockade, and about 20 feet from it, constitutes the “dead-line,” beyond which the prisoners are not allowed to pass.

The term dead-line played a role in the trial of, Henry Wirz, a Swiss immigrant who was in command of the Andersonville prison camp. When Wirz first became commandant, he reorganized the prison to make it more secure. He ordered the construction of a dead-line to keep prisoners away from the stockade walls.

Wirz was the only Confederate *soldier* tried, convicted and executed for war crimes. Champ Ferguson, a Confederate *guerrilla*, was also tried, convicted and executed for war crimes. Wirz was convicted of conspiracy, cruelty and murder “in violation of the laws and customs of war.” His conviction and subsequent hanging were and are controversial. To some, he was guilty of atrocities not repeated until Nazi Germany. To others, he was a martyr for the Great Southern Cause.

The star prosecution witness against Wirz was a Union soldier named Felix de la Baume, who testified as follows about his captivity at Andersonville:

And he, the said Wirz, still wickedly pursuing his evil purpose, did establish and cause to be designated within the prison enclosure containing said prisoners a "dead line," being a line around the inner face of the stockade or wall enclosing said prison and about twenty feet distant from and within said stockade; and so established said dead line, which was in many places an imaginary line, in many other places marked by insecure and shifting strips of boards nailed upon the tops of small and insecure stakes or posts, he, the said Wirz, instructed the prison guard stationed around the top of said stockade to fire upon and kill any of the prisoners aforesaid who might touch, fall



The dead-line that kept prisoners back from the walls of the stockade was marked by a simple post and rail fence. It was intended to prevent prisoners from climbing over the stockade or from tunneling under it. Guards who sat in “pigeon roosts” located along the wall of the stockade had orders to shoot any prisoner who crossed the fence, or even reached over it. A branch of Sweetwater Creek, call Stockade Branch, flowed through the Andersonville prison yard and was the only source of water for most of the prison. The man in this image was shot reaching under the deadline as he tried to obtain fresher water than was available downstream.

Continued next page

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upon, pass over or under across the said "dead line."

Another witness testifying about inhumane treatment at Andersonville stated:

I saw the cripple they called "Chickamauga" shot; he was shot at the south gate. I believe that he was afraid of some of our own men. He went inside the dead-line and asked to be let out. They refused to let him out, and he refused to go outside the dead-line. Captain Wirz came in on his horse and told the man to go outside the dead-line, and went off. After Captain Wirz rode out of the gate the man went inside the dead-line, and Captain Wirz ordered the guard to shoot him, and he shot him.

After his conviction and the night before he was to be hung, Wirz was offered a pardon. The offer was conditioned on his agreement to testify that former Confederate President Jefferson Davis was responsible for the deaths at Andersonville. Wirz responded that such a statement would be untrue and he would not base his freedom on a lie.

De la Baume's testimony had been the most damaging. He was the only witness who identified by name a prisoner who was allegedly murdered by Wirz. De la Baume was a skilled orator and claimed to be a French descendant of Lafayette. The military tribunal was so impressed with his testimony that de la Baume was given a written commendation signed by all members of the tribunal. Even before the trial ended, he was appointed to a position in the Department of the Interior. After the trial, de la Baume's real name was discovered to be Felix Oeser, a Prussian who had lied to conceal the fact that he was a Union deserter. His true identify and status were discovered eleven days after Wirz was hung. Oeser admitted to having perjured

himself at the trial and then vanished into obscurity.

There is evidence that the term "dead-line" was not unique to Andersonville. The term was used at the Union prison at Rock Island, Illinois, and at other Confederate prison camps. There is no doubt, however, that the term "deadline" became well known because of its association with Andersonville.



Captain Henry Wirz

Editor's Note: I recently watched *The McKenzie Break*, a movie starring Brian Keith. Based on the novel, *The Bowmanville Break* by Sidney Shelley, the movie tells the story of a WWII British prison camp in Scotland. German prisoners escape and attempt to hook up with a U-Boat off the coast of Scotland. There was reference in the movie to a "dead-line" inside the fence surrounding the camp and to the penalty for crossing the line - being shot.



The Sons of Katie Elder - The Movie

The film actually has nothing to do with the real-life Kate Elder. It is loosely based on the book, *Life of the Marlows*, which tells the 1888 story of five Marlow Brothers from Marlow, Oklahoma. In the film, after the funeral of their frontier mother, four brothers (in the movie, John Wayne, Dean Martin, Earl Holliman and Michael Anderson Jr.), all wandering souls prone to trouble, set out to avenge her death. The movie was filmed in Durango Mexico and on the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad in Colorado. Johnny Cash sang the song, "The Sons of Katie Elder."

July Match Photos

Thanks to **Barb Steele** and **Dutch Van Horn** for our photos this month. To see all photos from the July match and previous matches, see the Photos tab on the Plum Creek Shooting Society website. www.pccss.org/photos/.



Happy
Independence
Day!

Texas Sarge

Abilene





Skinny
Recently moved to Texas and recently
named SASS Regulator
CONGRATULATIONS on BOTH!!



Gold Dog



Three Amigos
Kickshot, Dutch Van Horn & Bandera Kid



Three Finger Dutchman thinking, "Whoa Nellie?"



Charlie Reynolds putting lead downrange



No, Phantom has not lost his touch!



Not sure what Two Spurs has going on behind Joe Darter's back?

Congratulations to JD, who was recently named a SASS Regulator!



Two of the cutest cowgirls I've ever seen
Texas Cutie and sister, Diamond Kate



That's about all that needs to be said



Pull trigger, cycle lever, open mouth and say ah!
Here comes the brass; here comes the brass!



Panhandle Cowgirl &
Sunny Spurs



Coyote Catcher and dad, Constantine



Shinbone Bob



Alamo Andy & son, El Jefe



Whiskey Kid



AD Texaz



Texas Cutie & dad, Fairbanks Sam



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Battle of Plum Creek Vendor - See you there!



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	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.