

AGARITA GAZETTE



A Chronicle of the Plum Creek Shooting Society



Agarita Ranch

December 2016

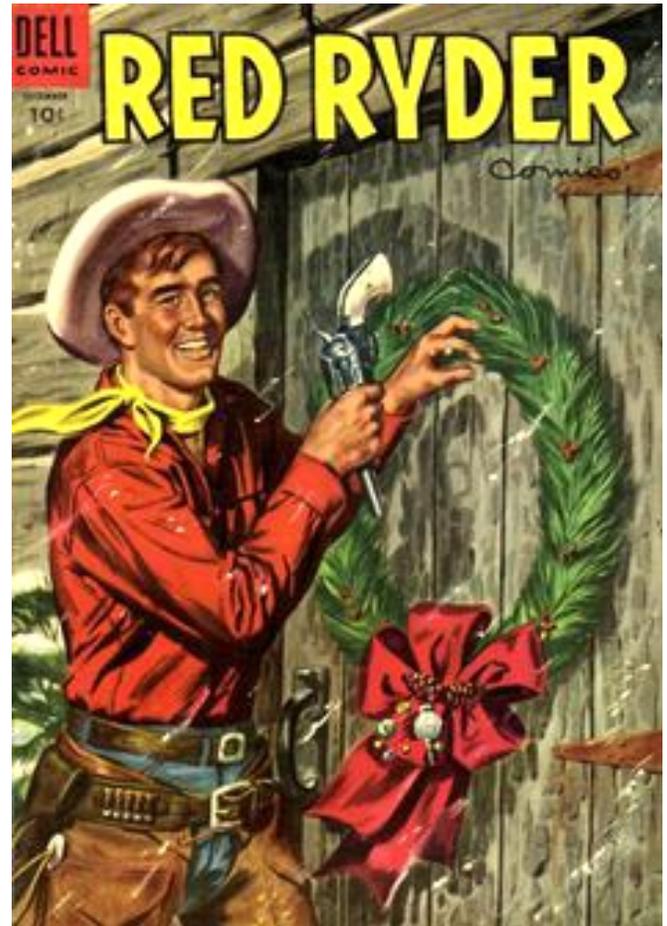
Lockhart, Texas



Long Juan Here:

As most of you know, I have resigned as Secretary of the *Plum Creek Shooting Society*. I have also resigned as editor of the *Agarita Gazette*. This will be

my last issue. I have thoroughly enjoyed being your editor for the last six years and appreciate all the support I have received from more than 700 readers each month. When the club began operations under the leadership of a Board of Directors five years ago, we were given three goals: (1) increase membership to 75 or more, (2) average 50 or more shooters at each monthly match and (3) host a State match. With lots of hard work by the Board, club members and many other volunteers, we exceeded those goals by a substantial margin: 125 members, approximately 70 shooters each month and host to two SASS Texas State Championships in 5 years. I am proud to have been part of that success and wish the Board, club members and shooters at monthly matches continued success in the future. Hope to see you cowboy shooting somewhere soon!



MERRY CHRISTMAS !

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Red Ryder, Little Beaver & Fred Harman

Red Ryder was a popular long-running Western comic strip created by artist Fred Harman. Beginning in November 1938, *Red Ryder* was syndicated and expanded over the following decade to 750 newspapers, translations into ten languages and a readership in the United States of 14 million. The 26-year run ended in 1964.

Continued on page 5

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President's Word:

Strangely enough, thinking about this month's President's Word, I kept hearing Clint Eastwood from *Unforgiven*, after the big gunfight, responding to a journalist's questions about the order in which he had just killed folks:

I was lucky in the order, but I've always been lucky when it comes to killin' folks.



Plum Creek President
Dragon Hill Dave

This year we at the *Plum Creek Shooting Society* were pretty lucky in the sense that we had very few times when the weather kept us from shooting. We had a rainout in June and, unfortunately, we had another one this month. Just as we were preparing to shoot some Christmas themed stages designed and written by our Range Marshal nominee **Two Spurs** with help from our VP nominee **Joe Darter**, the forecast (and reality) did us in. So keep your Christmas spirit intact until January 6th when we will shoot those Christmas themed stages. Don't want to waste all that hard work.

Officer Elections. The rainout also disrupted our annual election of officers. We were going to vote on candidates for Vice President, Treasurer and Range Marshal. Now we will have the election at the January match. That means there is still time for nominations if someone else wants to put their name in the hat. You may also vote by email. Send your ballot to jsoule@scottdoug.com if you want to vote by email. Nominees: VP-**Joe Darter**, Treasurer-**General Burleson** and Ranger Marshall-**Two Spurs**.

In addition to the offices we are voting on in January, we still need someone to step up for the position of Secretary. Because the office of Secretary is not up for election this year, the Board needs to appoint someone to fill **Long Juan's** unexpired term. We also need someone to step up to be Scoring Marshal. For us to deliver the quality shoots and services that go with them, we need volunteers to fill these positions of responsibility. We offer plenty of training for both, so consider helping the club continue to succeed by volunteering to be our Secretary or Scoring Marshal.

Goodbye to Long Juan. This is a bitter sweet time for me because this is the last month of Long Juan's tenure as Secretary. **Long Juan** has been our master communicator for the club, making the monthly announcements and

handling communications and other issues for the club's monthly and annual shoots. Behind the scenes **Long Juan** has been an advisor and supporter of the club in ways that are not obvious to the public but were critical to the success of the club. I will miss his extraordinary assistance to me and the club since it was formed as a separate entity in 2012. We have put on two state matches, two annual matches and innumerable monthly matches with **Long Juan's** tremendous help. We could not have done it without him. We wish him all the best as he heads down the road. **Long Juan** has also resigned as editor and chief scribe for the *Agarita Gazette*, so we also need someone to help us keep that great publication going.

TSRA Regional in

February. Looking down the road ourselves, in February the *Plum Creek Shooting Society* will host a Regional match for the Texas State

Rifle Association (TSRA). This is a fund raiser for the political arm of the association that finances the work of the Association in the Texas Legislature and other political venues to protect and preserve our gun rights. This will be the first TSRA Regional for 2017. It will offer the opportunity to win a free entry to the TSRA State match. In addition to a Balloon Shoot (\$\$\$ involved there), there will be a contest to guess the temperature when the shoot begins. Should be a lot of fun. The fee for the match is \$40 and you are not required to be a member of the TSRA to participate. If you are not a member, you should be! There will be a chance to join at the match. Make sure you have this on your calendar for February 4, 2017.

2017 Membership and Waiver Forms

In January we start a new year at the *Plum Creek Shooting Society*. If you are a

Life member like me, all you have to worry about is signing a new waiver form (downloadable from www.pccss.org). Santa knows if you haven't signed a waiver form - no shooting unless you do. If you are not a Life member, now is the time to renew your membership in the best CAS club in the country.

We have several projects that your membership dollars will greatly help. We are buying the targets and stands that **Delta Raider** owned before the club started to augment the many targets and stands owned by the club. We need to build a financial reserve in case we have to move to another venue. If we don't have to move, we will have a nice cushion we can use to upgrade targets and stages and maybe to sponsor a State match in 2018. Any way you look at it, there are good reasons to continue your support into 2017.

So until next time, See ya' at the Agarita!

Like Good Old-Time Westerns?

Take a look back at the cowboys actors of old and their movies. Enjoy 18 minutes of pleasant memories, especially for anyone who shoots 49r or more. Cut and paste or type this URL into your Internet browser to watch and listen.

<https://youtu.be/vSYaUoJa5Pg>

To watch Red Ryder & Little Beaver in the B-Western, *Marshal of Cripple Creek*, cut and paste or type this URL into your Internet browser. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hVjlyCqQ8hg>

More Media:

To listen to Johnny Cash sing *Bury Me Not on the Lone Prairie* cut and paste or type this URL into your Internet browser. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZF1KRnkKNlc>

To listen to Burl Ives sing *Bury Me Not on the Lone Prairie* cut and paste or type this URL into your Internet browser. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPL616Q-ud8>

A Message from Mad Dog McCoy



There are probably way too many things in life that we take for granted ... the sun will shine ... there will be a CAS match this weekend ... I have a roof over my head ... food in my refrigerator ... my ammo will go off ... a car or truck to drive ... friends around me ... and on and on! It's the last two things that have become very important to me in a VERY short period of time.

As most of you know by now, I had an accident last month on the way home from our November match. My truck and trailer were totaled. I am now a pedestrian ... relying on the generosity and availability of my friends (in particular, **Three Fingered Dutchman** and **Dirty Sally**) and neighbors (**Tascosa Kid**) to get from Point A to point B. I have even resorted to walking, if it's not more than a mile or so! The truck will be replaced in due time, but I've come to realize that my friends will always be there.

A few days after my accident, my very good friend **Incorrigible**, opened a My Event donation site, (unbeknownst to me) and my Cowboy Action Shooting friends and family members have come together and blessed me with \$5000 towards the purchase of a new vehicle. When **Incorrigible** called me over the weekend to tell me about it, I was (for once in my life) stunned beyond words and literally driven to tears! I'm still trying to wrap my head around it all. People I haven't seen or heard from in 10 years or more have come forward and donated to help. To me, this reaffirms what I have said for many years ... "the generosity of Cowboy Action Shooters never ceases to amaze me!"



We take it for granted that our families will step in and help when they can (and mine certainly did), but I have found out that MY family is so much larger than I ever realized because it includes so many Cowboy Action Shooters ... people who are "friends," but aren't related to me, but are family nonetheless!

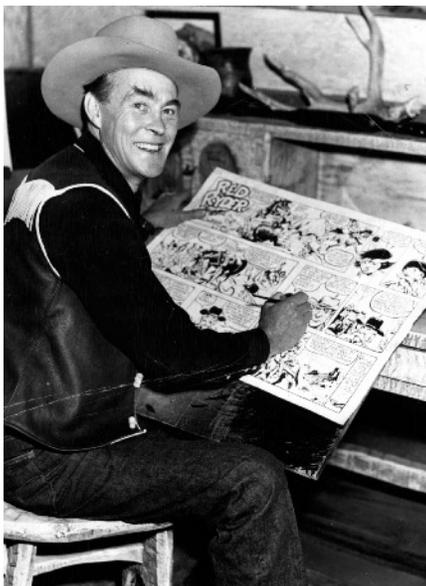
We should NOT take this "family" for granted! They are friends because we share a common interest and hobby. They are FAMILY because we all share a "Bond" called "the Cowboy Way" that runs much deeper than just sharing an interest or hobby. It's this Family, the one we have come to spend time with every month, that steps up time and time again to help their fellow CAS friends when needed.

I can't possibly put into words a proper way to express my gratitude to ALL of my CAS Family... so I will just say thank you ... THANK YOU all for helping me out in MY time of need! I am truly blessed!

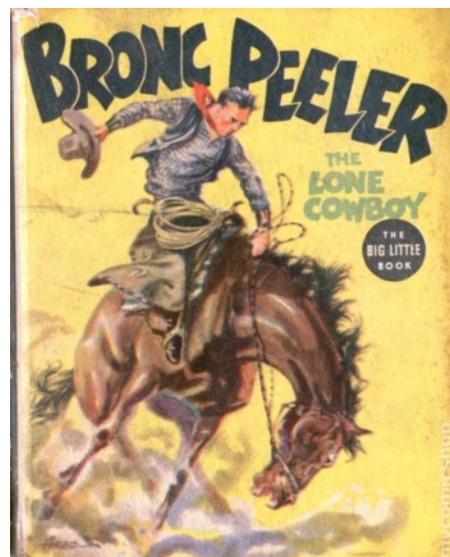
Steve, **Mad Dog McCoy**

The Artist. Fred Harman was one of the country's foremost painters, sculptors and illustrators of the American West. Born in St. Joseph, Missouri in 1902, Harman's parents moved to Pagosa Springs, Colorado when he was just 2 months old. In Colorado, he lived in the land of ranchers, cowboys and Indians - Ute, Apache and Navajo. Harman's artistic talent was obvious from the beginning. His first picture appeared in a newspaper when he was only 6 years old. The self-taught painter was not as happy in school as he was on ranches or when he was drawing. After 7 years of formal education, he dropped out of school.

Bronc Peeler. Harman was working on a Colorado ranch when he decided to draw a comic strip. He moved to Hollywood, borrowed some money and began *Bronc Peeler*, which he syndicated



himself. Bronc Peeler was a rough and tough cowboy who fought bandits and rustlers with the help of his



pal, Coyote Pete. Harman's wife suggested *Bronc Peeler* needed a young sidekick and *Little Beaver* was born. The comic strip became *Bronc Peeler and Little Beaver*. The strip had limited success.

Harman's rough-hewn art style had a dramatic appeal, but his characters, who killed people and animals, coupled with his affected use of slang and thin storylines, were not in keeping with the content standards needed for wide syndication.

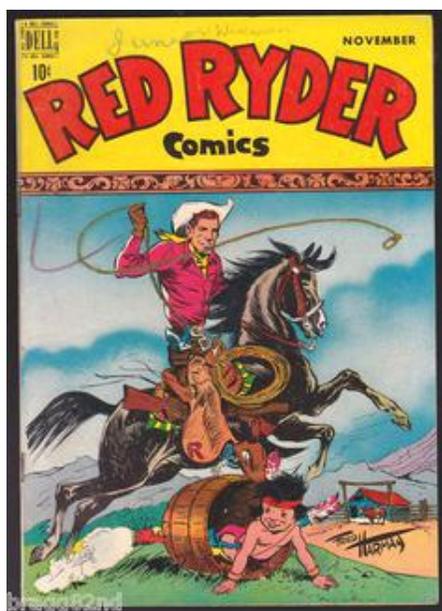
Red Ryder. Harman met publisher/comic syndicator Stephen Slesinger in 1938. Slesinger helped Harman head down better trails. He brought Harman to New York and worked with him for a year before *Red Ryder* was ready to be syndicated. Slesinger then embarked on a successful campaign of merchandising and licensing with a seemingly endless parade of comic books, radio programs and licensed products, including the Daisy Red

Ryder BB Gun, which remains the longest continuous license in the history of the global licensing industry.



The Red Ryder Story.

Astride his mighty steed *Thunder*, *Red Ryder* was a tough cowpoke who lived on the Painted Valley Ranch in the Blanco Basin of the San Juan Mountains in Colorado. *Red Ryder* and *Little Beaver* went after the bad guys. *Little Beaver* rode a horse named *Papoose* and spoke in Pidgin English, now considered politically incorrect or insensitive. Example: "Spinach heap



good. Me like'm!" Billed as "America's famous fighting cowboy," *Red Ryder* was unique because he usually didn't kill his enemies. Instead, he aimed for a hand to disarm them. No one said comic strips had to be realistic!

The Comic Strip. The *Red Ryder* comic strip began with an exciting Sunday run on November 6, 1938. By the time the daily version of rolled out in March 1939, *Red Ryder* was the champion of all Western comic strips.



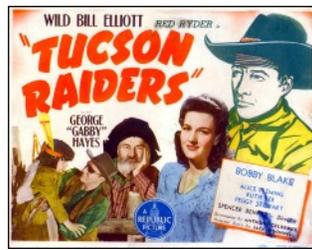
Comic Books. The first *Red Ryder* comic book was published in September 1940. Altogether, there were 151 issues. When it ended in 1957, it was one of the longest continuous newsstand runs of any Western comic book.

Radio. The *Red Ryder* radio series began February 3, 1942. It was broadcast three times a week at 7:30

p.m. When *Red Ryder* ran opposite the *Lone Ranger* on the East Coast, *Red Ryder* led in the ratings. *Red Ryder* was then sold to a regional sponsor and was taken off the radio in the East. The series continued to run three nights a week on the West Coast through the 1940s. It always began with the familiar organ theme, "*Bury Me Not on the Lone Prairie.*" Described as the most famous cowboy ballad ever and one of the Top 100 Western songs of all time, *Bury Me Not on the Lone Prairie* has been recorded by many artists, including Moe Bandy, Johnny Cash, Burl Ives, Tex Ritter and Roy Rogers. From 1942 to 1951, *Red Ryder* was portrayed on radio by several actors. The most notable actor to play *Little Beaver* was Robert ("Bobby") Blake.



Movies. *Red Ryder* appeared in more than 35 movies and serials. They began in 1940 with a 12-chapter movie serial, *The Adventures of Red Ryder*. Don "Red" Barry played *Red Ryder* in the serial. As the first cinema "redhead" and earned the nickname, Red, which stayed with him the rest of his life. Later, "Wild" Bill Elliott and Allan "Rocky"



Sheriff, which *Red Ryder* decoded and, with the information in hand, set out after the outlaws.

T.V. In the 1950s, two TV pilots were produced with the hope of bringing *Red*

Ryder to the small screen. The first pilot was entitled, *Whiplash*, circa 1951; the second, *Gun Trouble Valley*, circa 1955. Neither led to a regular TV series.

Products. The marketing strategy for *Red Ryder* and *Little Beaver*

products was trail-blazing.

Red Ryder toys, novelties, gifts, accessories, sporting goods and rugged clothing were sold nationwide and exported to Europe, Latin America and as far away as Egypt, India, and Japan. The legendary Daisy Red Ryder BB Gun was first made in 1938 and can still be purchased today. The appeal of the Red Ryder BB Gun was depicted in the 1983 film, *A Christmas Story*. Set in the 1940s, a young boy seeks to convince his parents and Santa Claus



that a Red Ryder BB gun would be the perfect Christmas gift.

Lane portrayed *Red Ryder* in a number of films, both working with Robert Blake as *Little Beaver*. B-Westerns featuring *Red Ryder* were some of the best of all time. *Tucson Raiders*, starring Wild Bill Elliott as *Red Ryder*, Bobby Blake as *Little Beaver* and featuring Gabby Hayes, was one of the best. In that movie, *Red Ryder* found himself framed for murder. *Little Beaver* foiled the crooked Sheriff's attempt to have Red killed "escaping" from jail. Gabby then stole a note from the



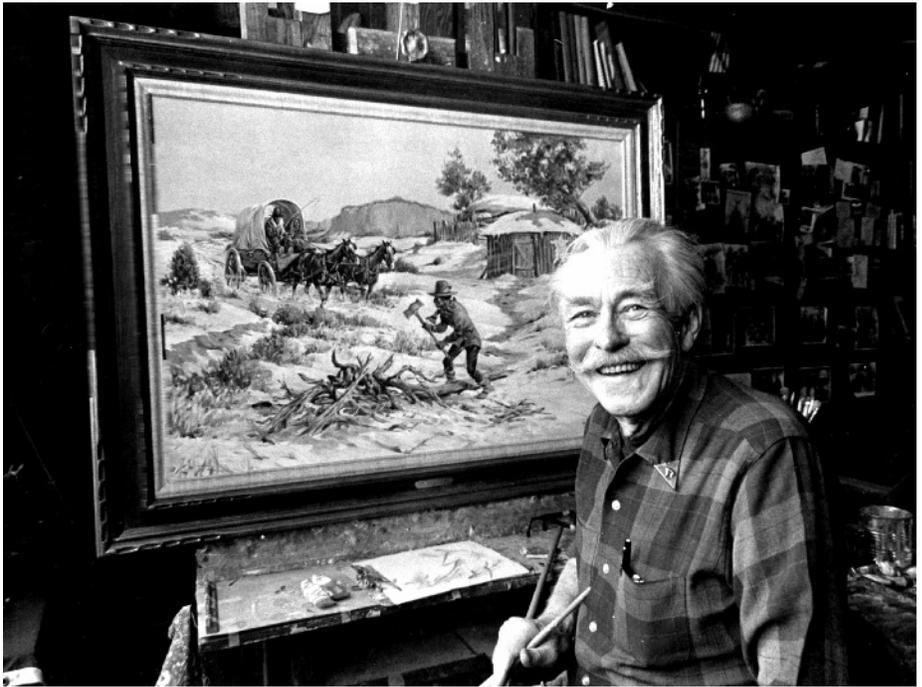
The Fred Harman Art Museum. During his life, Fred Harman produced more than 500 major oil paintings of the Old West. In 1964, Harman retired *Red Ryder*, sold a ranch he had purchased in 1942 and built a smaller place on top of Put Hill (pronounced “putt”), then two miles west of downtown Pagosa Springs,



Colorado. There he produced his famous paintings and bronze works. Today, this studio/residence is the *Fred Harman Art Museum*. I've been to the *Fred Harmon Art Museum*. It's worth a visit if you are ever in Pagosa Springs.



Editor's Note: The museum is no longer two miles west of Pagosa, but rather closer to the middle of a much larger Pagosa Springs.





Stories from Jake (Paladin that is): A Christmas Story and Porky's

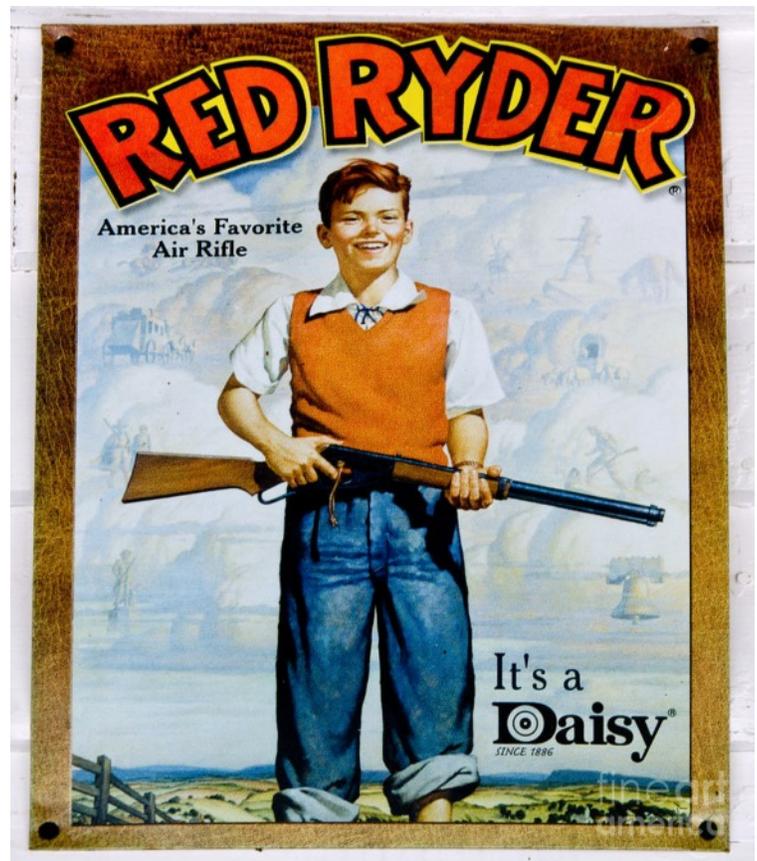
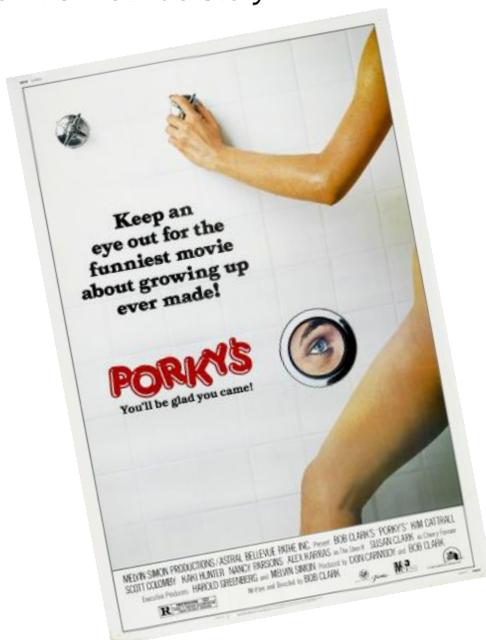
Nine-year-old Ralphie Parker wants only one thing for Christmas: a Red Ryder BB Gun with a compass and a sundial in the stock. Ralphie's mother, teacher and even a department store Santa Claus, all discourage Ralphie with the same warning: "You'll shoot your eye out." Christmas morning arrives and Ralphie dives into his presents. He receives several presents he enjoys, but is

disappointed not to receive the one thing he wanted most. After it appears all of the presents have been opened, Ralphie's father, "The Old Man," directs Ralphie to check out one last present hidden behind the tree. Opening the present reveals a Red Ryder BB Gun, just what he wanted. Immediately he goes out to shoot it. Firing his first shot, he thinks the warnings have come true and he's shot out his eye. Turns out, fortunately, he had only broken his glasses. The film move ends with Ralphie lying in bed on Christmas night with his BB gun by his side with the voice of an *adult* Ralphie saying, "it was the best present he had ever received or ever would receive."



But what does the raunchy '80s teen sex movie *Porky's* have to do with a wholesome film like *A Christmas Story*? Bob Clark directed both, *Porky's* in 1982 and *A Christmas Story* in 1983. The success of *Porky's* gave him the professional credentials and financial means to bring *A Christmas Story* to the big screen.

Editor's Note: The original Red Ryder BB gun wasn't quite the same as the one in the movie. The original lacked a compass and sundial. Special versions of the BB gun had to be made just for *A Christmas Story*.





Pics from Jake (Jones that is:)

Two months ago we looked at 20-mule teams. Last month, we looked at 40-horse teams. This month, how about a two-MOOSE team? Pete and Nellie belonged to "Buffalo Bill" Day. He raised the two orphaned moose and they repaid him by pulling his mail cart in and around Athabasca Landing, Canada near the turn of the last Century. How's that for a moose tale?



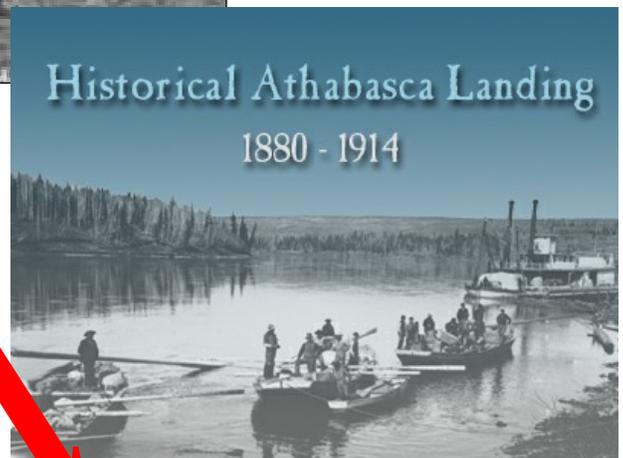
Groucho Marks on moose. "A moose is an animal with horns on the front of its head and a hunting lodge wall on the back of it."



FIND DELTA RAIDER:

Not many readers found **Delta Raider** as the unscripted 8th on *The Magnificent Seven* poster last month. Mentioned in the Dispatches for finding him are **El Sabre**, **Mad Dog McCoy**, **Hairtrigger Hayes** and **Preacher Man Lee**. Also mentioned in the Dispatches for correctly identifying the dragon shirt as belonging to Treasurer and Scoring Marshal **General Burleson** are **Six Goin' South**, **El Sabre** and **Sheriff Robert Love**. Delta Raider is not hidden in this last issue.

Winner for the most finds in 2016 is **El Sabre** with 12. Your check for a free match is in the mail. Runners up with 10 finds were **Hairtrigger Hayes** and **Preacher Man Lee**. We had 31 readers with at least one find during the year. Thanks to all who participated.



Photos

Thanks to all who have contributed photos over the years. No match photos this month, so I am using some of my favorites from issues past. I hope you enjoy them.



From my first issue in January 2011
Report on the Grand Army of the Frontier
National Muster November 2010



Always wondered why Dragon Hill Dave
didn't wear this hat more often



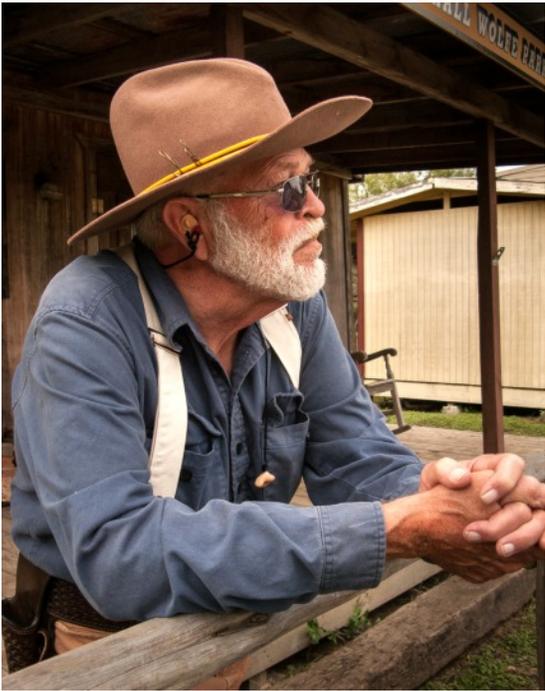
Jake Jones sports one of the spotter
"sticks" from one of the State
Championship matches



Above, Patience and her crew
always put on a great show



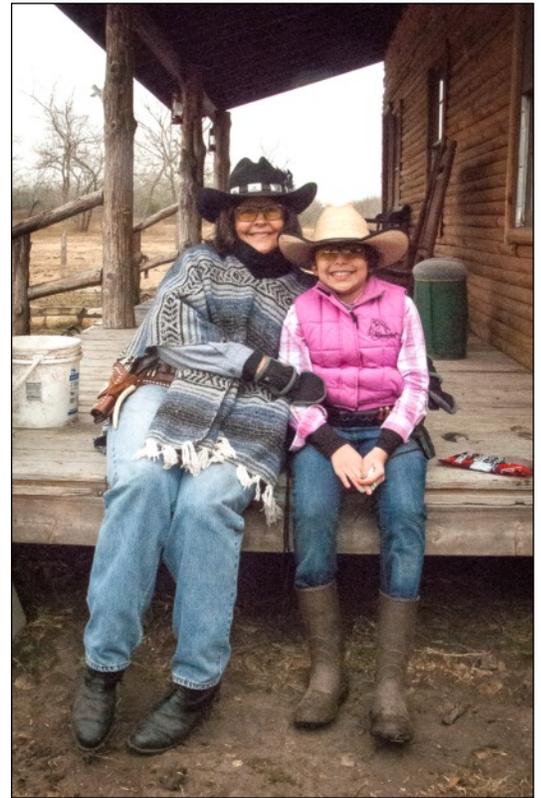
Left, the Agarita Ranch is the
best Cowboy Action Shooting
venue in Texas



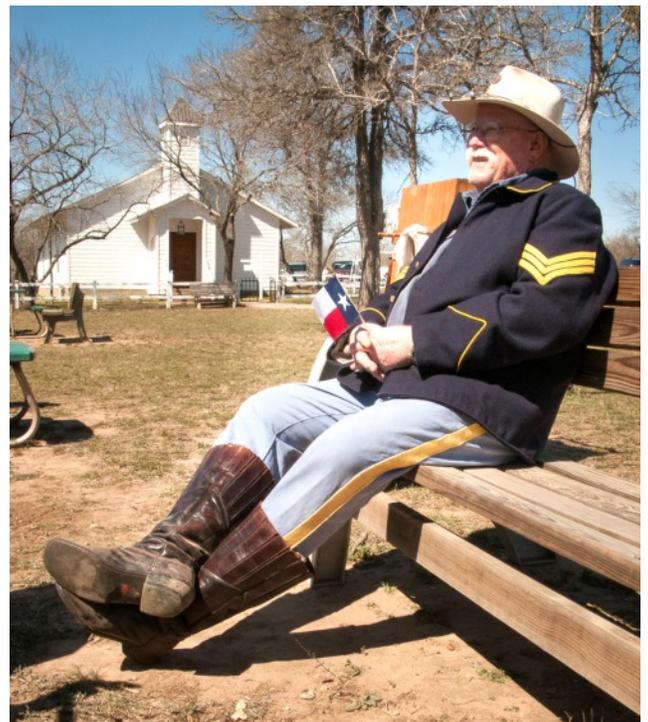
We all sure miss Elroy Rogers



Six Goin' South and Little Bullseye when she really was little. No more!



It wouldn't be Texas without a longhorn among the targets



Scooter with the beautiful and peaceful Agarita Chapel in the background



Who doesn't enjoy shooting with his daughter? My daughter, Sterling Sage, puts smoke and lead downrange



True Blue Cachoo showing great color

Our Christmas match is always fun and, yes, this is where I would have hidden Delta Raider this month were I continuing as editor



Joe Darter & Phantom are both real characters and great ambassadors of our sport



The indefatigable Energizer Bunny, Agarita Annie



Patience, with the bathhouse, hotel, saloon and general store in the background



July 4th matches are always fun with everyone decked out in their red, white and blue to celebrate our great country's independence



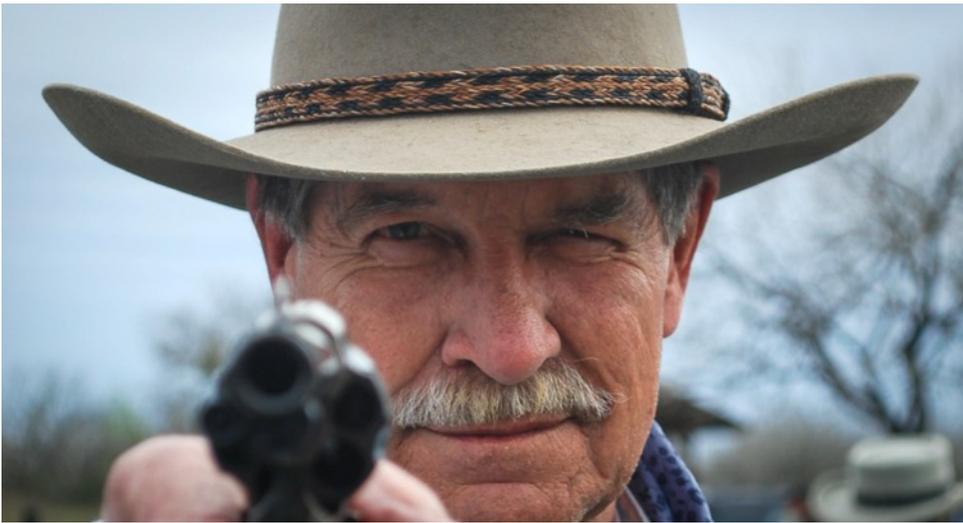
Above, Little Bullseye loads her 410



Left Joe Darter and Little Bullseye survey Stage 1 before the match at the stockade.

Right, the Agarita Ranch in the early morning fog.





Jim No Horse shows how to take dead aim



Closing with my favorite all-time photo!

L.W. Hanabass in period motif and sepia toning to match.



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	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	40	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.					

