Newsletter for the Texican Rangers

A Publication of the Texican Rangers An Authentic Cowboy Action Shooting Club That Treasures & Respects the Cowboy Tradition

SASS Affiliated July 2024 PO Box 382 Spring Branch, TX 78070

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Hello Rangers



Bienvendos Amigos,

I want to thank everyone that came out to the workday on Tuesday. We set the targets, mowed, trimmed and did minor repairs and still finished early. The forecast is for a hot weekend so we need to stay hydrated. That means start drinking water early, before you get thirsty, and it's a good idea to alternate water with electrolytes. We have hydration packets available to you by the water.

Because of the hotter weather, the stages are in the shadier part of the range. They are simple, fast, and should be fun for all. We will be voting to implement the updated By-laws for the Texican Rangers. Saturday and Sunday are the last two shoots to qualify for the annual awards, so if you are short a match or two, now is your chance to shine.

Every member and every guest is a part of our Cowboy Action Shooting family and we love to see you and catch up, so come on out even if it is only to visit.

God bless you all and God bless America Sheriff Robert Love

President Texican Rangers

Merwin, Hulbert, and Co. Firearms By Tom Correa



At a speaking engagement the author, Tom Correa, saw a man in period correct dress, carrying a revolver that he could not identify. He had to find out more about this mystery gun. The following is the article he wrote:

I asked if it was a "Smith & Wesson, an Iver Johnson, or a Merwi n-Hulbert?" He nodded and acknowledged that it was a Merwin-Hulbert pistol. If it seems strange that I would take the time to ask someone in the audience such a question, I did because he looked the part and it's not every day

that I see a Merwin-Hulbert pistol. Merwin-Hulbert revolvers are rare finds. And since I love old firearms, it was great to see one there.

For you who are unacquainted with Merwin, Hulbert, and Co., or simply Merwin-Hulbert, they were an American firearms marketer that was based out of New York City. The company actually produced revolvers and rifles through a subsidiary company, Hopkins & Allen of Norwich, Connecticut, starting in 1876. Merwin Hulbert designs influenced other gunmakers including Harrington & Richardson and Iver Johnson which were two very popular firearms companies in their day.

Joseph Merwin became involved in firearms sort of the same way that Oliver Winchester did. While both Merwin and Winchester were not gunsmiths like say that of Sam Colt or Daniel B. Wesson and Horace Smith, both Merwin and Winchester were businessmen involved in marketing and the manufacturing of firearms. In the case of Joseph Merwin, his first attempt at marketing and manufacturing revolvers took place before the Civil War when he started a gun company known as Merwin & Bray.

While his first attempt actually folded eighteen years later in 1874, by 1876 he formed a partnership with William and Milan Hulbert. The Hulbert brothers owned 50% interest in the Hopkins & Allen gun company. The new company Merwin, Hulbert, and Co. not only designed firearms, but was a huge importer of firearms. And while that doesn't sound unusual, even for the times, there's more to them. Besides selling firearms, they were a huge retailer in sporting goods, all sorts of sporting goods. That was new.

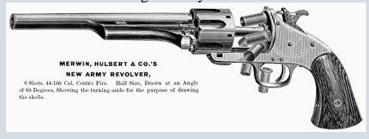
It's said they sold a complete line of firearms related goods such as loading tools, gun stocks, sights, and hunting gear including decoys, calls, and outdoor clothing. They did so through Merwin-Hulbert's 150 page sporting goods catalog that was completely illustrated. In it, one could find anything one needed in the way of sporting goods. No, it was not only guns. Through their catalog, besides a number of guns and accessories, anyone was able to order gear for fishing, tennis, boating, bicycling, gymnastics, fencing, boxing, baseball, and much more.

The first Montgomery Ward catalog was produced in 1872. Sears started his catalog sales in 1888. And while many businesses were already publishing mail order catalogs for business, Montgomery Ward is seen as the first to produce a mail order catalog for the general public. Knowing this, just image that the Merwin-Hulbert catalog was considered the most all-encompassing sports catalog of its day. Part of the reason why that was the case has to do with their also being sales agents for other firearms companies such as Colt, Remington, Winchester, Ithaca, Marlin, Ballard, and others including some British gunmakers. Merwin-Hulbert did so while representing their own firms. And frankly, that made them ahead of their time.

Merwin-Hulbert manufactured both single-action and double-action revolvers, full size and pocket pistols. Their Frontier Model was created to compete with Colt's Model 1873 Single-Action Army, Remington's Model 1875, and Smith & Wesson's Model 3 as a big bore, large frame, six-shooter. Starting in 1876, the Merwin-Hulbert Frontier was produced in four variations in a nickel finish.

Their Pocket Model was designed for the urban gun owner. While people today have this idea that everyone wore holsters, that's just not true. While folks in the East started sticking their pocket pistols in their overcoat pockets first, out West on the frontier things weren't much different. It was usually the case for someone to

carry a pistol in a coat pocket than a holster -- especially while in town, and especially after more and more towns started enacting no carry laws.



Merwin-Hulbert pistols were different than other pistols of the time for a few reasons, but they really were very fine guns. As for innovations, the company was known to have made some of the more innovative designs during that period. As I said before, they were very different than other firearms at the time. For example, they designed folding hammers for their pocket carry revolvers.

While there were top breaks and side-loading gates, Merwin-Hulbert came up with a rotating barrel design which allowed the user to rotate the barrel 90 degrees in order to pull the barrel and cylinder forward to remove only the fired cartridge cases.

During the twisting motion, the empty cases were extracted while unspent rounds were held in place. It's true, any intact cartridge would remain in the chamber due to the additional length of the bullet. In addition to this unique case extraction system, pressing an additional lever control when the frame was "open" for extraction allowed the owner to completely remove the barrel quickly.



This not only assisted the owner with cleaning their pistols, but it allowed the owner to swap out barrels. Swapping out barrels meant that an owner could use a short barrel for concealed carry and use a longer barrel as a field gun when hunting. The combination of extraction and barrel removal required very precise manufacturing tolerances.

Also, Merwin-Hulbert developed a nickel plating process that many believe was superior to any of their competitors. And strangely, their nickel

plating process was said to less expensive than a bluing process. Because the nickel plating process acted to protect the metal surfaces of their guns from wear and corrosion, they looked great and were the same price as Merwin-Hulbert pistols without the nickel plating process. As for collectors today, that answers the question why it's so hard to find a Merwin-Hulbert that's been blued. It's very rare to find Merwin-Hulbert revolvers with a blued finish simply because people liked the look and wear resistance of their nickel plated pistols.

So why haven't you ever heard of Merwin-Hulbert firearms? Considering they purchased several firearms manufacturers and kept them going with innovative designs and capital, they really should be better known than they are. But all in all, I believe the reason that they're not as well-known as say Colt and Smith & Wesson is because Merwin-Hulbert went under in mid-1880, just before Joseph Merwin passed away in 1888.

Though they had some very clever designs, that didn't matter because by the mid-1880s the company ran into financial troubles with bad investments and lawsuits dealing with patent infringement. The company simply wasn't able to weather their troubles. And to add to the company's problems, Joseph Merwin passed away in 1888. After that, the company took on a new name -- but that didn't help it. And by 1896, everything was liquidated.

Following the bankruptcy and final liquidation of Merwin-Hulbert in 1896, Hopkins & Allen also went bankrupt in 1898. The company reorganized as Hopkins & Allen Arms Company, but lost its manufacturing facility, its factory, stock, and machinery, in a horrific fire in 1900. The factory was rebuilt in 1901 and Hopkins & Allen produced 40,000 firearms a year. Their success was short lived because their entire warehouse was robbed in 1905. The thieves stole all of their inventory which included Mauser rifles they built for the Belgian Army.

A year before the fire, Hopkins & Allen manufactured Merwin-Hulbert revolvers and a number of pistols and rifles for other gun companies. So all in all, Hopkins & Allen firearms found investors to keep them afloat and they continued manufacturing "Merwin-Hulbert" marked firearms until 1916 when they too went bankrupt. As for Hopkins & Allen firearms, they were actually bought out by Marlin Firearms in 1917.

So how popular were Merwin-Hulbert revolvers? Well, during the late 1800's, Merwin-Hulbert revolvers were used by most city police departments back East. In fact, more Merwin-Hulbert pistols were used in law enforcement at that time than were Colt, Smith & Wesson, Remington, and others. Besides the police back East, lawmen out West, including famed lawman Pat Garret, carried a Merwin-Hulbert pistol. And while lawmen loved those revolvers, so did outlaws. Of the most famous outlaws to carry a Merwin-Hulbert revolver was none other than the famous bank robber and killer Jessie James who was known to prefer a .44 caliber Merwin-Hulbert revolver made by Hopkins & Allen.

Why choose a Merwin-Hulbert pistol over say a Colt or a Smith & Wesson, or a Remington 1875, since all were very popular at the time? Why were they carried by lawmen and outlaw alike? The reason that a lot of people liked the Merwin-Hulbert pistol has to do with the strength of those guns.

While Merwin-Hulbert had some very interesting designs, including the whole rotating barrel to self-eject spent rounds, it's said the Merwin-Hulbert revolvers were considered the strongest revolvers made during that time period. They were strong, reliable, and didn't show the wear and tear like others did. Add the fact that those Merwin-Hulbert pistols were very attractive because of their nickel plating process, and they became firearms that people were proud to own.

From Whale to Crude Oil By Dutch Van Horn/Regulator 51153



If you wanted to see after dark before the Revolutionary War, you did so by firelight or candles. Candles indoors were a significant fire hazard. By 1700s, Americans, that could afford it, switched over to lamps using whale oil.

Whale oil is oil obtained from the blubber of whales. Whalers would boil strips of blubber harvested from whales. The removal is known as flensing and the boiling process was called trying out.

The boiling was carried out on land in the case of whales caught close to shore or beached. On longer deepsea whaling expeditions, the trying-out was done aboard the ship in a furnace known as a trywork and the carcass was then discarded into the water. It was an incredibly dirty and smelly process.

The main use of whale oil was for illumination and machine lubrication. Cheaper alternatives to whale oil existed, but were inferior in performance and cleanliness of burn. As a result, whale oil dominated the world for both uses. By 1850 whaling was the fifth-largest industry in the United States; in 1853 alone, 8,000 whales were slaughtered for whale oil shipped to light lamps around the world. This in turn further fueled the Industrial Revolution, in the United States, in Britain, and continental Europe. As demand for whale oil increased at the end of the 18th century, the whaling industry expanded until its peak around the 1820s, when piped coal-gas networks began to provide an alternative lighting fuel in urban areas. Due to dwindling whale populations causing higher voyage costs, as well as taxation, the market changed rapidly in the 1860s after the discovery of mineral oils and expansion of chemical refineries to produce kerosene and lubricants.

The problem was that there are only so many whales, and we had more people around. And so basically there just wasn't enough whale oil. So what happened was that in Western Pennsylvania, "they discovered oil."

Without a better alternative whaling would have continued and grown, and as the population grew whalers might have hunted whales into extinction, very much like the American Buffalo.

California actually tried whale farming for a while. The problem was that whales are so intelligent, that when it was time to harvest whales would work together and would attack the harvesters; Shades of Avatar, the Ways of Water. It was far more dangerous than hunting whales in the wild.

It wasn't any kind of conservation that eventually saved the whales. It was simply cost. In 1855 whale oil cost \$1.30 to \$2.50 a gallon. By the early 1860s kerosene from petroleum was selling for \$0.60 a gallon. By 1870, kerosene became the dominant illumination fuel and the whaling industry was in decline.

With the decline of the Whaling industry, many former whalers came west and helped settle the American West.

Additional note, kerosene has a surprise use today. High-octane kerosene is better known today as Jet or Rocket fuel.

Added Challenges for Teachers in the Old West By Dutch Van Horn/Regulator 51153



With school starting next week it got me thinking about the challenges of teaching in the old west.

Most 19th century schooling was done in One Room Schoolhouses, where older pupils assisted the teacher by passing along what they'd learned to younger students.

By the year 1870, all states had free elementary schools. The US population had one of the highest literacy rates at the time.

Private academies flourished in the towns across the country, but rural areas (where most people lived) had few schools before the 1880s, so most children were schooled in basics at home.

In 1880, American high schools were preparatory academies for colleges, and only those bound for higher education attended. 7% of youths aged 14 to 17 were enrolled in 1890 (a staggering percentage were in New England states) rising to 32% in 1920. As late as 1940, only 50% of American young adults had earned a high school diploma.

In 1821, Boston started the first public high school in the United States. By the close of the 19th century, public secondary schools began to outnumber private ones.

Parents often taught their children at home the most basic skills: reading, writing (which are two very different things), and ciphering (arithmetic). Often the only book available to teach little ones to read was the family Bible.

In highly rural areas, schooling was deemed of secondary importance at times of planting, harvest, and other daylight-exhaustive work. Learning to read could wait for the long, cold days of winter.

Teachers in the early decades of the 19th century were usually men. From mid-century on, most One Room Schoolhouse teachers were women, often required to teach upward of 60 students alone. While paid appreciably less than males, women welcomed the escape from a life of drab labor, isolation or frivolity. Teaching gave women a window onto a wider world of ideas, politics and public usefulness.

Most schoolteachers were women, and the good ones knew how to command respect. There is a distorted view of life in the old west where everyone carried guns. In general, both teachers and students did not carry or take arms into the classroom.

Many youngsters, however, combined school with ranch work and came to school carrying pistols or rifles. The teacher usually checked in the students' guns and returned them when school was dismissed for the day.

There is a story of one teacher who confiscated a pistol from a student and tossed it into a potbelly stove. She failed to remove the bullets. You can imagine what happened next.

When students had a beef with one another, they usually settled things with fisticuffs. In fact, most people in the West rarely, if ever, resorted to gunplay. The movies make it seem as if everyone walked around with an itchy trigger finger.

Shooting Iron Miller, Secretary Regulator/Life



Hello Texican Rangers! It looks like we are in for hotter weather for a while, but we are grateful for the rain we received recently. The grass is actually green where we live and usually unheard of this time of year.

We've been very fortunate as a club to provide a free match and lunch each year during Shindig, to show our appreciation for you, the members of the Texican Rangers. It's been a way for us to say thank you to each of you for supporting us and allowing us to keep our club alive. To my knowledge, the Texican Rangers shooting club is the only one to offer this each year, and it's been our pleasure to do so.

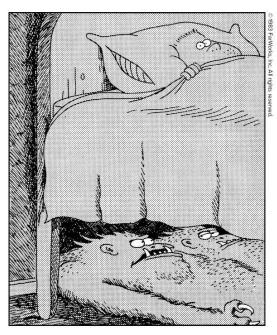
Recently, July 2024, the officers were faced with having to adjust the fees we pay to our landowners for each shooter each month. The fees we pay have not changed in many years, and that's been a good thing. But with the effects of inflation over time, the dollar-to-dollar value to the ranch has decreased significantly. The officers have had much discussion about this predicament and have decided the best place to make a change is Shindig since the club covers all its costs. Rather than increase our annual membership fee or monthly shooter fee at this time, we'd rather charge something for this annual event. In light of this, we are asking each member to pay \$10.00 to shoot the match and \$5.00 to help cover the cost of lunch this year. We will, of course, still have awards and have some shooter prizes available. Non-members will continue to pay for lunch as well as the \$20.00 fee to shoot the match. We hope you understand this decision was not an easy one to make, but in light of the current economy, everyone has had to make tough choices.

Shooting Iron Miller

Secretary



Early vegetarians returning from the kill



"I've got it again, Larry ... an eerie feeling like there's something on top of the bed."

BOOYAH BULLETS

email your order: booyahbullets@gmail.com or text it to us @ 512.927.6743

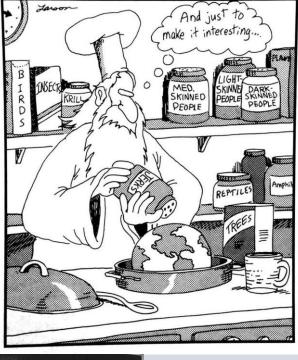
Dodge City Mike 512.801.8424

Price List effective 03.01.21

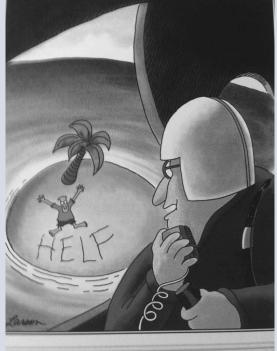
Caliber	Weight	Config.	Price/500	Price/1000
.38	100	RNFP	42	83
	105	FP	43	85
	125	RNFP	47	94
	125	FP	47	94
	130	RNFP	49	97
	158	RNFP	54	106
	158	FP	54	106
	158	SWC	54	106
.380	100	RNFP	42	83
.38-55	245	RNFP	82	162
.41	215	SWC	70	139
.44	180	RNFP	58	115
	240	SWC	75	149
.44-40	200	RNFP	64	127
.45 COLT	160	RNFP	61	121
	180	RNFP	58	115
	200	RNFP	64	127
	250	RNFP	76	152
9MM	124	RN	47	94
	125	CN	47	94
40 S&W	180	FP	58	115
.45ACP	200	SWC	64	127
	200	RN	64	127

	230	RN	73	144
45-70	405	FPT	75 (250)	300 (1K)
			150 (500)	





"Wait a minute! Isn't anyone here a real sheep?"



"Wait! Wait! Cancel that. ... I guess it says 'helf."

Parting Shots

- "I mentioned to my wife that her eyebrow sketches were lofty. She raised an eyebrow."
- 2. "On my whiskey diet, I've misplaced a few days this week."
- 3. "Diving into a book on floating in space. I just can't set it aside!"
- 4. "I don't grapple with madness; I relish its every tick."
- 5. My bed's an enchanted zone where all forgotten tasks resurface."
- 6. "Once, I played the piano by just listening, but now my fingers dance on it."
- 7. "I'm on good terms with most letters, but 'y' remains a mystery."
- 8. "Asked the librarian for a book on being overly cautious. She hushed, 'They're right over your shoulder."
- 9. "Russian dolls irk me. They always hide something within."
- 10. "Expressed to the gym coach my desire to do the splits. His query, 'Your schedule's stretch?" My reply, 'Weekends are tight."
- 11. "Attempted to grab some mist once. Failed."
- 12. "If laziness had a trophy, I'd delegate its collection."
- 13. "I don't harbor dreams in a bucket, but my pending tasks could fill a scroll."
- 14. "Witnessed a man scatter his Scrabble set on the pavement. Queried, 'What's the talk of the town?"
- 15. "I'd spin you a tale about building, but it's under construction."
- 16. "I follow the sight-see diet. Spot delicacies, and they're mine."
- 17. "Pondered a cerebral transplant but had a change of heart."
- 18. "Navigating a tactile horror narrative. An ominous event is close... I sense it."
- 19. "I excel at doing multiple things: dawdling, being idle, and delaying tasks."
- 20. "I have a jest about journeying through time, but it didn't tickle your future self."
- 21. "Baking was my forte; the need for the dough was real."
- 22. "Resigned from my soda can-flattening role; too much emotional compression."

- 23. "Requested a pay bump from the boss.

 When he inquired how much, I pointed to the elusive top shelf."
- 24. "Why was the scarecrow celebrated? His stand-out performance amidst crops!"
- 25. "Astronaut aspirations failed; lacked personal space."
- 26. "Alerted my employer about my dual vision today. He postponed our chat on hydration habits."
- 27. "Life in the calendar industry isn't as date-filled as imagined."
- 28. "Banker parted ways with the cashier: overwhelmed by account-keeping."
- 29. "My workspace? A prism. It's all about radiant tasks."
- 30. "Ventured into land mines camouflaged as prayer cushions. The upward trend in prophets is explosive!"
- 31. "A doorman job eluded me due to inexperience. Figured it was the gateway role."
- 32. "Unity drives dreams, but with mismatched leaders and teams, nightmares ensue."
- 33. "Why is there skepticism around atoms? They've mastered the art of fabrication."
- 34. "Secured a role as a certified snoozer. It's what dreams are made of!"
- 35. "My cement gig? Stirring things into cohesion."
- 36. "Orange juice facility showed me the door: was too diluted."
- 37. "Retiree gags aplenty, but they're all on a break."
- 38. "The bakery was my go-to; the dough was a necessity in more ways than one."
- 39. "Photography seemed sharp, but the snapshot of success blurred."
- 40. "Embarked on a lift-managing job. It's a vertical roller coaster."
- 41. "Discussed my giant dread with the counselor. Diagnosis? 'Fee-Fi-fears."
- 42. "Steps? Skeptical about them. They're continually rising to mischief."
- 43. "Studying the past? That's yesterday's news."

Texican Rangers Regulators

Temedii Rangers Regulators				
•	Tombstone Mary	2003		
•	A.D.	2004		
•	Dusty Lone Star	2008		
•	Handlebar Bob	2010		
•	Dusty Chambers	2010		
•	Sheriff Robert Love	2012		
•	Grouchy Spike	2013		
•	Agarita Annie	2016		
•	Joe Darter	2016		
•	Nueces Slim	2016		
•	Skinny	2016		
•	Dirty Dog Dale	2017		
•	Dutch Van Horn	2017		
•	Shooting Iron Miller	2017		
•	Beans Ahgin	2022		
•	Colorado Horseshoe	2024		



July Squaw Man 7/9 Sheriff Robert Love 7/10 Dirty Dog Dale 7/11 Kincade 7/17 Pistol Packin Princess 7/20 Bisbee Jackson 7/25 Bandera Kid 7/26 Little Bit Sassy 7/31 August Hill Country Redneck 8/02 Crooked Creek Sam 8/09 Yakima Jim Tombaugh 8/20 Texas McD 8/24 Scooter 8/27 Harmony Bell 8/29 Llano Leadslinger 8/29 September Abilene 9/4 Uncle Nick Wilson 9/7 A.D. 9/15 T Bone Paul 9/16 Kit Carson 9/21 L.W. Hannabass 9/21 Holly Pena 9/24





Key Links

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TEXICAN RANGERS 2024

January

09 – Workday: Range set up 13 – Monthly Saturday match 14 – Monthly Sunday match

February

06 – Workday: Range set up 10 – Monthly Saturday match 11 – Monthly Sunday match

20 – Workday 27 – Workday

March

05 – Workday: Range set up 09 – Monthly Saturday match 10 – Monthly Sunday match

12-Workday

19 - Workday

26 - Workday: Range set-up

30 - Comancheria Days Posse 0 Shoot

April

02 – Workday

06 – Comancheria Days Posse 0 Shoot (Bad Weather Make-up Day)

08 - Workday

09 - Workday

10 – Workday: Side match set up/ROI & WBRO

11 – Comancheria Days Side Matches

12 – Comancheria Days Main Match Day 1 & Side Matches

13 – Comancheria Days Main Match Day 2

14 – No Events Campers Leave

16– Outhouse pump-out and trash pickup

Mav

07 – Workday: Range set up 11 – Monthly Saturday match 12 – Monthly Sunday match

June

4 – Workday: Range set up 08 – Monthly Saturday match 09 – Monthly Sunday match 25 – Workday: Range set-up 29 – WILD BUNCH/BAMM

July

09 – Workday: Range set up 13 – Monthly Saturday match 14 – Monthly Sunday match

August

06– Workday: Range set up 10 – Monthly Saturday match 11 – Monthly Sunday match 27 – Workday: Range set-up 31– WILD BUNCH/BAMM

September

10 - Workday: Range set up

14 – Shindig

15 – Monthly Sunday match

October

08 – Workday: Partial Range tear-down 12 – Monthly Saturday match & final tear down

15 – Outhouse pump-out and closure **November/December** -Range Closed

CENTRAL TEXAS MONTHLY CLUB SHOOTING SCHEDULES

1st Saturday	Plum Creek (Lockhart)
1st Saturday	South Texas Pistolaros (San Antonio)
2nd Saturday	Texas Riviera Pistoleros (George West)
2nd Sunday	Rio Grande Valley Vaqueros (Pharr)
2nd Weekend	Texican Rangers (Comfort)
3rd Saturday	Tejas Caballeros (TX Republic Ranch)
4th Saturday	Tejas Caballeros Wild Bunch
	(TX Republic Ranch)
4th Saturday (Cowboy) and 4th Sunday (Long Range)	Green Mountain Regulators (Marble Falls)

Photo Album























