

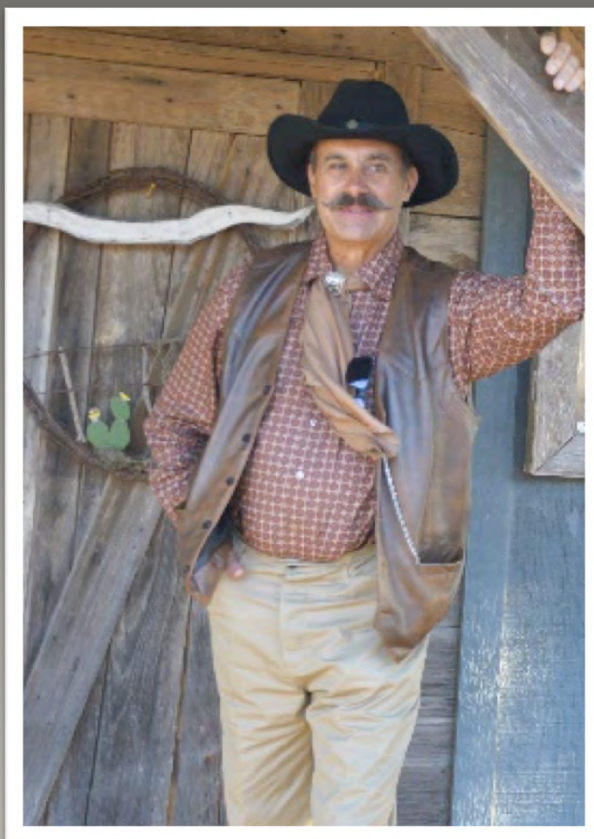
SASS Affiliated

JUNE 2026

TEXICAN RANGERS NEWSLETTER

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

PO Box 780301 • San Antonio, TX 78278



San Saba Slim
President

HOWDY FELLOW RANGERS!

Captain Hays & The Battle of Walker's Creek

John Coffee Hays (January 28, 1817 - April 21, 1883) was an American military officer. A captain in the Texas Rangers and a military officer of the Republic of Texas, Hays served in several armed conflicts from 1836 to 1848, including against the Comanche Empire in

Texas and during the Mexican-American War.

John Hays was born at Little Cedar Lick, Wilson County, Tennessee. His father, Harmon A. Hays, fought in the War of 1812, naming his son for a relative by marriage, Colonel John Coffee.

In 1836, at the age of 19, Hays migrated to the Republic of Texas. Sam Houston

OFFICERS

President

San Saba Slim

832-691-7998

lee@lawrence.net

Vice President

Sheriff Robert Love

210-215-9155

e.b.fite@gmail.com

Secretary

Shooting Iron Miller

210-416-3913

aimee.fite@gmail.com

Treasurer

Tombstone Mary

210-262-7464

maryn58@sbcglobal.net

Range Master

Fister Bo

210-542-6255

artyretire@yahoo.com

Co-Range Master

Doc Holloman

410-903-7795

docholloman56@gmail.com

Communications

Dutch Van Horn

210-823-6058

dvh@satx.rr.com

appointed him as a member of a company of Texas Rangers because he knew the Hays family from his Tennessee years. He met with Houston and delivered a letter of recommendation from then-President Andrew Jackson, his great uncle. Rachel Jackson was Hays' great aunt of the Donelson family, a relative of his mother.

During the 1840s, a war was fought between the budding Republic of Texas and the Comanche Nation, which was the latest war fought by the Comanche against Anglo-American and Hispanic settlers. Decades before the conflict, the Comanche waged war against the Mexican Government, which in turn forced the latter to entice Anglo-Americans to settle in Texas and create a buffer state. When the Anglo-Americans won a revolt against Mexico in the Texas Revolution, thus forming the Republic of Texas, the new country now came face-to-face with the Comanche.

In the following years, Hays led the Rangers on a campaign against the Comanche in Texas and was successful in significantly weakening their power. Captain Hays had made an alliance with another Indian tribe at war with the Comanche, the Lipan Apache, who were led by a Chief Flacco. Chief Flacco led the charge into every battle with Captain Hays. The duo led and inspired the Rangers. During his tenure with the Texas Rangers, Captain Hays became known to his men for his bold and often reckless style of combat.

Also in 1840, Tonkawa Chief Placido and 13 of his scouts joined with the Rangers to track down a large Comanche war party, culminating in yet another engagement at the equally famous Battle of Plum Creek. Subsequent to that, however, he would lead yet another group of Texas Rangers in a gunfight that became known as the Battle of Walker's Creek, fought on June 8, 1844, near Walker's Creek in present-day Kendall County, Texas. The conflict was one of the many skirmishes and battles during the Texas-Indian Wars.

This battle became one of the most celebrated battles involving the Texas Rangers, as well as a key moment that cemented the lethality of repeating firearms in frontier warfare. The event inspired the creation and evolution of the Colt Walker revolver.

On June 8, 1844, near Walker's Creek, a tributary of the Guadalupe River, while trailing a group of Comanche, Hays and his men came upon a war band of 75 warriors, camped on higher ground. Instead of charging uphill, the Rangers circled around the Comanche position before climbing up through an unseen position. The Rangers' sudden charge surprised the Comanche, but their numerical

superiority still forced the Rangers to retreat. The Comanches regrouped and pursued the Rangers for two miles.

The chase ended when the Rangers decided to occupy a tree grove, taking positions behind the wood. As the Comanches charged, the Rangers fired back. At that time, Hays' men were equipped with a surplus of new Colt Paterson revolvers, which they received from the Texas Navy. The repeating firearm allowed each Ranger to fire five shots without reloading, providing a significant tactical advantage. As the Comanches came in, the Rangers unleashed their revolvers and delivered multiple volleys, disrupting their attack and turning the tide of the battle. A few of the Comanche managed to break through, incurring casualties on the Rangers, but the ferocity of the revolvers still proved too much.

The Comanche halted their charge but positioned themselves nearby to prevent the Rangers' escape. Hays then decided to break the stalemate by sallying forth to the Comanche's position on horseback. A long-range rifle shot from Texas Ranger Robert Gillespie managed to kill a Comanche chief, finally forcing the war party to retreat.

Despite being outnumbered, the Rangers inflicted

heavy casualties. Around 20 to 30 Comanche warriors were killed, while the Rangers suffered only one fatality and a few wounded. The battle marked the importance of the use of revolvers and other repeating rifles against fast-moving Native Americans. One of Hays' men, Samuel Hamilton Walker, later refined the design of the firearm, leading to the Colt Walker revolver becoming the standard sidearm for the Rangers for many years.

During the battle, Samuel Walker was impaled and pinned to the ground by a Comanche war lance. He was rescued by his fellow Rangers and given aid, but not surprisingly, was never expected to survive. Evacuated via travois for many miles and suffering from severe infection, he did eventually recover fully, going on to fight as an officer in the Mexican-American war. He became instrumental in the future design and helped make improvements to the Colt Paterson revolver. Had he died, it could have changed the course of history, potentially affecting the success of Samuel Colt's firearms business, the evolution of revolvers, and the future of the Texas Rangers.

His survival is a powerful testament to the resilience and toughness of frontier Texans of the time.



**JOHN COFFEE
HAYS, circa 1857**

Sheriff Robert Love Vice President



Safe & Secure Firearms Insurance by Gun Owners for Gun Owners

by Keith Wood

From *GUNS & AMMO*, July 2026

NOT LONG AGO, I wrote on the topic of firearm insurance policies for *Guns & Ammo*. The feedback from that column was tremendous. Following that enthusiasm, I have since encountered a relatively new insurance option that I would like to introduce you to. Based in Texas, Safe & Secure (safeandsecureins.com) was founded by real gun owners and shooters to provide protection specifically for our community.

An estimated 200,000 to 400,000 firearms are stolen each year in the United States, which translates to roughly one gun theft every two minutes. Fire and other factors claim even more guns. Some heirlooms

can never be replaced, but insurance coverage can secure against most losses.

Traditional homeowner insurance policies provide small coverage limits on valuables, including firearms. If you are a serious collector, the small limits are laughable, especially for the information you typically have to disclose — quantity, make, model, serial number, etc. I don't know about you, but \$2,500 of coverage with a \$1,000 deductible doesn't go far toward restoring my gun collection. Adding additional coverage is usually expensive and requires comprehensive information concerning the firearms you own. Most of us feel uncomfortable about providing a stranger with a list of our firearms, much less serial numbers.

Safe & Secure offers coverage for everyone. You can be a casual gun owner who may only possess one gun, or you may be a collector with hundreds of museum-quality specimens. Safe & Secure's policies have no deductibles and I've found that its premiums are reasonably priced. Best of all, the company does not request firearm-specific information.

Safe & Secure offers straightforward coverage options that can be purchased within a few clicks on their website. Five thousand dollars in coverage costs \$70 per year, and \$10,000 of coverage costs \$100 annually. There are no fees, taxes or other add-ons. To get a quote on a large collection, I suggest sending an email to info@safeandsecureins.com.

Some of us already have coverage on our firearms, but research for this column led me to ask myself, "*What about accessories such as optics, ammunition and other related items?*" Ask your current insurance carrier and you may get a fuzzy response. Safe & Secure covers everything gun related — even a knife collection.

It isn't uncommon for me to ship several firearms per year for gunsmith work, finishing, or photography in support of an article. I've been told by common carriers that they won't pay insurance claims on custom firearms lost in transit, even though they'll happily collect the premiums. My current firearm insurer covers this type of loss, but only after the deductible is paid. Safe & Secure covers firearms when they're shipped without a deductible.

When we think of losses, theft and fire usually come to mind. Safe & Secure's policies cover all losses. Drop your \$3,000 thermal scope while coyote hunting at night? Lose an AR-15 during a tragic boat accident? Safe & Secure has you covered.

Per your requests, I've done my homework on Safe & Secure. It isn't some fly-by-night operation, but rather a product created by a well-established insurance firm and backed by an A-rated, publicly-traded property and casualty company. The firm is licensed to offer coverage in all 50 states, as well. The Safe & Secure leadership team is deeply rooted in the Second Amendment Community. They, too, are gun owners.

When my current policy is up for renewal, I intend to reevaluate my coverage and seek a quote from Safe & Secure for my growing collection. Most important to me is that they won't tell anyone what firearms I own or what they're worth — including my wife.

Shooting Iron Miller Secretary



Hello Rangers! We officially reached the first day of summer. It fell on a Sunday, June 21, and it hit us pretty hard. Thankfully the recent periodic rain showers did help to keep the grass a little greener, a little longer.

We're proud to share with you that the generous donation of the El Malo Revolvers for our Texas State Championship raffle helped raise **\$1,560**. That full amount was donated to **Bill Baker**, a local Hill Country resident and plumber who survived the 2025 flood but lost all his tools, three work vehicles, and suffered major home damage. Bill was deeply humbled and sincerely grateful for the support. Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible. Please see the Press Release and photo below from June 8, 2026.

After Mr. Baker received this initial donation, the Cowboy and Cowgirl who donated the revolvers, in turn wanted to match this donation! How

incredible is that? Last week Sheriff Robert Love met with Mr. Baker and presented him with a check for \$1560. He was deeply grateful for it and said it couldn't have come at a better time.

I can't think of a better way for the Texican Rangers to reflect the true cowboy spirit. Just one of the many reasons I'm proud to be part of this club, and to have come to know so many fine cowboys and cowgirls.

On a side note, please be sure to send in any nominations for officers by the end of June.

Center Point Masonic Lodge Presents Flood Relief Funds

The Rising Star Ranger Masonic Lodge in Center Point presented a \$1,560 donation in flood relief funds to area businessman Bill Baker, of Baker's Plumbing.

The donation was a true community effort, as the Masonic Lodge, in cooperation with Annie's Helping Hands, presented a gift card to The Home Depot on behalf of Texican Rangers Cowboy Action Shooting Club.

Baker lost his home and business in the July 4, 2025 flooding disaster. The loss included all of his tools, inventory and more.

Baker's Plumbing has been assisting area nonprofits to rebuild the communities along the river while neglecting his own needs. "This community spirit is recognized and appreciated by those of us who know Bill," said John Lehman.

Masonic Lodges in Kerr County have collected and redistributed over \$40,000 in aid to Kerr County residents.

Masonic fundraisers, such as car shows, prize drawings and fish fry events are used to collect money used for high school student scholarships.



John Tittle, left, of the Rising Star Ranger Masonic Lodge, and Robbie Petitfils, center, of Annie's Helping Hands, present Bill Baker of Baker's Plumbing with a gift card to help him recover from business tools and inventory lost during the July 4, 2025, flood disaster. — *Courtesy photo*

Last Guns of Wild Bill Hickok

By Dutch Van Horn



Everyone knows Wild Bill Hickok was one of the greatest gunmen of the American West. He was the “Prince of Pistoleers” and one of the most exciting Americans ever to carry a firearm. Hickok’s advice about shooting: *“Whenever you get into a row, be sure not to shoot too quick. Take time. I’ve known many a feller to slip up for shootin’ in a hurry.”* He didn’t believe in shooting people in the back or unnecessarily: *“I never killed one man without good cause.”* Few men embody the brazen spirit of the frontier like James Butler “Wild Bill” Hickok. Back when Hickok was a lawman in Abilene, Kansas, it’s reported that he spent most of his time at the poker table. Like many of the romantic personalities of the Wild West, Hickok’s life (and legacy) is clouded by half-truths and fairy tales.

The truth is that Hickok was a professional

gambler who liked to stack his tall tales alongside his chips. He had plenty of genuine escapades, but he loved to embellish. Even respected newspaper reporter Henry M. Stanley took the bait. He once wrote that Wild Bill “is endowed with extraordinary power and agility. He seems naturally fitted to perform daring actions.” As for his appearance, *Harper’s Monthly* (February 1867) described him: *“6’2”, long flowing hair, chest like a barrel, thin waist adorned by twin Colts, graceful, dignified bearing...”* Hickok’s choice of guns? His former commanding officer, General George Armstrong Custer, said: *“Wild Bill always carried two handsome ivory-handled revolvers... he was never seen without them.”*

Yes, his favorite gun was the Colt .36-caliber, six-shot, 1851 Navy revolver. They had ivory grips and silver plating and were ornately engraved with “J.B. Hickok–1869” on the backstrap. He wore his revolvers butt-forward in a belt or sash (when wearing city clothes or buckskins, respectively), and seldom used holsters *per se*; he drew the pistols using a “reverse twist” or cavalry draw, as would a cavalryman.

The 1851 Colt’s smoothness of operation, terrific balance and natural aiming quality were never equaled in its time. Even after cartridge revolvers came along, many gunslingers continued to prefer the Colt Model 1851, and many experts consider it to be the most famous handgun ever made. It was the most popular firearm of its day among military men, peace officers and civilians.

On March 5, 1876, Hickok married Agnes Thatcher Lake, a 50-year-old circus proprietor in Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory. Hickok left his new



bride a few months later, joining Charlie Utter's wagon train to seek his fortune in the gold fields of South Dakota. He sold his famous 1851 Colts to pay for the trip and he switched from cap and ball to metallic cartridges.

So, on the way to Deadwood Wild Bill carried an 1860 Colt Richards Type II conversion revolver. This was his trail gun. The caliber was .44

Colt and the loading lever was replaced by an ejector rod. This conversion added a breechplate with a firing pin and a rear sight mounted on the breechplate. Colt manufactured 9000 of these revolvers between 1873 and 1878. They typically sold for about \$12.00 at that time.

At the time of his death Hickok was reported as wearing a Smith & Wesson Model 2 Army Revolver. It was a five-shot single-action .32 rimfire with a six-inch barrel, blued finish, and varnished rosewood grips. Bill may have first encountered this type pistol during



the Civil War. Many of Bill's Union Army counterparts would carry this gun as their back up. It is possible that Bill had acquired his Smith & Wesson during the war and carried it as a backup gun. The gun is expected to fetch up to \$500,000 at an upcoming auction.



The Worst Gun Handler in Westerns

By Dutch Van Horn

Actors Glenn Ford, Ernest Borgnine, Jock Mahoney and Clint Eastwood were reported to be the fastest and best gun handlers in movies and TV shows of the 1950s and 1960s. The question is who was the worst?

When you make a Western and the character is supposed to be really good at handling guns, do you use a really good gun handler or a really good actor? What would Hollywood do if they had a really good actor who couldn't shoot a Single Action Colt fast? Why they would cheat.



This gun was used in Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, Hombre, and The Long Riders. The

Actor would be pictured with a Single Action Colt and then when they needed to use the gun in a gunfight and shoot fast, it was substituted. Let me show you some examples:

The Long Riders was a retelling of the James-Younger outlaw legend. In the casting, the James, Younger, Miller, and Ford Brothers are played by a string of acting brothers, the Keaches, the Carradines, the Quaid and the Guests. The film begins as the outlaws are robbing a bank. After the robbery, Ed Miller (Dennis Quaid) finds himself kicked out of the gang for needlessly killing a man during the robbery. Jesse James (James Keach) hands over Ed's share of the money and tells him to leave, a feeling held mutually by Ed's brother Clell (Randy Quaid). After the killing the gang decides to split up for a while. The James boys return to their wives and farms, while Cole Younger (David Carradine) travels to Texas with his prostitute girlfriend Belle Starr (Pamela Reed). After the brief respite, the gang reunites to rob a well-stocked bank in Northfield, Minnesota. The robbery turns out disastrously, with most of the gang either wounded or dying. The James boys are the only ones not seriously hurt and they leave the rest of the gang behind, escaping while they can. After the James boys leave, the remnants of the gang are captured. But trailing the Jameses is a relentless posse. Frank and Jesse manage to keep one step ahead until the Ford brothers (Christopher Guest and Nicholas Guest) make a deal with the Pinkerton



detectives trailing the outlaws.

The movie made an effort to use more realistic guns than your average Western, but then the problem came up about an actor having to use a



Single Action gun to shoot and not being up to the task. Notice above where Ed Miller (Dennis Quaid) aims his revolver at the civilians. Note the fake extractor on the barrel.

So, who was the worst? I would have to say Paul Newman. Now you can love the guns and have a really nice collection. You can have all the gun coaches in the world and still not be a fast shot with a single action revolver.

Paul Newman made eight western-themed movies: *The Left Handed Gun*, 1958; *Hud*, 1963; *The Outrage*, 1964; *Hombre*, 1967; *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, 1969; *Pocket Money*, 1973; *The Life and Times of*

Judge Roy Bean 1973; and *Buffalo Bill and the Indians*, 1976.

He was a great actor who would be seen with a Single Action Colt in his holster, but when the time came for the shootout, Hollywood magic switched it out for a modern double action revolver.



Here is the final shootout from *Hombre*. Paul would wave his hand above the revolver to look like he was fanning and then just pull the trigger.



Same thing for *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*.

What Role Did the Expense of Ammunition Play in How Often Gunslingers Practiced Shooting in the Old West?

Recommended by Deadlast

In Hollywood, Old West cowboys constantly blast away at tin cans. But with a box of bullets costing an entire day's pay, only professional gunslingers could afford to practice.

In the 1870s and 1880s, a box of 50 centerfire cartridges — such as the popular .45 Colt or .44-40 Winchester — ran between \$1.00 and \$1.50. Since a working ranch hand earned about \$30 a month plus room and board, burning through a box for a few minutes of practice was an economic impossibility. Ammunition was treated as a precious commodity and used sparingly.

Cost was not the only deterrent to recreational

shooting. Until smokeless powder became standard in the late 1890s, cartridges were loaded with black powder, which is corrosive and leaves a thick layer of fouling inside the barrel and cylinder. Firing a revolver meant spending the next hour cleaning it with hot soapy water. Most frontiersmen simply preferred to keep their guns clean and loaded rather than deal with the logistical headache of regular target practice.

The famous “gunslingers” of frontier lore were the exception. Professional gunmen, gamblers, and lawmen had both the disposable income to afford ammunition and the professional necessity to stay sharp. Men like Wyatt Earp and James Butler Hickok did practice, often daily. Hickok reportedly fired his revolvers every morning to empty them. This served a dual purpose: it kept his aim deadly, and it allowed him to reload with fresh loads. Early black powder ammunition was prone to absorbing moisture and misfiring, so firing and replacing his ammo daily was the only way Hickok could guarantee his guns would fire when his life depended on it.

IMAGES FROM JUNE 2026















BIG Chief WAHOO

by SAUNDERS and WOGGON



Indian SLANGO

PARACHUTE

TEEPEE-GONE WITH-UM-WIND

BABY KANGAROO

PAPOOSE-RIDE-UM-BACKWARDS!



Indian Slang

DUCK
CHICKEN-ON-SNOWSHOES

BASKETBALL GAME
THROW-UM-PUMPKIN-THROUGH-PEACH-BASKET

Parting Shots

1. He couldn't hit a bull's rump with a handful of banjos.
2. He was as drunk as a fiddler's clerk.
3. She's as nervous as a long-tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs.
4. He'd been in the desert so long, he knew all the lizards by their first names.
5. He ain't fit to shoot at when you want to unload and clean yo' gun.
6. His mustache smelled like a mildewed saddle blanket after it had been rid on a soreback hoss three hundred miles in August.
7. It was so dry the bushes followed the dogs around.
8. He's as dead as a can of corned beef.
9. He's as welcome as a rattlesnake at a square dance.
10. This saloon's so bad, a rattlesnake'd be ashamed to meet his mother.
11. He lasted as long as a pint of whiskey in a five-handed poker game.
12. She's as pretty as a speckled pup.
13. He is as poor as a church mouse.
14. He's as rich as possum gravy.
15. Never approach a bull from the front, a horse from the rear, or a fool from any direction.
16. When you're explaining, you're losing.
17. Don't squat with your spurs on.
18. Ride for the brand.
19. Don't judge a man until you've walked two moons in his moccasins.
20. The quickest way to double your money is to fold it over and put it back in your pocket.
21. Speak your mind, but ride a fast horse.
22. A man's got to do what a man's got to do.
23. The best sermons are lived, not preached.
24. Take pride in your scars.
25. Every trail has some puddles.
26. Never miss a chance to rest your horse.
27. You can't tell how good a man or a watermelon is until they get thumped.
28. Don't let your yearnings get ahead of your earnings.
29. Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance.
30. You can't unsay a cruel word.
31. I'm not just good at sleeping, I'm great at it — I could do it with my eyes closed!
32. Red, white, and blue are the only colors that matter, of course!
33. Stars and stripes forever, but my appetite for BBQ? Even longer.
34. What's the best kind of tea to drink on July 4th? Liber-tea!
35. What did one flag say to the other flag? Nothing. It just waved!
36. The only thing we have to fear is fear itself... and maybe running out of BBQ sauce.
37. Why did the picture go to jail? It was framed.



June Birthdays

Samuel Smith — 6/3
 Circuit Judge — 6/3
 La Sombra — 6/6
 T.H. Boland — 6/8
 Mad Dog McCoy — 6/19
 Skinny — 6/21
 Doc Holloman — 6/25
 Colorado Horseshoe — 6/27

July Birthdays

Sheriff Robert Love — 7/10
 July Smith — 7/10
 Dirty Dog Dale — 7/11
 Kincade — 7/17
 Bisbee Jackson — 7/25
 Little Bit Sassy — 7/31

August Birthdays

Crooked Creek Sam — 8/09
 Moose McCoy — 8/09
 Yakima Jim Tombaugh — 8/20
 Scooter — 8/27
 Farr Ranger — 8/28
 Harmony Bell — 8/29
 Llano Leadslinger — 8/29

Texican 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



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 11.01.25

Caliber	Weight	Config.	Price/500	Price/1000
.38	100	RNFP	44	88
	105	FP	45	90
	125	RNFP	54	108
	125	FP	54	108
	130	RNFP	55	110
	158	RNFP	67	134
	158	FP	67	134
	158	SWC	67	134
.380	100	RNFP	44	88
.38-55	245	RNFP	104	208
.41	215	SWC	91	182
.44	180	RNFP	76	152
	240	SWC	102	204
.44-40	200	RNFP	85	170
.45 COLT	160	RNFP	76	153
	180	RNFP	76	153
	200	RNFP	85	170
	250	RNFP	106	212
9MM	124	RN	53	106
	125	CN	53	106
40 S&W	180	FP	76	153
.45ACP	200	SWC	85	170
	200	RN	85	170
	230	RN	98	196
45-70	405	FPT	90 (250)	360 (1K)
COATED 10.00 PLUS 1000 pes.			180 (500)	