



# *The Texas Star*



## *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  
March 2020

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### **Hello Texican Rangers**



Comancheria Days new match dates are 3 to 6 September 2020. If you are registered and have not received a refund, we will sign you up for the September date. If this date does not work for you, please send an email to [Texicanrangers@yahoo.com](mailto:Texicanrangers@yahoo.com) and we will send you a refund.

We had a great turnout for March 71 shooters which included 13 guests on Saturday and 25 shooters which included 4 guests on Sunday. There were 26 total clean matches Saturday and Sunday.

NEXT SHOOT: May 9th & 10th.

The Texican Ranger Board has voted to cancel the Saturday April 11th shoot. There is no shoot scheduled for Sunday April 12, Easter.

Hopefully all of the Coronavirus issues will be resolved and the shoots May 9th & 10th will go on as scheduled. The workday for the May Shoot will be on May 5th.

The range looks great! The workdays this year have really paid off! Range projects completed include painting, building new shooting tables, bracing tables and adding 9 new splatter screens. Also, dead trees and brush have been removed. All of this is accomplished because of all of our workday volunteers.

Happy Easter – Be healthy and safe!

Good shooting.

A.D.

President

## **The Colt Bisley Revolver**

### **By Dutch Van Horn/Regulator 51153**



The Colt Bisley was introduced in 1894 as a target pistol. The name Bisley came from the famous firing range in Bisley, England. The Colt Bisley can be distinguished by the longer grip, the wider hammer spur, and the wider trigger. The distinguishing feature of the Bisley Target Model is the topstrap, which is flat and fitted with a sliding rear sight, adjustable for windage only. The front sight is a removable blade, which fits into the slotted base attached to the barrel. The revolvers were supplied with different blades for elevation.

The Bisley mainspring is longer than the SAA mainspring, and the two are not interchangeable; it is attached to the hammer with a stirrup via a forked upper end. The serial numbers are stamped on the frame, the backstrap and the trigger-guard at the end of production, with tiny dies.

The most common calibers were .32-20, .38-40, .45 Colt, .44-40, .41 Colt, and the British calibers .450 Eley and .455 Eley. Although designed as a target model, most Bisley Standard Model Revolvers shipped to a United States address were not used for target shooting, but for self-defense, because the grip and hammer were ideal for fast shooting, hence the reason that the Bisley style revolvers are popular with Cowboy Action shooters today.

Surveys of existing Bisley show that a much larger number of 4 3/4" Bisleys, perhaps as high as 62%, have survived as compared to the 5 1/2" and 7 1/2" barreled guns. Considering the majority of Bisleys were made in .32/20 and .38/40, some 60%, it appears that the market for SAAs was changing. The late 1890s with increased urbanization in the West suggests the possibility that many of these pistols were companions to the lever action rifles of the same period and that the low slung hammer, less humped backstrap, and short barrel may have suited the city dwelling suit-coat-wearing clientele who still found themselves outdoors not only on horses but in buggies and automobiles. The need for man-stopping bullets was decreasing in urbanized environments, although in semi-urban areas, a pistol like the Bisley would be suitable for discouraging both four legged and two legged "varmint" while also suitable for collecting supper along the road. The Bisley may mark a movement to a more civilized West.



## What was the most unusual way to carry a pistol in the Old West?

By Dutch Van Horn/Regulator 51153



For well over a century now a caricature of a cowboy dressed in batwing or woolly chaps, boots, Stetson and holstered six-gun slung low on the hip has been the stereotypical, symbolic, worldwide image of the United States. But in reality, a low-slung holster and belt were innovations most 19th-century working cowboys didn't wear.

What did the cowboys wear and what was the most unusual way to carry a pistol in the old west?

The history of the development of Old West gun leather has to be related in generalizations, because there were probably more than a few saddle makers and pistol-carrying wanderers and soldiers who dreamed up their own versions of holsters and gun belts before any of the popular styles became commonplace. Prior to Sam Colt's 1830s development of the first dependable cap-and-ball revolver, the smaller single-shot flintlock and cap-and-ball pistols were usually stuck into a coat, vest or pants pocket, or the larger pistols were stuck into the waistband of the pants. Some pistols had a slender L-shaped hook on the left side of them to hook over the top of the pants or belt for carrying the gun. And the first "holsters" were nothing more than a piece of leather rolled and stitched into a "socket" shape through which to thrust the single-shot pistol for carrying on a belt.



The first holsters as we think of them today were a pair of leather pouches stitched on the opposite ends of a piece of leather, so that the holsters could be slung over the pommel of a saddle, with one holstered gun hanging on each side of the saddle. Somewhere along the way, the U.S. Army decided to put flaps on these holsters to better protect the pistols from water and dust. A few of these double flap holsters, known as "pommel holsters," were even made for the giant-sized Walker Model Colt revolvers used during the Mexican War of 1847.

Walker's Colts were known as Horse Pistols because the holster went on the horse and not the man.

The pommel holsters evolved into single holsters worn on the belt. Many of these early flap holsters appear to be "left handed" holsters, because when the holster is put on the belt it has to be worn on the left side in order for the butt of the pistol to point to the rear. But these holsters were actually designed to be worn on the right side, with the pistol butt facing forward, so that a soldier on horseback could cross-draw his pistol with his left hand and leave his right hand free to wield his saber. Many Army veterans continued to wear their civilian guns this way, with and without flaps, on the Western frontier, starting in the 1850s.





The 1850s also saw the evolution of the “California Slim Jim” holster. Instead of the pouch shape of the military holsters that pistols fit into loosely, the Slim Jim was a form-fitted sleeve that the revolver slipped into like a glove. And there was a loop stitched onto the back of the holster for the belt to go through. The Slim Jims were made with or without flaps, and they were often carved with elaborate floral designs, making them a fashionable piece of apparel in the traditional Spanish colonial style.

It is uncertain who first thought up the idea of what became the traditional “cowboy” holster, commonly referred to as the Mexican Loop or El Paso Loop holster. It was cut out of one piece of leather, shaped so that one half of the leather folded over like a sandwich, with the open bottom edge and the contoured open side edges stitched closed to form the pouch for the gun. The other half of the leather was folded down behind the full length of the pouch to make the “skirt.” From two to six slits were then cut horizontally through the middle of this skirt, forming one, two or three straps that the pouch was inserted down through to form the finished holster. And the fold at the top of the holster formed a loop for a belt to go through, so that the holster hung on the belt, not below it.

At first, the top of the outer side of the Mexican Loop holster was so high that it was nothing more than a pocket for the pistol to fall into. But over the years, the top side of the holster was cut down further and further until all of the handle of the gun and part of the trigger guard were exposed so that the gun could be gripped faster and pulled from the holster faster. Yes, some individuals probably created their own fast-draw holsters during this time, and perhaps some even tied down their holsters with a rawhide thong around their thighs so that the holster wouldn’t ride up the leg on a fast draw. But otherwise, and contrary to movie myth, these Mexican Loop holsters that were usually worn high on the hip into the 20th century were not fast-draw holsters, and the so-called Hollywood fast-draw holsters of the 1950s movie boom simply did not exist in the 1800s.

At first, holsters were worn on any type of belt. And even in the early days of the Mexican Loop holster, the style and design of a belt seldom matched the holster. It wasn’t until after the Civil War when cartridge revolvers began to replace cap-and-ball pistols that saddle makers began to sew cartridge loops onto the sides of the belts for the gun-wearer to carry extra cartridges where they were easy to get to, and the authentic “gun leather rig” of the shoot-’em-up days of the Old West was finally born.



For Wild West shows, promoters started gussying up the star performer’s gun leather with hand-tooled floral decorations, nickel-silver conchos, or dime-sized nickel-silver “spots” to identify the star from the other performers. And when silent Western movies also got popular, spotted holster rigs started showing up on the bad guys as well as the good guys.



The Bridgeport rig was patented in 1882 by Louis S. Flatau, sheriff of Camp County, Texas. Flatau envisioned mounting the item on a belt or a saddle. A modified hammer screw with a large head that protruded 3/4" from the frame would be installed on the Colt. This screw head would be inserted into the rig and held in place via a strip of spring steel that was attached to the gun belt via rivets. The shooter could rotate the revolver upward to fire without removing it from his belt if needed. These were fabricated by the Bridgeport Gun Implement Company of Bridgeport, Connecticut.



While the Flatau device was dismissed in military circles, it did enjoy limited acceptance among some frontier civilians, particularly peace officers and other professional gunmen who appreciated its speed of access. A common complaint was that the screw was easily damaged, and it failed to protect the revolver from the elements.

Period photographs and scattered references indicate that the Bridgeport rig was used by some lawmen into the early 20th century. Elmer Keith wore a Bridgeport rig as did James B. Gillett when he was Marshall of El Paso, Texas in the 1880s; it is sometimes referred to as the "Gillett rig" for this reason.

The Bridgeport was by far the most unusual way to carry your pistol in the old west.

## Pandemics in the Old West

By Dutch Van Horn/Regulator 51153



Pandemics are nothing new. They had their share in the old west that killed hundreds of thousands. The two most notable pandemics of the western expansion period were scarlet fever and cholera.

Let's start with cholera. The United States had three serious waves of cholera, an infection of the intestine, between 1832 and 1866. The pandemic began in India, and swiftly spread across the globe through trade routes. New York City was usually the first city to feel the impact.

Willhelm Kollé, a German scientist, developed the first cholera vaccine in 1896. It's unclear what ended the pandemics, but it may have been the change in climate or quarantines. The last documented outbreak in the United States was in 1911. Immediate cholera treatment is crucial, as it can cause death. Treatment includes antibiotics, zinc supplementation, and rehydration.

Scarlet fever is a bacterial infection that can occur after strep throat. Like cholera, scarlet fever epidemics also came in waves. During the 1858 epidemic, 95 percent of people who caught the virus were children.



Older studies argue that scarlet fever declined due to improved nutrition, but research shows that improvements in public health were more likely the cause.

There is no vaccine to prevent scarlet fever. It's important for those with strep throat symptoms to seek treatment as quickly as possible. Your doctor will typically treat strep throat or scarlet fever with antibiotics.

People in the old west survived these Pandemics and they did so without the aid of Amazon or HEB delivery.

## **Tombstone Mary, Secretary Regulator/Life #19524**



We decided to do something different this year and shoot 6 stages January, February and March. In order to make the annual awards consistent we will remove one stage each match and calculate your scores on 5 stages. Here is a list of the stages that will be removed:

- January Saturday match – Stage 6
- January Sunday match – Stage 5
- February Saturday match – Stage 4
- February Sunday match – Stage 3
- March Saturday match – Stage 2
- March Sunday match – Stage 1

Dues were due January 1, 2020. If you have not paid your dues you will not remain active on our email list.

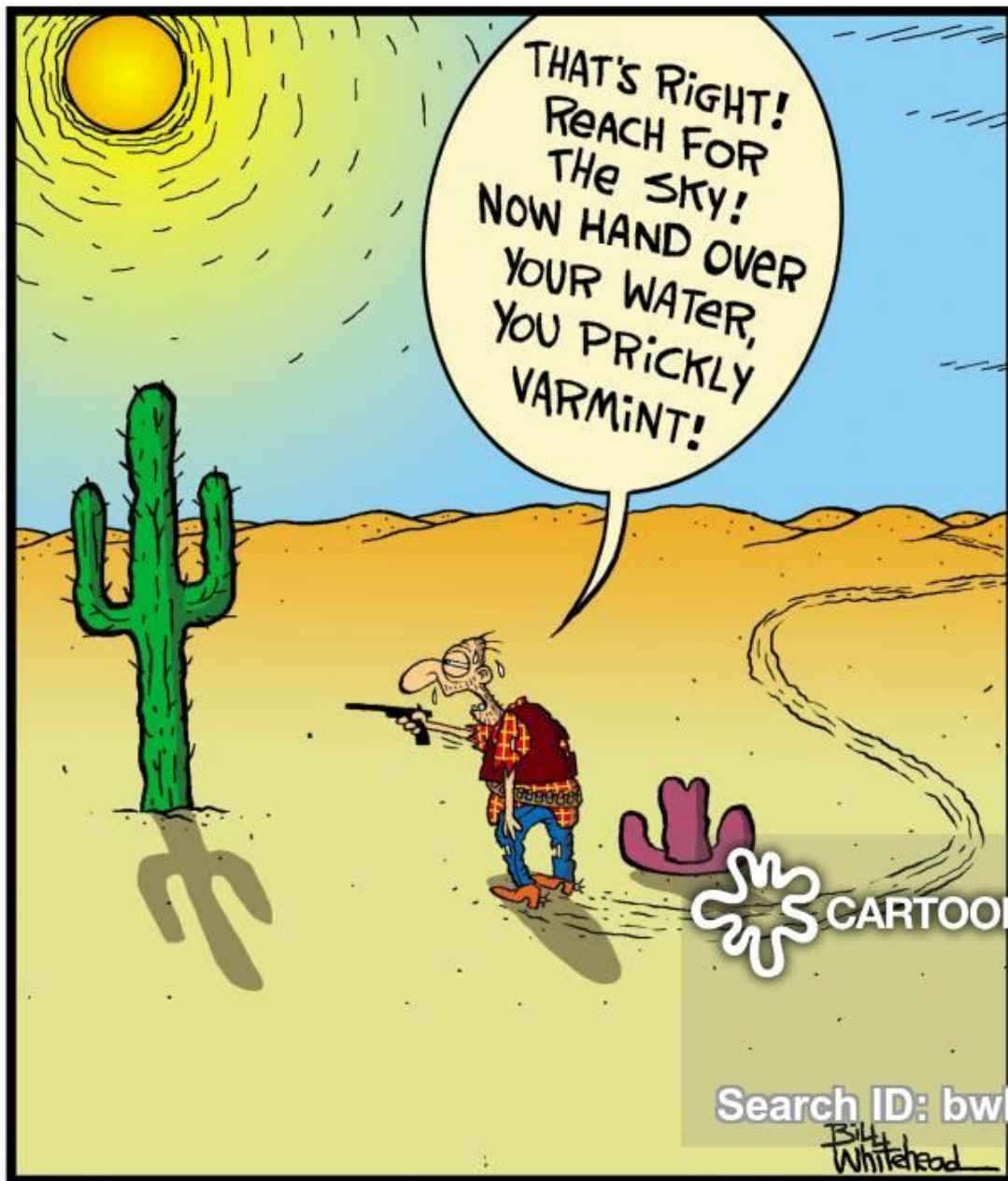
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at:

[Texicanrangers@yahoo.com](mailto:Texicanrangers@yahoo.com)

Secretary

Tombstone Mary





CARTOONSTOCK

Search ID: bwhtn1658

# 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 03.07.19**

<b>Caliber</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Config.</b>	<b>Price/500</b>	<b>Price/1000</b>
<b>.38</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>RNFP</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>68</b>
	<b>105</b>	<b>FP</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>70</b>
	<b>125</b>	<b>RNFP</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>76</b>
	<b>125</b>	<b>FP</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>76</b>
	<b>130</b>	<b>RNFP</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>78</b>
	<b>158</b>	<b>RNFP</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>83</b>
	<b>158</b>	<b>FP</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>83</b>
	<b>158</b>	<b>SWC</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>.380</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>RNFP</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>.38-55</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>RNFP</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>.41</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>SWC</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>108</b>
<b>.44</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>RNFP</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>89</b>
	<b>240</b>	<b>SWC</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>114</b>
<b>.44-40</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>RNFP</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>.45 COLT</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>RNFP</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>98</b>
	<b>180</b>	<b>RNFP</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>89</b>
	<b>200</b>	<b>RNFP</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>98</b>
	<b>250</b>	<b>RNFP</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>116</b>
<b>9MM</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>RN</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>76</b>
	<b>125</b>	<b>CN</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>40 S&amp;W</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>FP</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>.45ACP</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>SWC</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>98</b>
	<b>200</b>	<b>RN</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>98</b>
	<b>230</b>	<b>RN</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>45-70</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>FPT</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>240</b>



## **Parting Shots**

### **Words and Phrases, You Didn't Know Had Military Origins**

1. Lock, stock, and barrel: The three main components on a musket.
2. Decimation: Roman army punishment. You line all your prisoners up and kill every 10th one.
3. The whole nine yards: The length of the machine gun bullet belt on the B-17 bombers.
4. Baptism of Fire: A soldier's first experience of battle.
5. I Heard It Through the Grapevine: This is how Civil War soldiers referred to getting news that was transmitted via telegraph.
6. Face the Music: When a disgraced soldier was relieved of his duties, had to make his final march accompanied by the drum cadence of his old unit, also called "drumming out."
7. Deadline: A line at the prison camp which was about 17 feet away from the stockade wall that no POW could cross, or else he would be presumed an escapee and
8. Murphy's Law: Capt. Edward A. Murphy, an Air Force engineer, said this after a failed test.
9. Blockbuster: The name for a 4,000-pound bomb. It could literally take out a city block.
10. Hot Shot: The use of heated cannonballs in the Civil War. It was made to set fires.
11. Slush Fund & Skimming off the Top: In the British Navy the cook would sell the salty fat, slush, that he skimmed off the top from boiling pots of meat to sell to soap makers. The money collected would be put into the "slush fund" and used for amenities such as rum and finer foods for the crew.
12. Run Amok: A Malaysia warrior class called the Amuco that that fallen fighters were favored by the gods, whereas those who lost a battle and survived were punished with dishonor and death.
13. Bite the bullet: This is what Civil War soldiers did when receiving medical attention without anesthetics. Used to keep quiet.
14. Boots on the ground: Ground troops engaged in an operation.
15. Bought the farm: A military colloquialism meaning to die. First used by Air Force Test Pilots.
16. Caught a lot of flak: Flak is an acronym for German air defense cannons. Airmen in World War II would have to fly through dangerous clouds of shrapnel created by flak. The phrase progressed in meaning until it became equated with abusive criticism.
17. Geronimo: Paratroopers with the original test platoon at Fort Benning, Georgia yelled the name of the famous Native American chief on their first mass jump. The exclamation became part of airborne culture and the battalion adopted it as their motto.
18. Got your six: Military members commonly describe direction using the hours of a clock. Whichever direction the vehicle, unit, or individual is moving is the 12 o'clock position, so the six o'clock position is to the rear. "Got your six" and the related "watch your six" come from service members telling each other that their rear is covered or that they need to watch out for an enemy attacking from behind.

## Texican Rangers Regulators

Tombstone Mary	2003
A.D. Texaz	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



### March Birthdays

Dodge City Mike	3/17
Tombstone Mary	3/17
Will Tinker	3/19
Marshall Brooks	3/22
Maverick McCoy	3/29
Hopalong Herbert	3/31

### April Birthdays

Bama Sue	4/2
Handlebar Bob	4/6
Engin Wrangler	4/17
Frank Longshot	4/17
Madam Ella Moon	4/18
Pepper Jacq	4/23
Wild Bill McMasters	4/28
Eaton Crowe	4/30



### Key Links

[www.sassnet.com](http://www.sassnet.com)  
[www.texicanrangers.org](http://www.texicanrangers.org)  
[www.greenmountainregulators.org](http://www.greenmountainregulators.org)  
[www.pccss.org](http://www.pccss.org)  
[www.stxpistolaros.com](http://www.stxpistolaros.com)  
[www.tejascaballeros.org](http://www.tejascaballeros.org)  
[www.darbyroughregulators.com](http://www.darbyroughregulators.com)  
[www.trpistolaros.com](http://www.trpistolaros.com)  
[www.texasjacks.com](http://www.texasjacks.com)  
[www.cimarron-firearms.com](http://www.cimarron-firearms.com)  
[www.tsra.com](http://www.tsra.com)  
[www.wildwestmercantile.com](http://www.wildwestmercantile.com)

## **TEXICAN RANGERS**

**2020**

January 11	Monthly Match
January 12	Monthly Match
February 8	Monthly Match
February 9	Monthly Match
March 14	Monthly Match
March 15	Monthly Match
May 9	Monthly Match
May 10	Monthly Match
June 13	Monthly Match
June 14	Monthly Match
July 11	Monthly Match
July 12	Monthly Match
August 8	Monthly Match
August 9	Monthly Match
August 29-31	TSRA TX State Championship
September 3 – 5	Comancheria Days
September 12	Shindig
September 13	Monthly Match
October 10	Monthly Match & Final Tear Down
November/December	Range Closed

## **CENTRAL TEXAS MONTHLY CLUB SHOOTING SCHEDULES**

1st Saturday	Plum Creek (Lockhart)
1st Saturday	South Texas Pistoleros (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 (Cowboy) and 4th Sunday (Long Range)	Green Mountain Regulators (Marble Falls)



Feb 24-Mar 1  
Mar 14-15  
April 22-25  
May 30

June 18-28  
Sep 3-5  
Sep 23-26  
Oct 24-25

2020  
Winter Range  
Round Up  
SASS Southwest Regional Land Run  
SASS Texas State Wild Bunch  
Championship  
End of Trail  
Comancheria Days  
Comin' At Cha  
SASS Texas State Black Powder  
Championship





## Photo Album

























