

# *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 2023

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## **Hello Rangers**



Hello all! It was really good to see so many folks come out to shoot at Stieler Ranch for our Saturday, March 11th, shoot. The weather was fantastic for shooting. I hope everyone had a good time.

We had 58 shooters attend our match. This was an awesome turnout. Thanks so much for supporting us.

We had 13 shoot the match clean. They were Alamo Andy, Bama Sue, Bisbee Jackson, Crazy Clyde, Dutch Van Horn, Fister Bo, Marshall Brooks, Maverick McCoy, Newt Ritter, Plumb Roostered, Scooter Cattle, Skyhawk Hans, and T Bone Paul.

Our Top Cowboy and Overall Winner was Brazos Bo and our Top Cowgirl was Panhandle Cowgirl. Congratulations to all!

We had several guest shooters join us - Joe Darter, Sunny Spurs, Whopper, Mia Jameson, Rusty Shackleford, Sixgun Sirr, Tha Kid and Lightning McQueen. We also welcomed Roamin' Shields, Tequila Jane, Slim Concho Kid and Whopper. It was great having all of you with us.

On Sunday March 12th we had 24 cowboys and cowgirls who joined us at the range. The weather also was perfect. We had 9 clean match shooters. They were Bessie James, Captain George Baylor, Colorado Horseshoe, Dirty Dog Dale, Marshall Brooks, Newt Ritter, Skyhawk Hans, Slim Concho Jim, and Tequila Jane. Our Top Cowgirl and Overall Winner was Panhandle Cowgirl, and our Top Cowboy Skyhawk Hans. Congratulations to each of you!

We have several work days to get ready for Comacheria Days. It will be here before you know it.  
Alamo Andy  
President Texican Rangers

## **Why Was Black Bart Such a Successful Highwayman? By Dutch Van Horn/Regulator 51153**



By the mid-1850s, stagecoaches and Wells Fargo wagons transported much of the huge output of gold from California. Often traveling in isolated areas, the Wells Fargo wagons and stagecoaches quickly became favorite targets for bandits; over the course of about 15 years the company lost more than \$415,000 in gold to outlaw robbers.

One of the most unique robbers was a Civil War veteran and a gentleman know as Black Bart.

Black Bart was born Charles E. Boles, probably in the state of New York around 1830. As a young man, he abandoned his family for the gold fields of California, but he failed to strike it rich as a miner and turned to a life of crime.

It is believed he took his alias from an adventure story published in the Sacramento Union. "The Case of Summerfield" was published by American author William Henry Rhodes under a pseudonym in the early 1870s. The villain of that story is a stagecoach robber named Black Bartholomew.

What made Black Bart so unique? Well he was afraid of horses for one thing. He would take some form of public transportation to get him close to his chosen spot for the robbery. He would walk the rest of the way carrying a knapsack with his tools of the trade in the bag. He always stopped the stage at the top of a hill with plenty of brush to hide in. The horses had to slow down while going uphill and it gave him a chance to surprise and stop the stage. He became known as a gentleman due to his polite demeanor, his lack of cursing, and the way he dressed. Lastly he is famous for never firing a weapon.

During one robbery, Black Bart reportedly told one of the guards to hold on to his hat. Otherwise, "Some buckshot might blow it off, along with some hair and skull." However, the same guard also said that Black Bart liked the gun he was carrying. And when the man handed it over, Boles happily paid him \$50 for it on the spot. Boles was also unfailingly polite to women and allegedly refused to take anything from them during holdups.

It is believed that Boles committed his first stagecoach robbery in July 1875. Wearing a flour sack over his head with holes cut for his eyes and a fancy gentleman's black derby, he intercepted a stage near the California mining city of Copperopolis. When guards spotted gun barrels sticking out of nearby bushes, they handed over

their strong box to Boles. He cracked open the box with an axe and escaped on foot with the gold, though his “gang” of camouflaged gunmen stayed behind. When the guards returned to pick up the box, they discovered that the “rifle barrels” were just sticks tied to branches.

Heartened by this easy success, Black Bart embarked on a series of stagecoach robberies, 28 in all.

Why did it take so long to catch him? Well, a Posse of Lawmen would attempt to find the bandit after the robberies. They in fact on numerous occasions, rode by a gentleman in a black derby with a knapsack walking in the area of the holdup. The man would wave at the posse to stop them, then tell them in what direction he had seen the bandit riding away. It never occurred to the Posse that the highwayman would not ride away.

On his last robbery he went back to the location of his first robbery. Maybe that jinxed it for him. The last stage fired on him. He was hit in the hand and was in such a hurry to get away that he dropped his hat and a handkerchief. The problem was that the handkerchief had a laundry mark. Detectives hired by Wells Fargo went to 68 laundries before they found out the handkerchief was owned by Charles Boles.

Arrested and tried, Boles pleaded guilty and received a sentence of six years in San Quentin prison. He got out in four years for good behavior. No one knows for certain what happened to him after prison but one story goes that Wells Fargo negotiated with him and that they then payed him to not rob their stage coaches.

## Civil War Facts

### By Dutch Van Horn/Regulator 51153



The Civil War profoundly shaped the United States as we know it today. Nevertheless, the war remains one of the most misunderstood events in American history. The American Civil War was fought between the United States of America and the Confederate States of America, a collection of eleven southern states that left the Union in 1860 and 1861. The conflict began primarily as a result of the long-standing disagreement over the institution of slavery.

At the beginning of the Civil War, 22 million people lived in the North and 9 million people (nearly 4 million of whom were slaves) lived in the South. The North also had more money, more factories, more horses, more railroads, and more

farmland. On paper, these advantages made the United States much more powerful than the Confederate States. However, the Confederates were fighting defensively on territory that they knew well. They also had the advantage of the sheer size of the Southern Confederacy, which meant that the northern armies would have to capture and hold vast quantities of land across the south. Still, too, the Confederacy maintained some of the best ports in North America—including New Orleans, Charleston, Mobile, Norfolk, and Wilmington. Thus, the Confederacy was able to mount a stubborn resistance.

In July 1861, the two armies were nearly equal in strength with less than 200,000 soldiers on each side; however at the peak of troop strength in 1863, Union soldiers outnumbered Confederate soldiers by a ratio of 2 to 1. The size of Union forces in January 1863 totaled over 600,000.

By the end of the war there were at least 620,000 deaths, making the Civil War the bloodiest in American history. There were approximately 365,000 Union dead and 260,000 Confederate dead. More men's lives were lost in the Civil War than World War I and World War II combined. The Battle of Gettysburg alone had 51,000 casualties. To put that in perspective, that was about 2% of the nation's population at the time. Additionally, there were 476,000 wounded and 400,000 captured or missing.

Of the Confederate states, Virginia and North Carolina had the highest number of military deaths, with approximately 31,000 each. Alabama had the second-highest with about 27,000 deaths. Of the Union states, New York had the highest number of military deaths of approximately 39,000, followed by Ohio and Illinois with about 31,000 each. California and Colorado had the lowest number of deaths of any state, given their



location to the war's battles. Military deaths were a combination of both combat and disease. Two out of three deaths were caused by disease.

Here are the 10 states with the highest Civil War deaths:

- |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. New York - 39,000       | 6. Alabama - 27,000        |
| 2. Illinois - 31,000       | 7. Pennsylvania - 27,000   |
| 3. North Carolina - 31,000 | 8. Indiana - 24,000        |
| 4. Ohio - 31,000           | 9. South Carolina - 18,000 |
| 5. Virginia - 31,000       | 10. Michigan - 13,000      |

After four years of conflict, the major Confederate armies surrendered to the United States in April of 1865 at Appomattox Court House and Bennett Place. The war bankrupted much of the South, left its roads, farms, and factories in ruins, and all but wiped out an entire generation of men who wore the blue and the gray. The southern states were occupied by Union soldiers, rebuilt, and gradually re-admitted to the United States over the course of twenty difficult years known as the Reconstruction Era.

## Lesser-Known Guns of the Wild West

By Logan Metesh



When thinking about guns of the Wild West, you can't help but conjure up images of lawmen and outlaws armed with firearms made by Colt, Remington, and Smith & Wesson. While these are accurate images, it isn't a complete picture. Plenty of companies filled the niche market of inexpensive yet functional firearms. Not everyone decided to (or, sometimes, could afford to) carry the "name brand" guns, so they went with perfectly serviceable firearms whose names and histories are relatively obscure in today's world.

Before Merwin & Hulbert, there was Merwin & Bray. Begun in 1856, the company tried to carve out a place in the competitive revolver market of the mid-19th century. In an attempt to circumvent the Smith & Wesson-held patent by Rollin White for bored through cylinders, Merwin & Bray manufactured a cupfire revolver. The front-loading design effectively skirted White's rear-loading patent, but it didn't take off. By 1874, Merwin & Bray called it quits and went separate ways.

After splitting with Mr. Bray, Joseph Merwin teamed up with the Hulbert brothers, William and Milan, who owned a 50% share of the Connecticut-based manufacturer known as Hopkins & Allen. A deal was struck where Hopkins & Allen would make the actual firearms, but they would be marketed under the Merwin & Hulbert name.



All told, more than a dozen different models were created and sold as Merwin & Hulbert revolvers. The most interesting feature of the guns was that their barrels twisted sideways and were pulled forward with the cylinder to remove spent cartridges. Because the tolerance was so tight, suction pulled the barrel and cylinder back to the frame. Their large-frame Frontier Model was designed to compete directly with the Colt Model 1873 Single-Action Army, Smith & Wesson's Model 3, and the Remington Model 1875.

While still chambered for .44 caliber cartridges, the Pocket Army was essentially the Frontier Model, but with a 3.5" barrel – half the length of the Frontier's 7" barrel.

To keep up with concealable options offered by the larger companies, Merwin & Hulbert made the Pocket Model, which featured a six-shot cylinder chambered for .38 caliber cartridges. Smaller still, they also offered a model with a five-shot cylinder chambered for .32 caliber cartridges.

Another smaller option, known as the "Baby Merwin," was a copy of the Smith & Wesson Model 1, which held seven rounds of .22 Short ammo. Smith & Wesson sued, won, and the remaining parts were destroyed.

In 1894, the company declared bankruptcy and its holdings were liquidated in 1896. Hopkins & Allen continued to sell guns under the Merwin & Hulbert name until the company folded in 1916.

## **Michael Pate, Western Movie Bad Guy**

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



I know you have seen him in western TV shows and movies and I would bet you had no idea he was Australian. He had a talent for playing bad guys. One critic in the New York magazine said that he played the most likable villains that he'd ever seen in the movies. Pate answered him by saying, "I always played my villains as if I was the hero and all the others were the villains."

Michael Pate had a successful Hollywood career, appearing in more than 50 films and numerous TV series. Black-haired and thick-set, he was often cast as a Native American in westerns. Later, resuming his career in his homeland, he also ventured behind the camera.

He was born in Drummoyne, a suburb of Sydney, and attended Fort Street high school. Although he had hoped to become a college lecturer, and had begun writing short stories, he left school to become an accountant.

His career in the entertainment industry began when, aged 18, he was selected, "out of the blue," as he put it, by the Australian Broadcasting Commission to take part in a radio series in which young people interviewed visiting celebrities. Pate spoke to HG Wells, Yehudi Menuhin and Sir Malcolm Sargent. He acted in radio plays and made his stage debut in 1940. During Second World War army service in the south Pacific, he continued to act, his colleagues including Tony Hancock's future sidekick Bill Kerr.

Pate's film debut was several bit parts in an epic war film, *Forty Thousand Horsemen* (1940); he played two Arabs and one Sikh. His first significant role was as the eldest son in *Sons of Matthew* (1949), a family saga. The first of his many police parts was in *Bitter Springs* (1950), made by Ealing Studios' Australian unit.

On stage, he had played a servant in *Bonaventure*, a melodrama set in Britain. On hearing that a film version was being made in Hollywood, he wrote letters asking for the chance to reprise his role, in *Thunder on the Hill* (1951), directed by Douglas Sirk. His decision to stay in Hollywood may have been influenced by the Australian Security Intelligence Organization, which viewed him with suspicion and had him closely watched.

He supported John Wayne in *Hondo* (1953), as an Indian chief, and in *McLintock!* (1963), the former led to a TV series in 1967 in which Pate reprised his role. Exceptions to the B-movie rule were Joseph L. Mankiewicz's film of *Julius Caesar* (1953), and Sam Peckinpah's *Major Dundee* (1965). The odd western horror *Curse of the Undead* (1959) combined his two most prevalent genres.

He was even busier on television, in *Maverick*, *Tales of Wells Fargo*, *The Rifleman*, *Gunsmoke* and five episodes of *Rawhide*, one of which he also wrote. Keeping pace as westerns were replaced by spy and fantasy series, he was a henchman in *Batman* (1966), but in *The Man from Uncle* (1966) and *Mission Impossible* (1967), he was cast as an Arab and South American general, respectively.

In 1954, CBS presented the first screen version of *Casino Royale*, with Barry Nelson as an Americanized James Bond. Reversing the transatlantic process, Bond's CIA contact Felix Leiter became the British agent Clarence Leiter - Pate, with a plummy accent and tuxedo.

In 1968 he returned to Australia to produce *Age of Consent* (1969); he had wanted to film Norman Lindsay's novel for years. He went on to star as a detective in *Matlock Police* (1971-75), winning a best actor award from the Television Society of Australia in 1972.

For the cinema, Pate wrote and produced *The Mango Tree* (1977), a nostalgic drama with his son, Christopher, in the lead. *Tim* (1979), which Pate directed, produced and adapted from Colleen McCullough's novel, starred a young Mel Gibson. With Christopher, he toured with the play *Mass Appeal* in the mid-1980s, which concluded at the Sydney Opera House.

In 2000 he was presented with a special award from the Film Critics' Circle of Australia and retired from acting the following year. However, until he was admitted to the hospital, he continued working on a script, which Christopher planned to complete.

Although Michael Pate retired from acting in 2001, he remained busy with voiceover work; and he was writing a screenplay at the time of his death. He died at the age of 88 at Gosford Hospital in New South Wales, Australia, on 1 September 2008.

## **Shooting Iron Miller, Secretary Regulator/Life**



Hello! I'm really excited to see so many folks sign up for Comancheria Days! But, we only have about 20 slots left to fill, so if you haven't sent in your application, you might want to do so pretty quickly, or if you know of someone who wants to come but hasn't registered yet, you might want to nudge them and encourage them to do so. We are gearing up for a rip roarin' time, and we'd like you to be a part of it. You still have time to submit a Sponsor Form. The cost is only \$50. If you'd like to set up a table or two, or a tent, and be a vendor, you can do that too; there's no cost to you. Just be sure and submit a Vendor Form. We will

provide you with space to set everything up for the weekend. If you'd rather display your wares for one day only, we will have a Swap Meet on Thursday from 10:00 - 3:00.

For a list of "Who's Coming," feel free to visit our website at [Comancheria Days \(texicanrangers.org\)](http://Comancheria Days (texicanrangers.org)).

We will have an ROI and ROII class available, taught by Texas Jack Daniels, and the Wild Bunch RO course taught by Asup Sleeve. If you would like to sign up for any of these classes, please be sure to let me know. We like to have at least 5 participants/class if possible. ROI or Refresher and WBRO classes will be held Wednesday and the ROII or Refresher class on Thursday. The current Schedule of Events is posted on our Texican Ranger Website for your convenience - [Comancheria Days \(texicanrangers.org\)](http://Comancheria Days (texicanrangers.org)).

Side matches will take place on Thursday, with 5 Main Match stages on Friday and 5 on Saturday. Our Vendor List is coming together nicely. A list will be forthcoming.

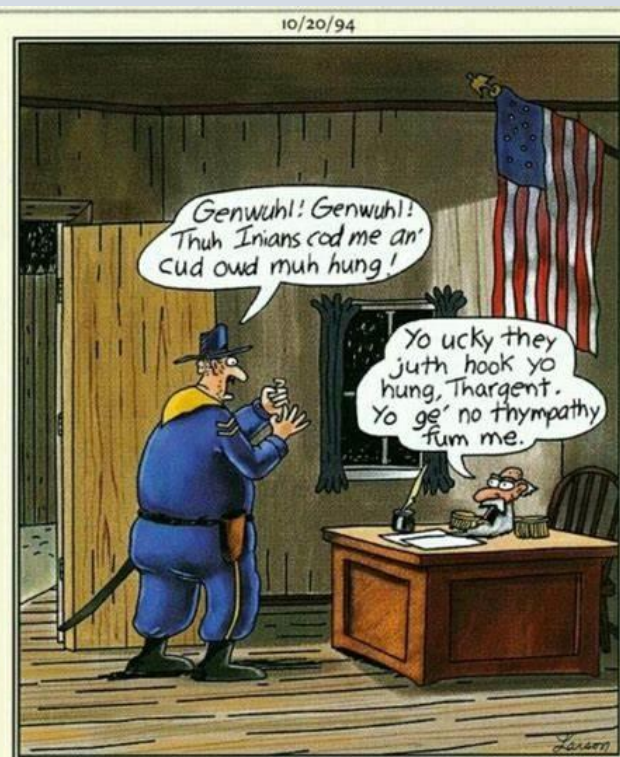
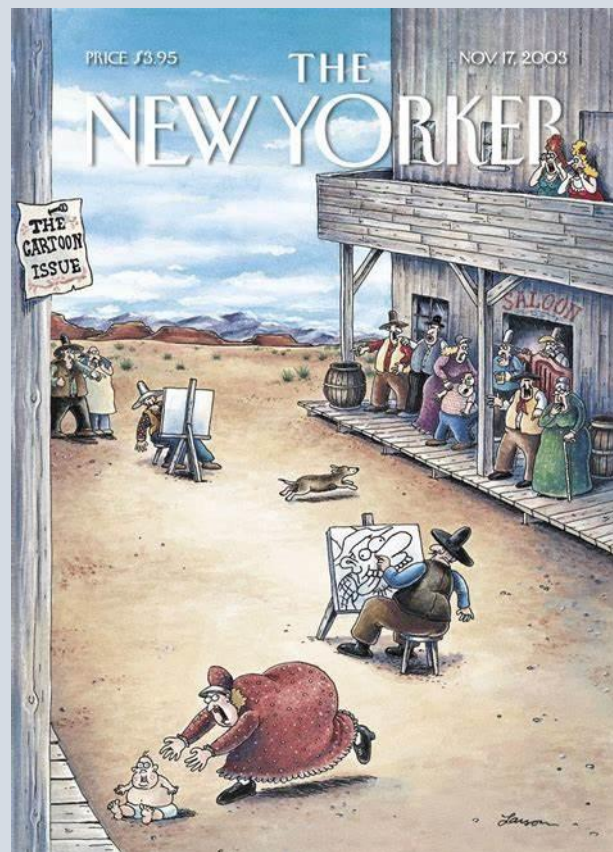
Our banquet will be Saturday night at the Grand Ballroom - Inn of the Hills Hotel & Conference Center in Kerrville, TX. Our M.C., the one and only Handlebar Bob, will be on hand to entertain you for the evening. Finally, we are honored to have with us, once again, Shotglass, Texas Jack Daniels and Squawty Bawdy conducting our Stretch Raffle. They sure know how to do it right!

We can't wait to see you at Comancheria Days 2023!!!!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Shooting Iron Miller  
Secretary

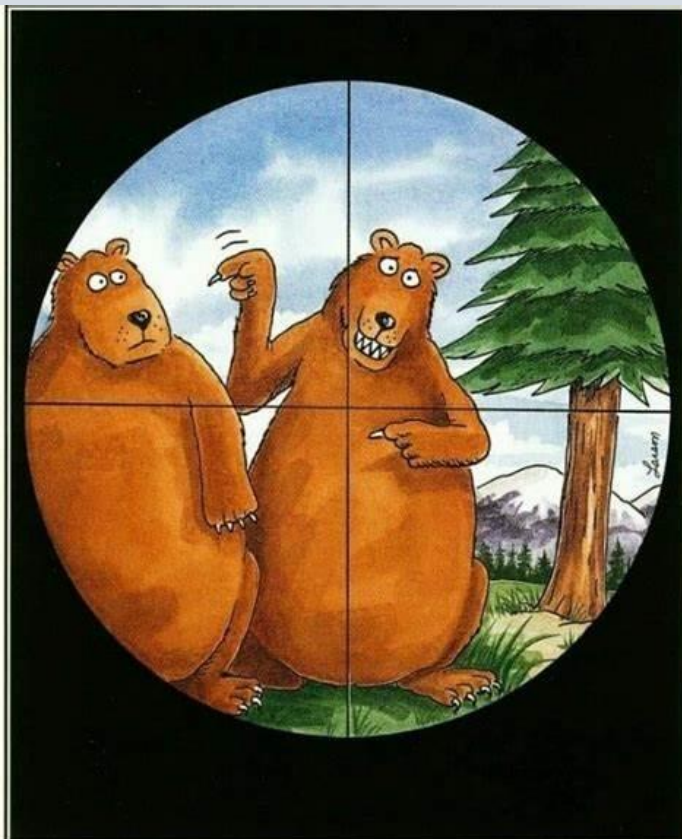




Life in the Old Weth



"See how the vegetation has been trampled flat here, Jimmy? That tells me where a deer bedded down for the night. After a while, you'll develop an eye for these things yourself."



## BOOYAH BULLETS

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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



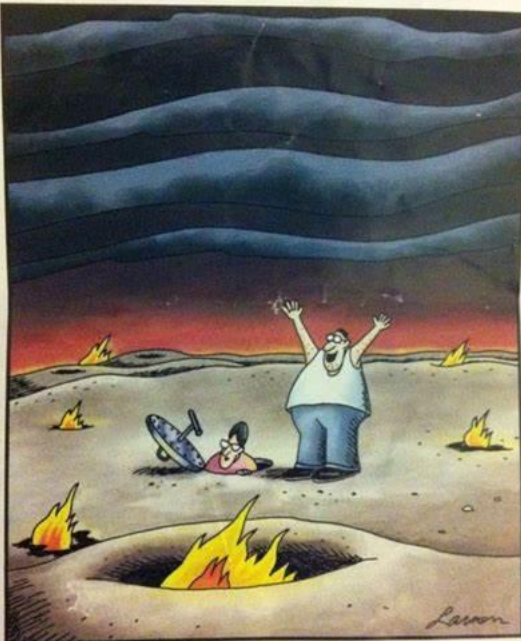
	230	RN	73	144
45-70	405	FPT	75 (250)	300 (1K)
			150 (500)	



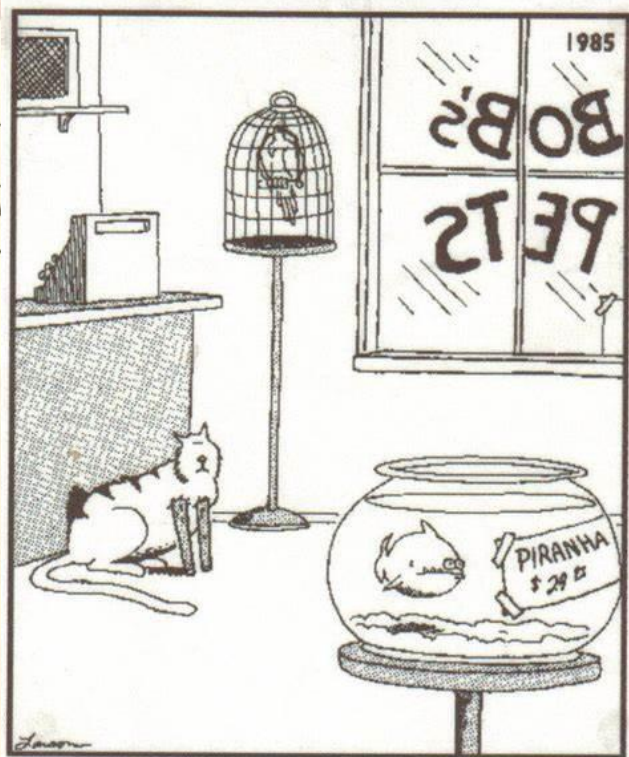
"OK, one more time and it's off to bed for the both of you. . . . 'Hey, Bob. Think there are any bears in this old cave?' . . . 'I dunno, Jim. Let's take a look.'"



When potato salad goes bad



"Thank God, Sylvia! We're alive!"



## Parting Shots

1. Adam & Eve were the first ones to ignore the Apple terms and conditions.
2. Will glass coffins be a success? Remains to be seen.
3. The problem isn't that obesity runs in your family. It's that no one runs in your family.
4. The man who invented knock-knock jokes should get a no bell prize.
5. 250 lbs here on Earth is 94.5 lbs on Mercury. No, I'm not fat. I'm just not on the right planet.
6. If I got 50 cents for every failed math exam, I'd have \$6.30 now.
7. I went to buy some camo pants but couldn't find any.
8. When life gives you melons, you might be dyslexic.
9. What's the difference between ignorance and apathy? I don't know and I don't care.
10. I hate Russian dolls, they're so full of themselves.
11. Geology rocks, but geography's where it's at.
12. Don't you hate it when someone answers their own questions? I do.
13. How do you make holy water? You boil the hell out of it.
14. Most people are shocked when they find out how bad I am as an electrician.
15. I spent a lot of time, money, and effort childproofing my house... But the kids still get in.
16. The man who survived both mustard gas and pepper spray is a seasoned veteran now.
17. The problem with kleptomaniacs is that they always take things literally.
18. Maybe if we start telling people their brain is an app, they'll want to use it.
19. I was wondering why the Frisbee kept getting bigger and bigger, but then it hit me.
20. Is your bottom jealous of the amount of crap that comes out of your mouth?
21. The rotation of Earth really makes my day.
22. What's the difference between an outlaw and an in-law? Outlaws are wanted.
23. So what if I don't know what "Armageddon" means? It's not the end of the world.
24. My wife told me to stop impersonating a flamingo. I had to put my foot down.
25. A blind man walked into a bar... And a table... And a chair...
26. The last thing I want to do is hurt you; but it's still on the list.
27. The future, the present, and the past walk into a bar. Things got a little tense.
28. I have a few jokes about unemployed people, but none of them work.
29. People who take care of chickens are literally chicken tenders.
30. Just got fired from my job as a set designer. I left without making a scene.
31. I used to think I was indecisive. But now I'm not so sure.
32. Despite the high cost of living, it remains popular.
33. "You'll never be as lazy as whoever named the fireplace."
34. I always take life with a grain of salt. And a slice of lemon. And a shot of tequila.
35. Two fish are in a tank. One says, 'How do you drive this thing?'
36. Communist jokes aren't funny unless everyone gets them.
37. I can't believe I got fired from the calendar factory. All I did was take a day off.
38. I've just written a song about tortillas; actually, it's more of a rap.
39. A perfectionist walked into a bar... Apparently, the bar wasn't set high enough.
40. "The four most beautiful words in our common language: I told you so."



## 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



### April Birthdays

Bama Sue	4/2
Handlebar Bob	4/6
Engin Wrangler	4/17
Frank Longshot	4/17
Madam Ella Moon	4/18
Wild Bill McMasters	4/28

### May Birthdays

Bluebonnet Nell	5/1
Marshall Willy	5/4
Texas Tony	5/8
Shootin Steel	5/8
Bessie James	5/10
Snake Shot	5/13
Whiskey Kid	5/16
Frontier Faith	5/17
Sierra Cheyenne	5/29
Lucky Nickel	5/30

### June Birthdays

Rusty Bang Stick	6/4
La Sombra	6/6
T.H. Boland	6/8
Circuit Judge	6/13
Skinny	6/21
Doc Holloman	6/25
Colorado Horseshoe	6/27



## Key Links

[www.sassnet.com](http://www.sassnet.com)  
[www.texicanrangers.org](http://www.texicanrangers.org)  
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## TEXICAN RANGERS

**2022**

January 14	Monthly Match
January 15	Monthly Match
February 11	Monthly Match
February 12	Monthly Match
March 11	Monthly Match
March 12	Monthly Match
March 17-19	Tejas Caballeros Whoopin', Blanco TX
March 24-26	Texas Wild Bunch State Championship, Bowie TX
April 27-29	Comancheria Days
May 13	Monthly Match
May 14	Monthly Match
May 26-28	SASS Texas State Championship, Lockhart TX
June 10	Monthly Match
June 11	Monthly Match
July 8	Monthly Match
July 9	Monthly Match
July 29	Wild Bunch/BAMM Match
August 12	Monthly Match
August 13	Monthly Match
September 9	Shindig
September 10	Monthly Match
September 30	Wild Bunch/BAMM Match
October 14	Monthly Match/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)

**2023**

**Feb 27 – Mar 5, 2023**

**March 24 – 26, 2023**

**EOT (SASS World Championship)**

**SASS Texas State Wild Bunch**

**April 19-22, 2023**

**April 27 - 29, 2023**

**May 26 - 28, 2023**

**October 7 – 15, 2023**

**Hell on the Border**

**Championship SASS Southwest Regional**

**Comancheria Days**

**SASS Texas State Championship Battle of Plum Creek**

**SASS National Championship – Land Run**



## Photo Album

















