

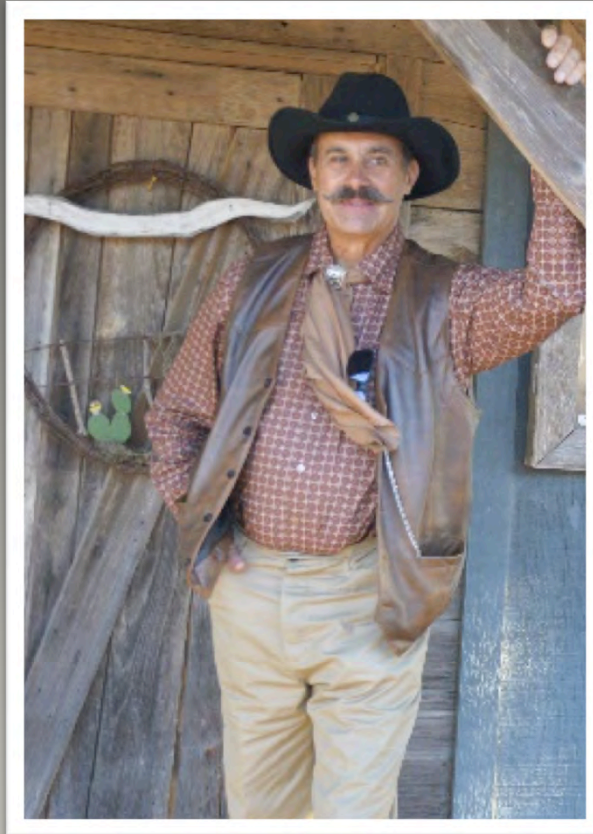
SASS Affiliated

MARCH 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!

March has been an eventful and beautiful early spring month, some good, and some, well, not so great.

Most of you may have already heard the very sad news about the passing of our fellow Ranger Grouchy Spike, aka Manaen Schamber, on the 16th. He was much loved and a friend to all and will be sorely missed. We ask for prayer for his family in this time of loss and grief, and wisdom and understanding in our Lord's sometimes rough ways. We take comfort in knowing that he is in the perfect place and is perfectly loved.

Bad news of another variety may have also reached you, especially if you shot in our March match on the second weekend. While doing much needed repairs on our main building, Sheriff Robert Love and Doc Holloman both were injured when the front roof collapsed over the tool room. Doc, fortunately, came out mostly unscathed, but Sheriff suffered some serious injuries, including a severe laceration to his

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forehead and a broken right ankle, which required surgery to repair.

The good news is that Sheriff had his surgical follow up this very day, the stitches have been removed, he is healing nicely, and is wearing a surgical boot, but is still under orders to stay non-ambulatory.

So, over the last year, we have had a number of occasions to call 911 for accidents and illnesses on the range, so many times that now, when the dispatcher answers, they start not with, "911 operator, what is your emergency?" but with, "Okay, who is it this time?" (Just kidding folks!!)

March is also a special month for remembrance and reflection on Texas history, especially considering the upcoming birthday of our Nation. I saw the John Wayne produced and directed movie, *The Alamo*, on its original release in the theaters at about age 12, I think, and for a 12-year-old, was deeply affected by the portrayal of courage and sacrifice. I have since learned that I have a kindred spirit in the likes of rock star Phil Collins, ironically an Englishman, who was similarly affected. If you ever get a chance, Google what Mr. Collins has to say about how profoundly the story affected him and his activities to this day surrounding the battle.

The Battle of the Alamo stands as a defining moment in the pursuit of Texas independence. In early 1836, a small group – numbers vary, but most agree it was about 186 or so – of Texan defenders and Tennessee volunteers held out for 13 days against the much larger Mexican army – numbering in the thousands – led by General Santa Anna de Lopez.

After twelve days of continuous artillery bombardment, on the night of March 5th, the Mexican cannons fell silent and the Alamo defenders, exhausted beyond imagination, fell into a deep sleep. Meanwhile, in the wee hours of the morning of the 6th, Mexican forces crept to within 200 yards of the walls of the mission. The Texans were alerted sometime just past 3:00 a.m. to cries of "Viva Mexico" and "Viva Santa Anna" and the final battle began.

The Texan commander, Colonel Travis, fell in the first fifteen minutes of the battle, killed by a musket ball to the head. The entire battle, by nearly all accounts, lasted a mere 90 minutes. The two main failures of the defense were the south wall, which was a makeshift breastwork that Mexican cavalry and lancers easily breached, and some of the Texans' own artillery. The cannons guarding the main gates were to fire shrapnel at the attackers if the defenses were breached, and were to be spiked as to be useless to the Mexicans if they were captured. The Texan cannoners were overwhelmed and killed before this could happen and the Mexicans gleefully, I'm sure, turned the cannons on the defenders.

Some of the most brutal fighting took place in the building known today as the long barracks, which still stands today. Every time I visit the long barracks, I

stand quietly inside and try to imagine the Texan defenders taking cover there in the dark and facing Mexican grenades, gunfire, and bayonets.

One story that also resonates with me is the story of Moses Rose, who is scorned by many as being the one man who went over the walls to safety after Colonel Travis's line in the sand appeal to his men. There's even a movie about him as well, titled *The Man from the Alamo*, which is one of the most historically inaccurate films I've ever had to endure. In fact, Rose was a veteran of many wars, having served in the French Foreign Legion before immigrating to America, and had the wounds to prove it, missing one of his ears. I've always felt pity for him and hope his soul realizes that at least some of us know the story of his real character, as no one can really fault him for what he did.

Despite their ultimate defeat on March 6, the bravery shown within the walls of the Alamo inspired many others to join the fight for freedom.

The struggle for Texas independence was fueled by a desire for self-governance and resistance to

centralist policies. The rallying cry, "Remember the Alamo!" became a powerful symbol of courage and determination. Just weeks after the battle, Texan forces secured a decisive victory at the Battle of San Jacinto, the main fighting over in about a mere 20 minutes – but continuing all night as very angry and vengeful Texans sought revenge and retribution on Mexican troops, fleeing and hiding in the surrounding marshes and woods – paving the way for the Republic of Texas to emerge as a new nation.

We are continuing to prepare the range for our next match, Comancheria Days, April 9th through 12th, and the celebration of our nation's 250th birthday.

Rangers, there is still much work to be done, and we have suffered quite a setback with injuries, etc., so I will appeal again for volunteers on the next workdays preceding CD if you can spare the time. Again, I want to express heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all those that can and do show up.

That's all for now, hope to see all of you at the best match in Texas!

Happy Trails!



## Sheriff Robert Love Vice President



## Francis E. “Frank” Butler

Frank Butler was a famous exhibition shooter in his own right, but most famous as the shooting partner, husband and manager of Annie Oakley.

Francis E. Butler was born in County Langford, Ireland. His parents were Michael Butler and Catherine Whelan. He was the oldest of their five children, growing up amid rural poverty in a region still recovering from the devastating effects of the Great Famine. We are not sure of the date, but he was baptized January 30, 1847. Eight-year-old Frank was left in the care of an aunt while his parents searched for a better life in America. At age 13 he made his own way to the U.S. and took a variety of odd jobs to survive. These transient roles reflected the challenges for an Irish immigrant during a period of economic uncertainty in post-Civil War America.

Butler cleaned stables, tried glass blowing, and even managed an on-stage dog show that ended in a humiliating event when the fire alarm rang at a nearby fire station and all the dogs raced off. In the early 1870s Butler developed a shooting act, banking on the growing popularity of marksmanship displays in America. Frank established himself as a professional marksman, forming a duo act with partner John Baughman, performing precision shooting exhibitions in variety shows and circuses throughout the Midwest. Their routine emphasized trick shots, such as firing a rifle one-handed, firing it inverted, over their shoulders, and between their legs. Shooting at tossed objects and demonstrating accuracy under pressure, which captivated audiences at county fairs and small venues. They even had an act where they would simultaneously shoot apples off of each other's heads. He and his partner would perform in a variety show, rattling off trick shots for about 20 minutes before giving way to a ventriloquist, juggler, or magician. He married Henrietta Saunders in 1870. They had two children, Edward Francis Butler (Edward) born January 1, 1869 and (Katie) Catherine Elizabeth Butler Born May 4, 1872. They divorced in 1876. Butler handled much of the logistics for the act, acting as his own promoter to secure bookings in theaters and fairgrounds, often in cities like Cincinnati where they were based between circus seasons. The duo frequently challenged and outshot local experts in competitive matches, winning substantial prizes that bolstered their reputation and finances. Butler frequently issued a challenge to any local shooting champions. In a wager match arranged by hotelkeeper Jack Frost for a \$100 prize, Butler was pitted against a local sharpshooter, 15-year old Phoebe Ann Mosey (or Moses as some historians have it spelled). The contest involved shooting at tossed-up objects, with Butler hitting 24 out of 25 targets while Annie achieved a perfect score of 25, securing her victory on Thanksgiving Day. Though the defeat bruised Butler's professional pride, he responded graciously, impressed by her natural talent and composure. Butler, then in his late twenties and navigating life as an immigrant showman, began a courtship that bridged their contrasting worlds: His urban Irish upbringing against her rural Ohio Quaker upbringing marked by poverty and self reliance. He carried her family's favor with complimentary



tickets to his performances, earning approval from her strict Quaker mother through his temperate habits; he neither drank, smoked, nor gambled. The pair married on August

23, 1876. They had no children. Around 1884 when Frank's shooting partner fell ill, Annie joined the act. They toured and eventually joined Sells Brothers Circus, performing in 187 towns across 13 states and covering over 11,000 miles, which enhanced their reputation as a premier act. From 1885 to 1901 they were featured in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. Annie became the star, shooting thrown targets from horseback. Butler's management extended to innovative aspects of the show, including the design of safer performance routines that highlighted Oakley's skills while minimizing risks, and he advocated for expanded roles for women by positioning Oakley as a central star attraction alongside male performers. During the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, where the troupe performed adjacent to the exposition, Butler's promotional efforts helped elevate Oakley's profile, drawing massive crowds and solidifying her international renown through feats like shooting while riding a bicycle. Throughout their tenure until 1901, Butler navigated significant challenges, including a severe train wreck on October 29, 1901, near Linwood, North Carolina which severely injured Oakley with a back injury and temporary paralysis, requiring months of recovery and ultimately prompting their departure from the show. Oakley returned to performing between 1911 and 1913, this time with Vernon Seaver's Young Buffalo Show, with Butler again as her manager. Frank E. Butler and Annie Oakley retired from performing after concluding their two-year stint with Vernon Seaver's Young Buffalo Wild West Show (1911–1913). After retiring, Butler also worked as a representative of the Union Metallic Cartridge Company and as a salesman for the Remington Arms Company. After retiring in 1913, Butler engaged in endorsements for firearms manufacturers. The couple also conducted charity shooting demonstrations, notably raising funds for the Red Cross during World War I through marksmanship clinics, benefit events, and tours of army camps. After retiring Frank Butler and Annie Oakley initially settled in Cambridge, Maryland, before moving to Pinehurst, North Carolina, attracted by the region's mild climate, abundant hunting grounds, and renowned shooting facilities. The couple wintered there for seven seasons starting in 1916, eventually making it their primary residence by 1917, where they embraced a quieter life away from the spotlight of Wild West performances. In Pinehurst, a resort community known for its golf courses and outdoor pursuits, the Butlers avoided much publicity, focusing instead on local involvement and personal well-being. Butler and Oakley managed the Pinehurst Gun Club from 1915 to 1922, where Oakley provided shooting lessons and staged occasional exhibitions for resort guests, including trap and skeet shooting demonstrations. The couple

engaged with the local shooting community through these activities, fostering connections at the club while maintaining a low profile in daily affairs; Butler handled operations, allowing Oakley to perform selectively. Their home life centered on mutual care and simple pleasures, with Butler tending to household matters and supporting Oakley's health amid emerging issues. In 1922, they planned a motion picture project titled Annie Oakley, with Butler advising on authenticity and shooting techniques; the project attracted large crowds for preliminary performances in major cities but was postponed into a short film format following a severe automobile accident in late 1922 that exacerbated Oakley's frailty. Butler oversaw her recovery, including reduced activities and medical attention for her declining condition, which later included pernicious anemia diagnosed around 1925. Their prudent financial management during peak career years ensured stability, with savings accumulated from performances and endorsements enabling a debt-free existence free from the financial pitfalls that plagued many in the entertainment industry. The Butlers incorporated beloved pets into their routine. These animals were integral to their peaceful, pet-centered domesticity. This period marked a devoted phase of companionship, with the couple relishing Pinehurst's serene environment until health concerns prompted a return northward in the mid-1920s. Annie Oakley died on November 3, 1926, at the age of 66 from pernicious anemia while staying with family in Greenville, Ohio. Devastated by her passing after nearly 50 years of marriage, Frank became grief-stricken and ceased eating, leading to his rapid decline. Butler died on November 21, 1926, only 17 days after his beloved Annie, at age 79 in Ferndale Michigan, where he was visiting his niece. The couple was buried together on Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 1926, in the Moses family plot at Brock Cemetery in Greenville, Ohio under adjacent marble headstones. Their estate was modest, with inheritance passing to relatives such as nieces and nephews, while several of their personal firearms and shooting artifacts were later donated to museums, preserving their legacy in American history.



## Shooting Iron Miller Secretary



I'm going to take a little break from talking about the upcoming Texas State Championship to talk about something that I think is much more important, and hopefully something that will help to bring back memories for many of you.

We all heard recently about the loss of a dear friend and fellow Cowboy Action Shooter — Grouchy Spike. It's always hard when someone near and dear to us passes, but this one was especially hard to hear. I knew he had been struggling with his health for quite some time, enough to get anyone down, but I can remember when Grouchy would still invite Sheriff Robert Love and me to the Buckin' Bull to do a little shooting. We always had a good time, trying to out-shoot one another, as well as shoot the bull (no pun intended). We would also fix lunch on occasion and spend a few hours out there just enjoying each other's company. He would always bring his dog, Mach Schnell, and man could that dog run. We could throw his ball endlessly and he never seemed to tire. As time went by it got harder

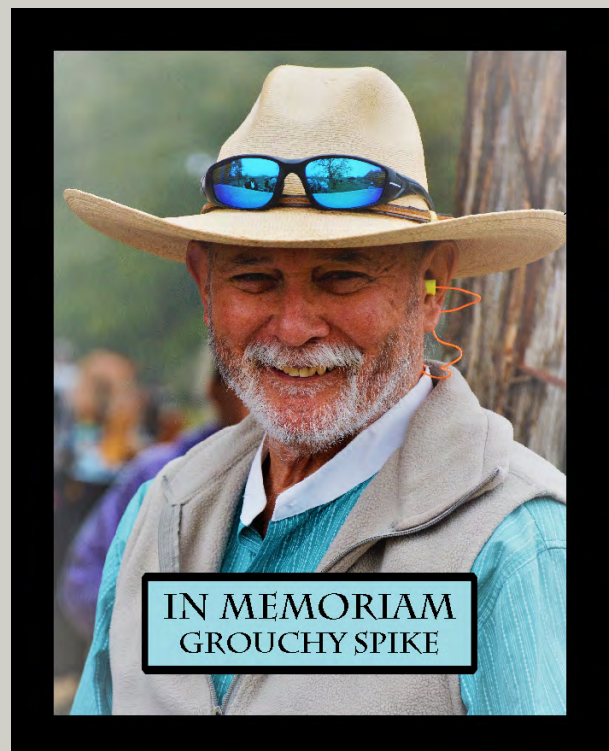
and harder for Grouchy to hold a 1911, much less shoot it without a struggle. He loved shooting so much, I can only imagine how he felt when it didn't come easy to him anymore.

There were times when Grouchy, Michael, and of course Mach Schnell would meet us at Stielers Ranch for a workday. Grouchy couldn't always do much, but he loved being out there with his friends, usually giving them a hard time when the opportunity presented itself. Of course in years past, he contributed much to the development of the ranch that it is today, home of the Texican Rangers. That was Grouchy. He had a great sense of humor and always made us laugh. And when I bought a gun from him, it was always in perfect working order. Good times, great memories. He was a very kind and giving man and did so much to mentor kids in hopes of turning their life around. I know I was blessed to have known this man. I pray for his family to find comfort and peace, knowing he has joined his Maker.

I often think about a Willie Nelson song when I have lost someone special in my life:

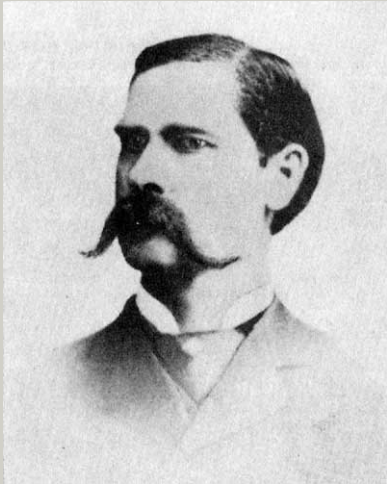
It's not somethin' you get over  
But it's somethin' you get through  
It's not ours to be taken  
It's a thing we get to do  
Life goes on and on  
And when it's gone  
It lives in someone new  
It's not somethin' you get over  
But it's somethin' you get through  
It's not somethin' you get over  
But it's somethin' you get through

Rest in peace dear friend.



## Guns at the OK Corral

By Dutch Van Horn  
Regulator 51153



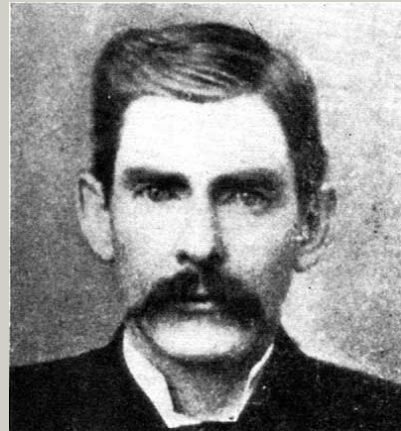
being able to control the gambling in Tombstone. Let's talk about the guns they were carrying.

Everyone knows that Wyatt Earp was carrying his Buntline Special. It was Colt Peacemaker with an extra-long barrel, specially commissioned by Ned Buntline, hence the name. It was supposed to have had a 12-inch barrel and was equipped with a shoulder stock attachment. Some accounts have Wyatt using this extra length barrel to subdue a host of hard cases in both Dodge City and Tombstone. This is all part of his myth. He didn't have a Buntline Special, in fact there is no record of Ned Buntline ever ordering or gifting a long barrel Colt to anyone. So this somewhat awesome-looking weapon remains his trademark in literature and in Hollywood.

What did Wyatt carry? He owned an engraved, nickel-plated Merwin & Hulbert revolver. This gun, according to a January 17, 1929 story in the *Tombstone Epitaph*, was Earp's favorite six-shooter. In truth it was just a show gun. By the way, the engraved Merwin & Hulbert sold in auction for \$80,000.00 and was sold with documentation including several letters and photographs linking it to



**S&W American  
1870 to 1874**



On 26 October, 1881 (135 years ago), the Earp brothers faced off against the Clanton-McLaury gang in a legendary shootout at the OK Corral in Tombstone, Arizona. You think you know the story? You have seen it in countless western TV shows and movies. Well it was different than you think. Let's not go into the political aspects such as how the Earps were Republicans and the Clanton-McLaury gang were Democrats and how their fight was really about being elected Cochise County Sheriff and





**Wyatt Earp.**

Others firearms have been sold to collectors stating they were the gun Wyatt was carrying at the OK Corral. Today most agree that Wyatt's main gun was his Smith & Wesson Model 3 American revolver.

Wyatt was known to carry his pistol, not in a conventional belt holster, but instead in a special canvas wax-rubbed pocket of his frock coat.

Was Doc Holliday a stone killer, alcoholic and a whoremonger, that was known to cheat at cards, or was he, as Wyatt Earp said, "a dentist whom necessity had made a gambler; a gentleman whom disease had made a vagabond; and a philosopher whom life had made a caustic wit?"

Western mythology would tell you that Doc Holliday was armed to the teeth. His main weapon was a sawed-off 10-gauge shotgun that he carried under his coat hanging with

Corral was that Virgil Earp gave him one. The pistol Doc carried at the OK Corral was a Colt 1877 Lightning with a birdshead grip. It was a .38 caliber and held six shots.

After serving in the Union Army during the Civil War, Virgil Earp was a freighter-teamster in Prescott, Arizona and was Deputy Marshal at Tucson 1870 to 1879. In 1880, he was elected City Marshal of Tombstone and recruited brothers Wyatt and Morgan as special deputy policemen.

The *Tombstone Epitaph* reported Wyatt was carrying



a lanyard

He was also to have favored Colt open-top conversion pistols. His favorite was the open-top conversion of the 1851 Colt Navy.

He was also reported to have always carried a Remington .41 caliber derringer

And he was never without his knife.

Well he did carry the open top and the knife but he was slight of build, only weighing about 120 pounds. There was no way he would have carried any kind of sawed-off shotgun. The only reason he had a shotgun at the OK

his Smith & Wesson and that everyone else was carrying Colt Peacemakers.

I don't think at the time that many newspaper reporters knew the difference between a Colt, Smith & Wesson, or a Merwin & Hulbert.

Vigil Earp was known to have preferred, and often carried, a Smith & Wesson New Model No. 3 revolver, in .44 S&W Russian caliber. He also didn't use belt holsters and instead preferred to tuck his pistol in his waistband. Holsters at the time were made for



retention of the gun, not for fast draws. Consequently, some of the most famous

and successful gunfighters had an alternative method for carrying their pistol.

Morgan Earp was the younger brother. Morgan was involved in the gunfight at the O.K. Corral, where he was wounded. His assassination in Tombstone two-months

later was part of a wave of vendetta killings in the southeastern Arizona Territory.

So, Morgan had to be the one carrying the Colt Peacemaker? We know it was a Colt and we know it had Pearl grips because the newspaper report of his assassination talked about the blood being clearly seen on the Pearl grips.

This one is true. Morgan was indeed carrying a Colt Peacemaker. How do we know? Because it is still on display at the Ralph Foster Museum at The College of the Ozarks Hollister, Missouri. You can still see the dried blood on the Pearl grips.

## Five Myths Everyone Believes About the Old West

By Dutch Van Horn

The Wild West, aka the Old West, was an astoundingly awesome period in American history that every person who has ever dreamed of being a cowboy wants to emulate. Now, clearly pop culture has turned much of the true West into legend -- there were never quick-draw artists who could shoot a six gun out of your hand with another six gun. But the basics were true, right? The lawlessness, the guns, the constant Indian attacks?

Well... not exactly. Some common myths you probably still believe include...

### Settlers Were Constantly Clashing with Indians

Old Westerns treat Native Americans kind of like *The Walking Dead* treats zombies -- sudden, murderous ambushes could come from anywhere, at any time. Any expedition into "injun" territory came with the warning that you'd better go well-armed. When wagon trains saw a raid of Sioux



coming, they would "circle the wagons" to form a defense perimeter -- and to this day, "circle the wagons" is shorthand for "hunker down and fight back."

And all of this has to be true; we know that horrific numbers of people died when settlers expanded west. Those frontiersmen must have been firing bullets and dodging arrows on a daily basis, right?

Well, not really. Granted, between the United States cavalry and, uh, pretty much every tribe you can name, things certainly got good and

massacre-y. But skirmishes between Native Americans and the typical American settler trundling along in his covered wagon hardly ever happened. Of the hundreds of thousands of pioneers who willingly trudged all the way through Nebraska, only a few hundred died in clashes with Native Americans.

Yes, a few hundred, not tens of thousands, not even thousands. About 300 to 400. To put that number in perspective, the total number of pioneer deaths on the Oregon Trail from all causes (including disease) numbered 10,000 to 30,000, which means only 1 to 4 percent of all trail fatalities can be attributed to Native Americans. More settlers were accidentally trampled by their own cows than killed by Indians.

During this same period, settlers killed over 400 Native Americans. Again, that's not zero, but it does mean that the vast majority of settlers never got into a murderous conflict with hostile tribes. It was far more likely that the average settler would trade with Native Americans or hire members of various tribes as guides, rather than fight them. It wasn't necessarily because they were open-minded and peace loving that they abstained from violence, but rather that it's never good business to kill your customers, or vice versa. Especially when you're talking about someone providing a potentially life-saving service (a guide kept you from getting lost, when getting lost meant getting dead).

As for the "circling the wagons" thing, that ring formation was done each night not to keep hostile Indians out, but to keep their absurdly expensive cattle from wandering off. It wouldn't even be possible to "circle the wagons" in an emergency -- these wagon trains typically traveled spread out in a line several miles wide, rather than in the column that the term "train" suggests, in an effort to avoid each other's dust, wheel ruts, and debris. It would have taken hours to get everybody together and hooked up in circle.

## **Bank-Robbing Outlaws Ruled the West**

Black Bart, the Dalton Gang, and Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid all were famous for their daring robberies. They could take entire fortunes from banks that had slightly less security than a modern hot dog stand.

And why not? Lawlessness ruled, vaults didn't exist, and criminals didn't care about anyone else. The banks might as well have left their big white bags of gold sitting out on the porch.

Not true; research can find evidence of only about eight true bank heists, and that's across 15 states in

a 40-year period. As a point of comparison, bank robberies in 2010 amounted to 5,600. Even if we'd never seen a Western in our lives, that would seem like a low number.

But there are several things that contributed to this low number. First, towns back in those days were much smaller, with the sheriff's office, saloon, general store, and bank usually clustered together for convenience.



This one-stop social-needs block usually made up the dead center of town. Being that the sheriff's office was usually no more than a few doors down, you were probably pulling your big heist within earshot of the law.

Second, the banks weren't that easy to get in and out of. Old West buildings were usually built close together, meaning the bank would be flanked by other buildings, while a reinforced back wall would keep anyone from intruding from behind. When you walked out the front door with the loot, there was the sheriff waiting for you. Now, the most famous robberies -- the jobs pulled by Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, etc. -- were true. But that's the point -- they got famous for a reason. They were doing what nobody else was crazy enough to do.

But for everyday criminals, common targets were often trains and stagecoaches because they were more isolated, easier to get into, and easier to escape. So why bother with a bank, which would be a suicide mission in comparison?

## **Cowboys Are an American Creation**

One reason Americans have always been so in love with the Old West is that it's so distinctly American. Today, if you find a political rally of people proclaiming themselves to be patriots, you can bet you'll find cowboy hats in that crowd. The more of a cowboy you

are, the more American you are. Even Teddy Roosevelt got in on the act by calling himself the “cowboy candidate.”

Cowboys weren't an American invention at all. In fact, they precede Plymouth Rock by some 20 years, meaning they're older than America itself. The original cowboys were Mexican cattlemen known as vaqueros, and they are literally everything you imagine a cowboy to be.



They came up with all of the cowboy lingo, including “bronco,” “lariat,” and even “stampede.” Vaqueros rode the long-haul cattle drives and their sombreros were probably the precursor to cowboy hats. They also wore chaps, held rodeos, and lived the life of a cowboy in relative anonymity for some 200 years.

When Americans moved westward, it was these vaqueros who knew the land and wildlife enough to help teach the future American cowboys everything they knew. The settlers in turn did the right thing and outright stole the entire culture, including the title of “vaqueros,” which was turned into “buckaroos.”

But it's not like vaqueros went the way of the cowboy at the time, either. Despite what Hollywood would have you believe, not every cowboy (or human being, for that matter) was a white male. One in three cowboys were Mexican vaqueros. One in four are believed to be black men who were released from slavery but didn't have the ability to flee far from their captors. Even the Native Americans would help move the cattle with their white, Mexican, and black brethren. It was a rainbow cowboy coalition! Except if you were Chinese. Then you were building railroads in hellish conditions.



## Cowboys Wore Cowboy Hats

The ultimate item of the cowboy outfit is of course the Stetson hat, which most of us just call a cowboy hat. There're always the boots, too, but they kind of go together as a pair.

The hats were practical, lightweight, and made with utility in mind. They had curved edges that could defend you from both sun and rain, and they made you look incredibly stylish while doing what amounted to staring at cows for weeks at a time. The curved brim, those dips in the crown, the band – the

Stetson is about as iconic as clothing gets. So, if you get in your time machine and set it for 1870, you'd better be packing one of these.



The truth is lots of people wore hats back then. But they seemed to wear everything *but* what we think of as “cowboy” hats. Besides cowboy hats, they wore top hats, homburgs, fedoras, caps, and sombreros.

But what you would have seen mostly back then were bowler hats. They were more popular because they were a little more versatile in various social situations, especially in a time when all men wore hats all the time. In fact, famed Western historian Lucius Beebe went so far as to call it “the hat that won the West.” Looking back on most portraits from the time, you can find that almost every single major name in the West owned a bowler hat, at least if they had class.

Even the cowboy hats that Stetson was making in

the late 1800s didn't look like the Stetson hats we call "cowboy hats" today. Originally known as "the Boss of the Plains," it looked more like modern Amish hats and may have been just a modified sombrero.

All of the curling and ornamentation came later, but this hat is the granddaddy of every cowboy hat in the world today. And that's not exactly what your mind jumps to when you think of cowboy hats, is it?

## **Guns Were Rampant in the Old West**

Well, even if cowboys didn't have cowboy hats, we sure as hell know they had six-shooters on their hip. Back then, every man, woman, and child came pre-equipped with an old-timey revolver, which was used for everything from personal defense and hunting to celebrating.

Regardless of the public's perception, gun control



laws may have been stricter back in the 19th and early 20th century than they are now, especially in the West.

In the beginning, there was gun violence, as there was neither standardized law nor a good way to enforce it, but the Wild West didn't stay wild forever.

As towns formed and communities grew, the need for and tolerance of handguns started to fall. Starting in 1878, some 25 years into the westward expansion, action was finally taken -- even places as wild as Dodge City started posting signs like this:



In fact, the gunfight at the OK Corral was caused by one gang being unwilling to abide by the anti-firearms rule of Tombstone.

Among those who used guns, six-shooters weren't the favorite. They were little more than a weapon of last resort. Shotguns and rifles were the preferred weapons, having both the power and the range to put down a mountain lion or a card-cheater. But who would ever want to watch a Western where cowboys were meeting at high noon to shoot each other in the face with huge shotguns?



## Doc Holliday at the end

Recommended by Deadlast

This is the last known photograph of Doc Holliday, taken shortly before his death in 1887. His hard living had caught up to him, forcing him to seek treatment for his tuberculosis at a sanitarium in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. He died in his bed at only 36 years old.

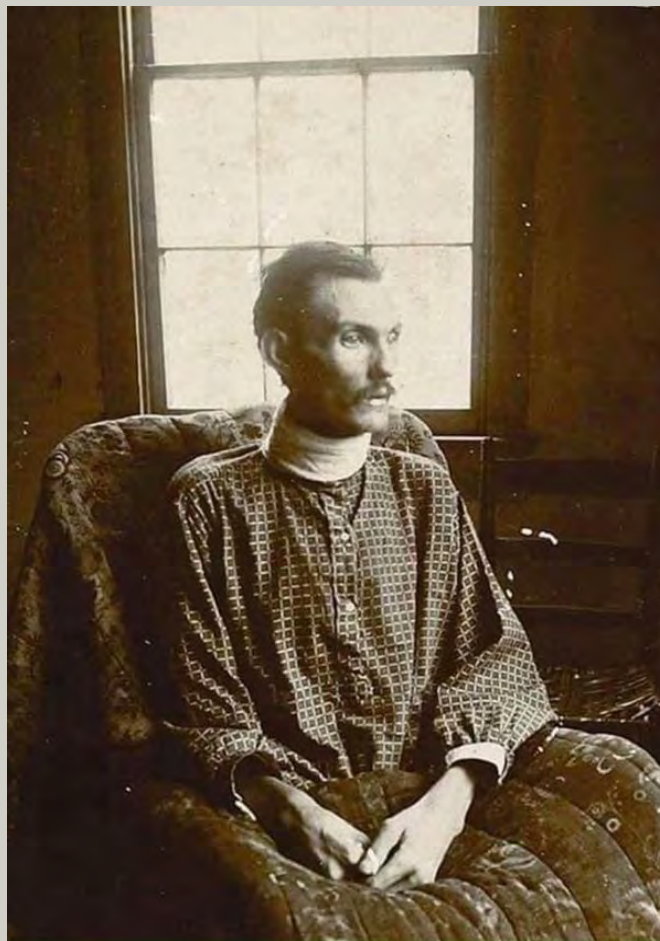
John Henry "Doc" Holliday (August 14, 1851 – November 8, 1887) was an American gambler, gunfighter, and dentist. A close friend and associate of lawman Wyatt Earp, Holliday is best known for his role in the events leading up to and following the Gunfight at the OK Corral. He developed a reputation as having killed more than a dozen men in various altercations, but modern researchers have concluded that, contrary to popular myth, Holliday killed only one or two men. Holliday's colorful life and character have been depicted in many books and portrayed by well-known actors in numerous movies and television series.

In 1887, prematurely gray and badly ailing, Holliday made his way to the Hotel Glenwood,

near the hot springs of Glenwood Springs, Colorado. He hoped to take advantage of the reputed curative power of the waters, but the sulfurous fumes from the spring may have done his lungs more harm than good. As he lay dying, Holliday is reported to have asked the nurse attending him for a shot of whiskey. When she told him no, he looked at his bootless feet, amused. The nurses said that his last words were, "This is funny." [He always figured he would be killed someday with his boots on.] Holliday died at 10:00 a.m. on November 8, 1887.

Wyatt Earp did not learn of Holliday's death until two months afterward. Holliday is buried in Linwood Cemetery overlooking Glenwood Springs. The exact location of his grave is uncertain.

Doc Holliday, the legendary Old West gunslinger, is said to have used a variety of firearms including the Colt 1877 Lightning, a Colt Single Action Army revolver ("Peacemaker"), Remington 1875 and 1858 revolvers, as well as a double-barreled shotgun and a bowie knife, though his Colt Lightning and a double-barreled shotgun are most strongly associated with him.



# IMAGES FROM MARCH, 2026







# BIG Chief WAHOO

SAUNDERS and Woodson



Indian SLANGO  
 GANGSTER  
 Hard-Yegg  
 Yellow-Inside  
 GELATINE  
 Pudding-Do-Um  
 Dance!

# BIG Chief WAHOO

by SAUNDERS and WOGGON



**BIG Chief WAHOO** ME TOO!  
 by SAUNDERS and WOGGON



Indian **SLANGO**

PEACH  
 is "FRUIT-NEED-UM-SHAVE"

PENCIL  
 is "PICTURE-HIDE-IN-UM-WOOD"

# Parting Shots

## 10 Worst Western Movie Accidents

1. *The General*, 1926. During filming of this epic comedy in Oregon, there were a number of incidents. Several National Guardsmen, employed as extras for the Civil War battle scenes, were injured by mishaps caused by misfired muskets or explosions. Director and star Buster Keaton was knocked unconscious when he stood too close to a cannon firing. Assistant director Harry Barnes was accidentally hit in the face by a blank charge. Train brakeman Fred Lowry sued the production for \$2,900.00 after his foot was crushed when it was run over by a locomotive wheel during filming of one of the railway scenes.
2. *Jesse James*, 1939. A horse was killed during the scene where it was ridden off a cliff into a river. This incident led to the American Humane Association opening a Hollywood office in 1940 and monitoring the treatment of animals in films.
3. *They Died with Their Boots On*, 1941. Three horsemen perished during the cavalry charge, one of whom was extra Jack Budlong, whose horse tripped as he rode alongside Errol Flynn. As he fell forward, he had the foresight to toss his sword ahead of him. Unfortunately, it landed handle down and stuck in place. Budlong was impaled on his own sword and died.
4. *The Royal Mounted Rides Again*, 1945. Addison "Jack" Randall was killed at Canoga Park, California while riding a horse past the cameras at full speed, he fell from the saddle while trying to retrieve his hat which had blown off his head and struck a tree. He died shortly thereafter.
5. *The Horse Soldiers*, 1959. Fred Kennedy, a veteran stuntman and bit player, was killed in a horse fall on location in Louisiana. Director John Ford was so upset he closed the set and had to film the rest of the scene later in the San Fernando Valley.
6. *The Alamo*, 1960. Actor Laurence Harvey, who played Colonel Travis, was injured when a cannon recoiled while firing, with one of the wheels rolling over his foot, fracturing it. He did not reveal his injury until filming of the scene was completed.
7. *How the West Was Won*, 1962. Stuntman Bob Morgan, husband of Yvonne De Carlo, was seriously injured and lost a leg during a break in filming a gunfight on a moving train. Chains holding logs on a flatbed car broke, crushing Morgan as he crouched beside them.
8. *Barquero*, 1970. Director Robert Sparr was killed in a plane crash while scouting filming locations with cameraman Gerald Finnerman. The single engine plane they were riding in went down near the Brush Hollow Reservoir outside Penrose, Colorado. The pilot was also killed in the crash, but Finnerman survived. Lee Van Cleef was scheduled to accompany them on the scouting trip, but he backed out at the last minute.
9. *Comes a Horseman*, 1978. Filming the scene where Jason Robards' character is dragged (presumably) to his death, his stunt double Jim Sheppard was killed when a horse that was dragging him veered from its course and caused him to hit his head on a fence post. The scene made it into the film, although it was cut right before the horse passed through the gate that killed Sheppard.
10. *Gettysburg*, 1993. During filming of the battle scenes on Little Round Top, Bradley Egen, an extra playing a Union soldier, was unintentionally struck in the head by the butt of a musket and suffered a severe concussion. He died two weeks later from brain hemorrhaging.



### March Birthdays

Texas Pearl — 3/10

Whiskey Strait — 3/11

Uncle Law — 3/16

Tombstone Mary — 3/17

Marshal Brooks — 3/22

Maverick McCoy — 3/29

### April Birthdays

Bama Sue — 4/2

Handlebar Bob — 4/6

Henly — 4/8

Frank Longshot — 4/17

Beauregard Beard — 4/27

Madam Ella Moon — 4/18

Wild Bill McMasters — 4/28

Brass Case — 4/28

### May Birthdays

Texas Sarge — 5/05

Bessie James — 5/10

Whiskey Kid — 5/16

Frontier Faith — 05/17

Lucky Nickel — 5/30

### 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



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	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
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	125	CN	53	106
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