



THE VIGILANTE

2015
coming in

Volume 17 Issue 5

Editor: Nasty Newt SASS # 7365

January 2015

The Monthly Chronicle of the Robbers Roost Vigilantes

From The President

New Beginnings and Auld Lang Syne

Starting a new year is always exciting, but also a little scary, because, as Forrest Gump's mama so elegantly put it, "Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get." There are a few things we can count on, but for the most part, life is about not getting what we expected to get, and getting other stuff we had no idea was coming.

The thing that strikes me about 2015 is that it has been FIFTEEN YEARS since the turn of the millennium. I remember it like it was yesterday. *OMG, the computers are going to think it's 1900!! Cars won't run, and planes will fall out of the sky!!* A friend of mine packed the wife and dogs into the fifth wheel and headed for Death Valley "...just to be safe." I don't know what he thought might happen to his house, or what sort of protection he hoped Death Valley would afford, but in any event he spent New Year's Eve 1999 in the Stovepipe Wells campground. I guess he didn't want to be too far from civilization in case he ran out of vodka.

But, back to the future, which is actually the present, but in 1999 used to be the future—well, you get it. We only had one match in January, but it was a doozy. At the pueblo, we were shooting clay pigeons with the rifle again, lots of them. At the cemetery, we earned Tootsie Roll Pops for taking out a zombie buffalo, and at the depot we shot some old fashioned sweeps, and also some new-fangled ones.

Seventeen shooters showed up for the match, which is a good turnout for us these days, and one shooter more than we got for the turkey shoot in December. Bad Bascomb cleaned our clocks as usual, followed by M.C. Ryder, Harvey Mushman, Venomous Doc, and Tank. M.C. was not only fast; he also shot the match clean. It was good to see Rum Runner and Ben D. Barrel, who came over the hill to shoot the match. We also had a new shooter, Priscilla, brought by Rusty Dover and Belle E. Button, two others we hadn't seen for a while. All of the scores are on our website.

continued on page 2

Editor's note: The following article was originally published in *The Vigilante* in 2000.

The King of the Cowboys

By

Nasty Newt, SASS # 7365

He's been gone a couple of years now, and I'm about over it, so I guess it's time for me to write a few words about Roy Rogers. You are forewarned that this won't exactly be an unbiased article. When I was a kid in the fifties, I walked around squinting my eyes in hopes it would make me look like him. When my brother and I were playing cowboys, most of the time we fabricated our cap gun scenarios around the adventures of our favorite TV heroes, Roy Rogers and Gene Autry. I always wanted to be Roy Rogers. It wasn't that I had anything against Gene. I liked his TV show, and the old movies, too. But Roy was, well, he was *Roy Rogers*.

Roy Rogers was born Leonard Slye on November 5, 1911, in Cincinnati, and grew up on a farm in Duck Run, Ohio. His childhood was uneventful, and Roy once said the main thing he remembered about it was "shoveling crap." So even though the future was a complete unknown, 18-year-old Leonard didn't object when the family migrated to California in 1930 to work as fruit pickers. He wanted to be a singer anyway, and California looked more promising than Duck Run.

He eventually joined two other men to form The Sons of the Pioneers, and shortly thereafter the group had a recording contract. In between singing gigs, as "Dick Weston," Roy began playing bit parts

Continued on page

INSIDE THIS EDITION

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 From the President | 3 Sharon Bebee R.I.P. |
| 1 The King of the Cowboys | 3 RRV Match Schedule |
| 2 Upcoming Events | |

Continued from page 1

In February we will be shooting on the 7th and the 21st. We're on winter hours, so we'll start sign ups at 8:00, have the meeting at 8:45, and the new shooter class would be at 7:30. We'd like to know in advance if a new shooter is coming out. See ya out there!

Robbers Roost Vigilantes

Executive Board

President

Nasty Newt

Vice President

Bad Bascomb

Secretary

Goode Bascomb

Treasurer

Desert Willow

Territorial Governor

M. C. Ryder

Range Officer/Sgt. at Arms

Just George

The Robbers Roost Vigilantes Executive Board and the editor of *The Vigilante* are not responsible for mishaps of any nature that might occur from the use of published loading data or from the recommendations by any member of the staff, guest writers, or from products sold by advertisers.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Monthly shoots:

The Cajon Cowboys shoot on the: 2nd and 4th Saturday at the Gem Ranch in the Cajon Pass on old route 66. Contact Luke Warmwater at (909) 987-7017. www.cajoncowboys.com.

Five Dogs Creek Cowboys in Bakersfield shoot on the 1st weekend of each month. Call Utah Blaine, (661) 203-4238. www.5dogscreek.com

High Desert Cowboys shoot in Acton on the 3rd Sunday. Contact Doc Silverhawks, (661) 948-2543, or Lumpy Grits or Ima Schofield at (661)265-1923.

Double R Bar Regulators, Lucerne Valley, shoot the 2nd Sunday. www.rrbar.com. Contact Little Jersey Jo, 1-760-247-5012, joed56676@gmail.com.

Lone Wolf Shooters, Pahrump, NV, shoot the 4th and 5th Sunday. Call Lash Latigo or Penny Pepperbox, (775) 727-4600 days, (775) 727-8790 evenings. www.lonewolfshooters.com.

El Dorado Cowboys, Boulder City, NV, shoot the 1st weekend (Sat & Sun). Contact Charming at 702-565-3736, or Creeker at 702-328-4867. www.eldoradocowboys.com.

Chorro Valley Regulators shoot the 2nd Sunday and most 5th Sundays at Morro Bay. www.chorrovalleyregulators.org.

The King of the Cowboys Continued from page 1

in western movies, many of them starring Gene Autry, who was the reigning king of the hill among singing cowboys at Republic Pictures. By the time Autry went into the Army Air Corps during World War II, Dick Weston had become Roy Rogers, and had had several starring vehicles of his own. With Autry gone, Roy was given a chance to fill the void, and he didn't let the chance pass him by. The King of the Cowboys was on his way.

Of course, a fellow can't do it all by himself, and Roy didn't have to. In 1938, he was about to begin work on *Under Western Stars*, and needed a horse. One of the many he tried was a beautiful palomino stallion. Trigger was a bit pricey at \$2,500, but it was love at first sight. "I got on him and rode him 100 yards and never looked at another horse," Roy later recalled. "He was the best thing that ever happened to me." When not on a movie set, Roy and Trigger made personal appearances at state fairs and rodeos, where Trigger lived up to his billing as the smartest horse in the movies. He could untie a knotted rope, sit in a chair, and even add and subtract. But what Roy really appreciated was his gentleness. Trigger was a spirited stallion, but around children he turned into a docile playmate. "I could put six little kids on him, running from his neck to his rump," Roy said, "and he wouldn't complain." When the kids started lining up for their once-in-a-lifetime chance to sit on his back, Trigger knew his job was to stand still and put up with it for as long as it took. Over the years he had countless opportunities to misbehave, but he never once threw his head or made an unsafe move when there were kids around.

Continued on page 4

Business Card Advertising

THOMAS WIKNICH

GUNS 4 US

417 E. Ridgecrest Blvd • Ridgecrest, CA 93555
 Website: w.w.guns4us.com
 Email: guns4us@earthlink.net
 (760) 375-1004

BAD BASCOMB SASS #47,494
 (aka MARI TODD)

**TODD'S
 OUTDOOR SUPPLY**

NAME BRANDS TO SURPLUS
 QUALITY CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT
 FOR TRAIL OR TRAVEL

(760) 375-7223

425 W RIDGECREST BLVD. □ RIDGECREST, CA 93555

How to Join the Robbers Roost Vigilantes...

Come out to a RRV match, held the third (and sometimes first) Saturday of every month, or call Nasty Newt at 760-375-7618, or MC Ryder at 760-384-2321, or mail it in. Our membership application is here [RRV Membership Application](#) Annual membership dues for the RRV are: single membership \$25, member and spouse \$30, family membership (including children under 18 living at home) \$35. First time shooters will be able to take their FIRST (1) NEW SHOOTERS CLASS for \$10, any subsequent new shooters class or RRV match shoot will be \$10 members, \$15 nonmembers. Donations for shooting regular monthly RRV matches will be \$10 members, \$15 non-members. Memberships run from September 1 - August 31. New memberships purchased after September will be prorated depending on the number of months remaining and the type of membership. **RRV members are encouraged to become Single Action Shooting Society (SASS) members.** Please call SASS at (505) 843-1320, or go to www.sassnet.com. SASS first year single initiation membership is \$55, renewal for single membership is \$45. As part of your SASS membership you will receive The Cowboy Chronicle (12 issues/year), registration of your alias, a SASS badge with your SASS number on it, a membership certificate and membership card, a SASS Marshall lapel pin, and SASS Shooters Handbook. SASS membership is not required for membership in RRV, or participation in RRV regular monthly matches. **RRV encourages all shooters to join and support the NRA and the NRA Foundation, and Ridgecrest Gun Range Association.** For further information visit our website at www.robbersroostvigilantes.com.



COLLINS GUNSMITHING
 MODERN ANTIQUE REPLICA
 ACTION JOBS BLUEING STOCK WORK
 FOR ALL YOUR REPAIRS AND SERVICE
760-375-5703

Schedule of Monthly Matches

RRV Match Dates:

February 7, 2015

February 21, 2015

**Winter Hours: Sign up starting
 ~ 8:00, Safety Meeting ~ 8:45.**

New Shooter Class ~ 7:30.



**Sharon Bebee
 1952 - 2015
 Rest in Peace**

When Trigger died in 1965, Roy "...couldn't bear to put him in the ground." The smartest horse in the movies is beautifully mounted and on display at Roy and Dale's museum in Victorville, along with Dale's horse Buttermilk, and Bullet the Wonder Dog.

In 1936 Roy married Arlene Wilkins. They already had one adopted child, Cheryl Arlene, when in 1943, Arlene, who had been told she might never be able to have children, gave birth to Linda Lou. Life was almost too good to be true for Roy and his family. He and Arlene were madly in love, their children were healthy and happy, and he was making more money than he had ever dared dream about. But tragedy was just around the corner. On October 28, 1946, Arlene gave birth to Roy "Dusty" Rogers, Jr. Six days later, Arlene died of complications. Not quite 35 years old, Roy found himself alone with three little kids to raise. A year later, though, he married his frequent co-star, Dale Evans. He and Dale went on to star in numerous movies, not to mention the TV show I rarely if ever missed watching, once we got our first television in 1955. *The King of the Cowboys* and *the Queen of the West* were successful and happy, but had to suffer through the death of three of their nine children from illness or accident. Their faith helped them take it all in stride. "In the Bible, it does not say you are going to get by without having troubles," Roy said.

Over the years, Roy licensed hundreds of products that generated a cool \$1 billion in sales. Roy's comic books sold 25 million copies a year, and his picture appeared on 2.5 million boxes of Post cereal. At the peak of their popularity, the Sears catalog carried more than 400 items bearing Roy and Dale's names and pictures. Kids had Roy Rogers lunch boxes and sheets, cut-out dolls, and alarm clocks – not to mention guns, holsters, and hats. Millions of them joined fan clubs around the country, promising to obey Roy's rules, which included: Be neat and clean, always obey your parents, and protect the weak and help them.

In the hundreds of movies and television episodes in which he starred, many of which were filmed right up the road at Lone Pine, in the Alabama Hills, Roy was the quintessential good guy in the white hat. He always stood up for what was right, helped those who couldn't help themselves, and walked a straight and narrow path in a world where the line between right and wrong was clearly drawn. As you might suspect, he was exactly the same kind of man in real life. He was a good guy for a kid to look up to, and he took his responsibility as a role model seriously. According to Judge Roy Bean, SASS #1, Roy was the inspiration for the golden Rule of Cowboy Action Shooting. "We've patterned the most important rule in Cowboy Action Shooting – the Spirit of the Game – after Roy Rogers," said the Judge. "He was a fair man and it was because of him that we enjoy a fair shooting game." So, if you're ever about to shoot a stage, and you're thinking of exploiting a loophole in the scenario instructions that might shave a second or two off your time, don't just ask yourself if it's in the Spirit of the Game. Ask yourself, "What would Roy Rogers do?"

The connection between Roy Rogers and Cowboy Action Shooting was a natural. I don't know that he ever shot a match, but Roy was a SASS member. He was one of two members who have been allowed to use their real names as their alias. The other is Dale Evans. SASS' number one charity is Roy and Dale's Happy Trails Children's Foundation, and Dusty Rogers is a SASS competitor under the alias Ol' Grizz. One of Roy's last public appearances was at the 1998 End of Trail. He was interviewed by Jim Scoutten for *American Shooter*. Scoutten looked around at all of the grownups playing cowboy and said, "You know, Roy, there are some people who believe you're responsible for all of this." Roy grinned, and said, "Well, I don't know about that, but I like guns, and respect them. I'm 86 years old, and I still like to

go shooting.” Roy was wearing a baseball cap for that television interview, because his driver had forgotten to bring the white Stetson. A couple of months later, The King of the Cowboys was gone.

Continued on page 5

The King of the Cowboys *Ccontinued from page 4*

In the early fall of 1998, I was working in the Geothermal Program Office on the base. One of our consultants had flown into Ontario and rented a car for the last leg of the trip to China Lake. It was early evening as he passed through Adelanto, where he read on the marquee at Maverick Stadium that Willie Nelson was doing a concert there, that very night. He wasn't due at China Lake until the next day, so he pulled off the highway to see if there was a ticket available. As luck would have it, there was. The next morning, seeing a picture of Roy and Trigger taped to my office door, he told me about the concert. “Don't get me wrong,” he said. “I like Willie Nelson, and enjoyed his show. But the highlight of the evening for me was the opening act. It was Dusty Rogers and his band, and they did about an hour-long tribute to Roy Rogers, and finished, of course, with *Happy Trails*. There wasn't a dry eye in the ballpark.” I can believe it.

The End