

TUSCO TIMES

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TUSCO LONG RIDERS

"The Shooting Makes It Fun, the People Make It Special"

June 2022

Writer/Editor: Prairie Dawg

In this Issue

June Shoot Results
July's Major Shoots in NE Ohio
Cowboy Swap Meet
The Vaudeville Theater Ambush
March 1884, San Antonio, Texas

Next Shoot:
July 2, 2022



The Tusco Long Riders June 4, 2011 Monthly Shoot

1	The Cumberland Kid	Gunfighter	90.91	CLEAN
2	Cheyenne Culpepper	Gunfighter	101.78	CLEAN
3	Buckshot Charlie Bill	49er	122.42	
4	Stone Creek Drifter	FC Gunfighter	123.86	CLEAN
5	Gray Hare	Wrangler	125.16	
6	Hooligan Howes	Gunfighter	126.77	CLEAN
7	Buckaroo Bubba	Duelist	128.04	CLEAN
8	John Barleycorn	Gunfighter	130.96	CLEAN
9	Gray Squirrel	49er	134.07	
10	N.A. Custer	Elder Statesman Gunfighter	139.63	CLEAN
11	Life-R	Josey Wales	140.85	CLEAN
12	Cheatin Charlie	FC Duelist	142.64	
13	Split Rail	FC Gunfighter	145.79	

14	Angie Oakley	Lady Gunfighter	151.12
15	La Porte Lefty	Duelist	151.77
16	Kcid	Silver Senior	158.01
17	Laramie Leadslinger	Silver Senior Gunfighter	162.21
18	Thunder Creek Kid	Pale Rider	166.62 CLEAN
19	John Lee	Duelist	167.52
20	Moosetracks	Senior Duelist	171.44 CLEAN
21	Frontier Lone Rider	Elder Statesman	172.15
22	Last Gun	EL Rey	178.51 CLEAN
23	Buckeye Stacks	Wrangler	180.90 CLEAN
24	Plowboy	49er	192.07
25	Cardiac Kate	Lady 49er	209.61 CLEAN
26	Duke Hunter	49er	221.67
27	Yippy Yiyo Kiyay	Cattle Baron	224.96 CLEAN
28	Prairie Dawg	Frontiersman	225.09
29	Rye Miles	Cattle Baron	229.78
30	Saddlemaker	Elder Statesman	398.22 CLEAN
31	Slow Eddie	Silver Senior	423.41
32	Kid Curt	Senior	489.57



July Major Shoots in Northern Ohio for 2022

Ohio Valley Vigilantes -- Mt. Vernon, Ohio

The Final Showdown -- July 22 - 24

The Sandusky County Regulators -- Gibsonburg, Ohio

The SASS Ohio State Blackpowder Championship -- July 30



June 2022 Cowboy Swap Meet

If interested, contact seller & arrange swap

Seller:

Prairie Dawg AKA Lou Polsinelli

LPOLSI@yahoo.com 216-334-9749

#1 -- Lyman 2500 Pro Magnum Turbo Tumbler \$35

#2 -- Older (Blue) Lyman Model 600 Tumbler \$20

#3 -- Two RCBS Rotary Case/Media Separators \$20 each

#4 -- Media -- Corncob & Walnut

Seller:

Frontier Lone Rider -- chasv1948@hotmail.com

#1. Ruger Vaquero 512-74589 NM Vaquero 357 Magnum Revolver Stainless Steel

NIB Ruger New Model Vaquero. Catalog No. KNV-34. Vaquero Revolver, Model 05109. Fixed Barrel Length - **4 5/8" (4.63")** with fixed sights on a stainless steel frame with red wood grips. This gun was manufactured in 2014 but is unfired new in box. Original box and paper work is included. **NEVER FIRED** 29 JAN 2017 **\$900.00**

#2. Ruger Vaquero 510-45445 NM Vaquero 357 Magnum Revolver Stainless Steel

NIB Ruger New Model Vaquero. Vaquero Revolver. Fixed Barrel Length - **5 1/2"** with fixed sights on a stainless steel frame with Checkered Black Grips. Original box and paper work is included. **NEVER FIRED** 22 OCT 2020 **\$900.00**

#3. Ruger Vaquero 510-67806 NM Vaquero 357 Magnum Revolver Stainless Steel

USED Ruger New Model Vaquero. SA 5.5BSS, Catalog No. KNV-35 Vaquero Revolver, Model 05108. Fixed Barrel Length - **5 1/2"**. Beautiful **Ruger New Vaquero revolver**. It is in *Excellent* condition, bordering on Like New, and features a High Gloss Stainless Steel frame, cylinder, barrel, and red wood grips. Includes the factory case, manuals, and padlock. 18 DEC 2016 **\$850.00**

#4. Ruger Vaquero 512-94536 NM Vaquero 357 Magnum Revolver Stainless Steel

USED Ruger New Model Vaquero. Vaquero Revolver, Model 05108. Fixed **5 1/2"** Barrel. Beautiful **Ruger New Vaquero revolver**. It is in *Excellent* condition, bordering on Like New and features a High Gloss Stainless Steel frame, cylinder, barrel, with wood grips. Includes the factory case, manuals, and padlock. 9 JULY 2017 **\$850.00**

5. Ruger Vaquero 510-53336 NM Vaquero 357 Magnum Revolver Stainless Steel

USED Ruger New Model Vaquero. Catalog No. KNV-34. Vaquero Revolver, Model 05109. Fixed Barrel Length - **4 5/8" (4.62")**. Beautiful **Ruger New Vaquero revolver**. It is in *Excellent* condition, bordering on Like New and features a High Gloss Stainless Steel frame, cylinder, barrel, with black checkered synthetic grips. Includes the factory case, manuals, and padlock.

12 DEC

2016

\$850.00



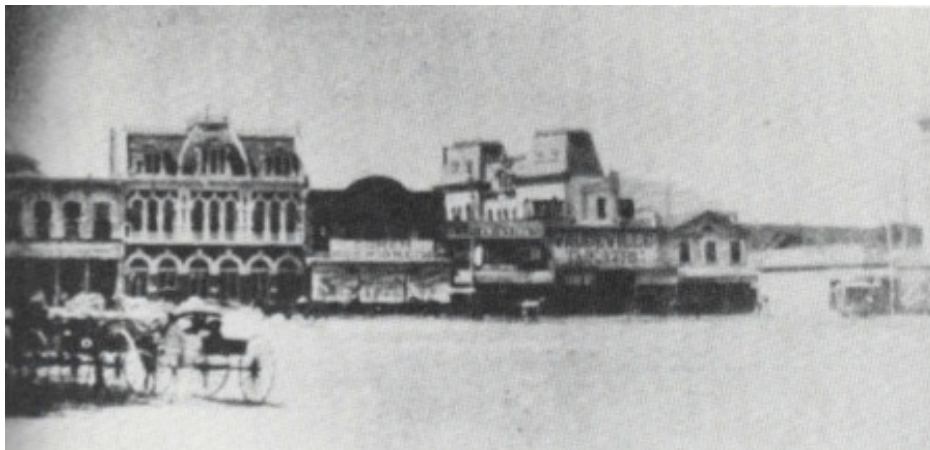
Prairie Dawg's Old West Chronicles

A Compendium of Useful Information

June, 2022

The Vaudeville Theater Ambush, San Antonio, Texas

The Vaudeville Theater Ambush was the ambush and murder on March 11, 1884 by Joe Foster and Jacob Coy of former lawmen Ben Thompson and King Fisher. It took place at the Jack Harris Vaudeville Saloon and Theater in San Antonio, Texas. The ambush was in revenge for Ben Thompson's shooting of Jack Harris two years earlier.



King Fisher and Ben Thompson were both noted gunmen of the Old West. Thompson had killed several men by 1884, including the 1882 death of popular theater owner Jack Harris in San Antonio. That shooting had been ruled self defense.

The Jack Harris Vaudeville Saloon and Theater in San Antonio, Texas

Thompson had been appointed Chief of Police for the city of Austin, Texas, a job in which he had been extremely successful, and for which he was extremely popular in Austin. Thompson had recently left that job, resigning after being cleared on the Harris shooting.

King Fisher, a noted gunman in his own right, had several killings to his credit, and was a good friend to Thompson. By 1884, Fisher had settled into a more peaceful life with his family, near Leakey, Texas, and had become a successful rancher. Fisher had recently left the office of sheriff for Uvalde County, Texas, and on March 11, 1884, was in San Antonio on business.

Theater owner Jack Harris had been the leader of San Antonio's "sporting crowd". Originally from Ireland, Harris emigrated to Connecticut, then moved to Texas. He previously worked for the San Antonio Police Department, and had served during the Civil War in the Confederate Army. After the Civil War, Harris may have served Emperor Maximilian during the Franco-Mexican War, a claim that was never confirmed. In 1868, Harris rejoined the police force, and bought a small saloon with a partner. He sold his portion in 1872, and used his profits to open his own saloon, first calling it the Jack Harris Bar and Billiard Room, later changing the name to the Vaudeville Variety Theater. It quickly became the most popular place in San Antonio, and helped anchor what would become known as "The Sporting District", the city's red-light district.

Harris knew gunman Ben Thompson from their service in the army. In 1880, Thompson spent some time at the Vaudeville, gambling heavily alongside Harris' partner, Joe Foster. Thompson suffered heavy losses, and left a "bad mood". It was reported that he made threats, but these reports were never substantiated.

Thompson returned to Austin, where in addition to being Chief of Police, he owned the Iron Front Saloon.

Harris and Foster sent word to Thompson that he was no longer welcome in their establishment.

Had Harris simply told Thompson that, the matter would have likely stopped there. But, Harris was publicly saying that Thompson was not welcome in his business, and he wasn't to return. Thompson ignored him, and simply returned on July 11, 1882. Vaudeville Variety Theater manager Billy Simms met Thompson on the street, and tried to persuade him to avoid the Vaudeville, but was unsuccessful.

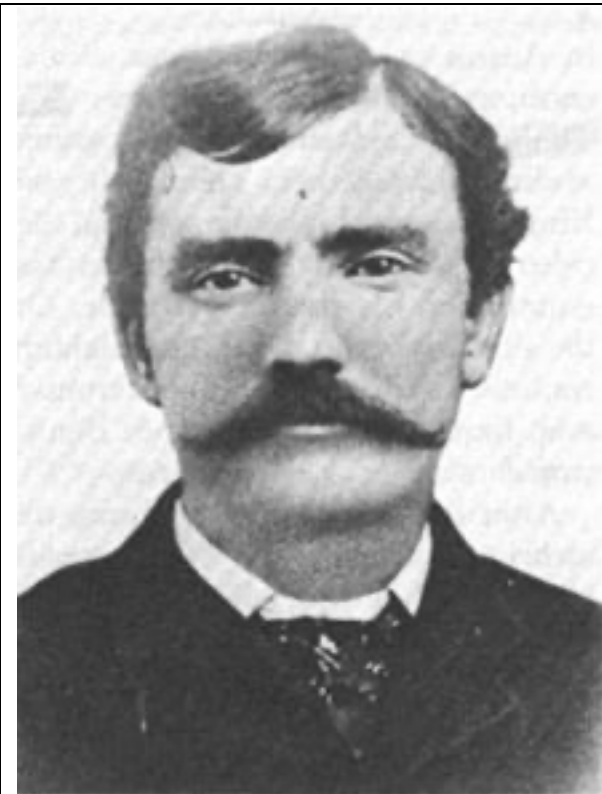
Thompson entered, approached the bartender, and told him to pass word to both Foster and Harris that he intended to "close this damn whorehouse".



Ben Thompson 1843-1884

Thompson had a drink with jeweler Leon Rouvant, and went outside, visiting with friends on the street. Meanwhile, Billy Simms went upstairs and put on his guns. He warned Harris, who obtained a shotgun, placed himself behind a screen in view of the front door, and waited for Thompson. Thompson returned, standing just outside the doorway, and saw Harris with the shotgun, but at first said nothing. After a few minutes, with Harris still watching Thompson,

the latter finally said, "What are you going to do with that shotgun, you damned son of a bitch?" Harris replied, "You kiss my ass, you son of a bitch!" Within seconds, two shots rang out. At least one witness would later state that, after the verbal exchange, it was one or two minutes before the shots were fired, but, in fact, it was only a couple of seconds at most. According to some witnesses, Thompson saw Harris, but did not initially enter the saloon. Instead, he waited and watched, and held the saloon doors, allowing two ladies to enter. This was followed by the verbal exchange, after which the two shots were fired almost immediately.



John King Fisher 1853-1884

Harris staggered, without discharging his shotgun, made it upstairs, and collapsed.

A doctor was summoned, and Harris alleged claimed, "He took advantage of me, and shot me from the dark."

However, this was not exactly true.

Although Harris never fired, he was openly armed, and the area was lighted.

Thompson was standing just outside the doorway, which was darkened, but Harris' stance of producing and brandishing the shotgun, placed Harris at a distinct disadvantage, and Thompson had a strong case of self-defense.

Further, although Thompson was standing in a more darkened area than Harris, there was nothing to suggest it was a planned point from which to fire.

It simply was where he happened to be standing.

Thompson returned to his hotel room at the Menger Hotel, where he remained the rest of the night, without being approached by police. The following morning, he surrendered himself to Bexar County, Texas Sheriff Thomas P. McCall and San Antonio Police Chief Shariden.

A written battle of words began between two newspapers, the San Antonio Light was screaming for justice against Thompson, and the Austin Statesman, was defending him. Newspapers from across the state editorialized and followed suit, some pro-Thompson, others con. Many citizens in San Antonio felt the town was better off without Harris, while others denounced Thompson as a murderer. An indictment was handed down on September 6, 1882, and, although a change of venue was considered, at that time sentiment was leaning in Thompson's favor, so the case was tried in San Antonio. In the trial, Thompson was acquitted on January 30, 1883. This caused ill will from many of the citizens of San Antonio, especially those who were close friends of Harris. Thompson's Friends cheered outside the courtroom when the verdict was announced, and upon his return to Austin, he was met by a large crowd of supporters.

Over a year later, on March 11, 1884, Fisher and Ben Thompson were both visiting San Antonio on business. Thompson was still very unpopular in San Antonio, and, since the killing, a feud had been brewing between Thompson and friends of Harris (including Joe Foster). On March 11, Fisher and Thompson attended a play at the Turner Hall Opera House, then later went to the Vaudeville Variety Theater. A local lawman named Jacob Coy sat with them. Thompson wanted to see Joe Foster, the theater owner and friend of Harris. Foster was now partnered with Billy Simms, and was one of the people fueling the ongoing feud. Thompson had already had a cordial and almost friendly conversation with Billy Simms

Despite the feud and the general dislike for Thompson felt by many in San Antonio, both he and Fisher were feared men. They had made reputations as gunmen, and had proven their skills in many documented events, so anyone wishing to face them would have second thoughts. It is likely that this led Thompson's enemies to plan an ambush, rather than an armed face-to-face confrontation.

Fisher and Thompson were directed upstairs to meet with Foster. Coy and Simms soon joined them in the theater box. Foster refused to speak with Thompson. Fisher allegedly noticed that something was not right. Simms and Coy stepped aside, and as they did, Fisher and Thompson leapt to their feet, just as a volley of gunfire erupted from another theater box, with a hail of bullets hitting both Thompson and Fisher. Thompson fell onto his side, and either Coy or Foster ran up to him, and shot him in the head with a pistol. Thompson returned fire with two shots, dying almost immediately afterward. Fisher was shot thirteen times, and did fire one round in retaliation, possibly wounding Coy. That was never confirmed, as Coy may have been shot by one of the attackers. Coy was left crippled for life, and never recovered completely.

Foster, in attempting to draw his own pistol when the fight began, shot himself in the leg. Foster was carried down the street for medical attention, and his leg was amputated, but he died of blood loss during the operation. The exact description of the events of that night are contradictory, as it was totally dependent on anti-Thompson witnesses, or the attackers themselves. At first, the attackers attempted to claim that Thompson and Foster had argued, and that Thompson had drawn his gun on Foster, prompting Foster to draw, which resulted in an open gun battle. That, however, was disproved over time. What is certain is that the two gunmen were ambushed with no prior knowledge of the attack, which put aside any self-defense claims by the attackers.

There was a public outcry for a grand jury indictment of those involved, not only from Austin and other parts of Texas, but from many inside San Antonio, who felt the ambush was cowardly. However, no action was ever taken. The San Antonio Police and the prosecutor showed little interest in the case, and eventually it simply went away. Fisher was buried on his ranch. His body was later moved to the Pioneer Cemetery in Uvalde, Texas. Thompson's body was returned to Austin, and his funeral was one of the largest in Austin's history at that time. Thompson was buried at the Oakwood Cemetery in Austin.

News & Notes

Six Stages

We shoot six stages at Tusco. A few people have told us that they drive a good distance to shoot at Tusco and would like to shoot as much as possible.

Obviously we only have room for five shooting bays. So what we do is shoot the first stage you start on twice. Consider it a warm up stage. Only five stages will be scored. You can take your best time on your first stage. If you don't want to shoot it twice you do not have to. This would provide more shooting for our shooters.

New SASS Magazine

With the new release of the SASS Quarterly Cowboy Chronicle, I once again would like to start collecting any unwanted issues of the magazine. We will use these for our promotional events, like our Tusco Long Riders' Day at Kames Sports. Please either black out or cut off your name and address or I will do it before they are passed out. Thank you!

Facebook Page

When you make a post about Tusco or share pictures on Facebook, include #TuscoLongRiders. Let everyone see what we are all about.

News & Notes

New Shooters Shoot for Free at Tusco

The Tusco Long Riders will be offering FREE SHOOTS to ALL FIRST TIME SHOOTERS AT TUSCO. This is ONLY for a shooter's first ever shoot at Tusco. (*this is only for monthly matches, excluding High Noon 3-day Shoot in October, and the Charity Shoot in November.)

Cowboy Swap Meet at Monthly Shoots

As a reminder, feel free to bring your old Cowboy Gear, Guns and Equipment to sell at our monthly shoots. It's a good opportunity to sell some of your unwanted stuff to your fellow shooters. Your items are your responsibility.

Pre-Paid Shoots

Looking for that perfect Gift for your Cowboy Friends and Family? How about a Pre-paid Shoot to a Tusco Monthly Match. They cost \$10.00 each at a shoot or they can be mailed for \$10.50. Contact Buckaroo Bubba at pittfandwr@aol.com or 330-348-5637 if you would like to purchase them.

Help Wanted at Tusco

If you are available to help set up target stands/props before our shoots it would be greatly appreciated.



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