



MERLIN MARAUDERS Cowboy Gazette

[WEBSITE: www.merlinmaraudercowboys.com](http://www.merlinmaraudercowboys.com)

Merlin Marauders, P.O. Box 202, Grants Pass, OR 97528

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

For My Holiday Treat: instead of you having to endure my scribblings, here begins a 3-part western tale penned by **Editor Emeritus Sweetwater Jack**. Enjoy Part 1! — Britt

Prologue from your author: As you may or may not recall, about 4 years ago, I wrote an story that was published in The Cowboy Chronicle (must have been a slow news day) about the "Bank Robbery in Jacksonville" by the nefarious "Perforated Smith Gang," naming names (sort of), and including thinly disguised friends of ours. "It was a dark and stormy night"...No, that won't work, overused "lead-in")

OK, ok, I HAVE IT..... "It was a dark and stormy **afternoon** in the sleepy mining town of Jacksonville, Oregon when two bright flashes penetrated the gloom for the mounted stranger peering in through the alley-facing windows of the Jacksonville Bank. Those flashes signaled TROUBLE for the "Perforated Smith" Gang, as the sound of 45 Caliber revolver shots roared out of the bank's front door ahead of the acrid clouds of powder smoke. The "lookout" in the alley, "Sidesaddle Smith" (so-named due to an old and very unfortunate mumbledy-peg accident with a Barlow knife) raced to the rear of the bank, leading his pardners' saddled mounts behind him, arriving just as the two robbers burst out of the back door, bandannas covering their faces and each clutching a canvas draw-string sack emblazoned with the bank's name.

Both figures leapt astride their mounts and the trio pounded down the muddy and manure-strewn street towards the river in the direction of the bustling town of Middle Ford. (Later changed to "Medford" for the sake of those citizens who couldn't spell Middle). Gasping for breath as he clung desperately to remain atop the side-saddle, Sidesaddle called out: "Whut went wrong!?! How come there wuz shootin'?! I thot we wuz s'posed to do this job QUIET-like!?" Weren't that the plan??!! The leader, "Perforated Smith" yelled back: "Talk to yer BROTHER! He's the one what shot the TELLER, the blamed idjet!!

cont. next page.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Tues. January 10th @ 6:00 PM

At the Black Forest Family Restaurant at 829 NE "E" Street, in the Grants Pass Shopping Center near Staples.

Come early for dinner! (5:00 PM or so)

NEXT MONTHLY MATCH: Saturday, January 7th.

Sign-in - 9:00 to 9:30; **Safety Mtg.** - 9:30; **First shot** - 10:00

Setup on Friday morning 9:00 - 11:00 AM

Take I-5 to exit 61 and North on frontage road to Josephine County Sportsman's Park.

“THE BANK ROBBERY IN JACKSONVILLE” PART 1, CONTINUED

“Oh yeah! Blame ME!” the third owl-hoot shot back at Purgatory,, (Ooops, I mean PERFORATED...PERFORATED...) It wuz YOU wrote the hold-up note! Soon as I handed it to the teller feller he put on his bio-focal glasses and kinda’ squinted at the note and says: “What’s THIS word, here?” and he points to where you wrote it wuz a bank robbery and we had GUBS, and not to mess around with alarms and dye packs and all that bank robbery stuff..... GUBS?! GUBS?! No WONDER he ast me for a PHOTO ID!”

“So ya showed him yer Ralston-Purina Straight Shooter Club Card? Kinda’ did make the bandanna over the face thing look a little silly, didn’t it?” Now, if’n that teller lives, the LAW will know what we look like,,,”

Meanwhile, back in Jacksonville, the teller, very much alive, is telling the Town Marshal, Marshal Chapped Hyde, not only just exactly what the one deranged outlaw looks like, but his NAME and Ralston-Purina Club number, too! “Marshal, now that you know that we were held up by JD Skipper, I suppose you’ll be able to run him down over there in Sam’s Valley without much trouble, and bring in his sidekicks, the Perforated Smith Gang, with no trouble, either. “The thing that puzzles me is why in the world ‘Old JD shot me with them BLANKS! I heard as how he don’t like heavy recoil and all, but BLANKS!?!?”

By now the street in front of the bank has filled with the concerned and the curious. Grumbling and mumbling from the crowd.. “When’s the Marshal ‘a’gonna’ form a posse and go AFTER them miscreants!?!? Along with “Damn! Stepped in ANOTHER “Horse Apple”. The owner of the Runnin’ Wild Ranch asked what the thieves had got away with... a Saloon gal (ACS) answered; “I heered it was the MINE PAYROLL!” With that, Bob Runnin’ Wild, of the RWR said: “Oh Hell! Them rich mine owners kin afford it!” Marshal CH called back “And, Bob they got YOUR alimony payments to your ex-wives too!” “WHAT!?! STRING THE FILTHY DEVILS UP!” Steely-eyed, the Marshal took in the crowd of about 80, looking for men and some women, too, to form a posse. “I’m lookin’ for a few folks to ride hard, sleep on the trail, eat cold food and chase down these owl-hoots, and possibly face death at the end of the trail. Who’s WITH ME!?!?”

A moment later, speaking to the two still standing nearby: “How about YOU, Homer?” “Sorry Marshal, I have a dental appointment in an hour, just trying to get my boot unstuck from this horse apple.” Only one left was a scrawny-looking gent in a long, black frock coat and flat-brimmed Stetson. How ‘bout you, Sweetwater? You willin?” If ya are, grab a badge from my office, pin it on an’ meet me at the livery in 5 minutes.” And with that Marshal Hyde stalked away....

Six hours later, having tracked the three bank robbers through field, stream, bush and pasture to Sam’s Valley, the two-man posse confronts the bedraggled robbers, and in a hail of gunfire, the Perforated Smith Gang exists only in legend! As the black powder and Pyrodex smoke clears, the marshal looks over at his new deputy and sees him, hunched over and clutching his chest, dazed from loss of blood and about to fall from his saddle. Running to his side, Marshal Hyde sees the man is clutching his left breast, a look of excruciating pain on his face. Coming within a few feet the law dog sees that his compadre is holding a small, furry animal to his shirt front. Close examination reveals the animal to be a badger... “Dammit, no, Sweetwater!! I said grab a BADGE from my office.....”.

Curious to see just what and how much the robbers got away with, Marshal Hyde untied the drawstrings on the bank sacks and looked into one, and then the other... Rocking back on his heels, a puzzled expression on his rugged face, he let out a low whistle.... "These boys musta' been in a whale of a hurry to escape that bank after they found out the vault wuz locked!! They grabbed these bags off the New Accounts Desk and bolted." Shaking out both bags, two bright shiny TOASTERS tumbled to the ground.....

STAY TUNED NEXT ISSUE FOR PART II

MARAUDER MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION & MATCH FEES

<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>		<u>SHOOTING FEES</u>	
Individual Membership	\$25	Individual MM Member	\$10
Family* Membership	\$35	Additional MM Family Adults	\$5 each
<i>*Family is defined as all living under one roof</i>		Individual Non-MM Member	\$13
For membership issues and information call: Molly b'Dam @(541) 479-2928			
Complete new/renewal application and mail to: Merlin Marauders, P.O. Box 202, Grants Pass Oregon 97528			

QUICK CLUB UPDATES

Membership: Our membership stands at 53. We welcome new members.

It is time to renew your memberships for 2017. Dues notices will be sent before January 1st - \$35 for Family and \$25 for single memberships. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Merlin Marauder Christmas Party: The 2016 Merlin Marauder Christmas Party on December 10th, 2016 at the Black Forest Restaurant was a great success! Already looking forward to next year!

Merlin Marauder Officers: Our new slate of two year Term Officers will be sworn in at the January meeting. They are **President - Bobbin Along Daisy; Match Director - Long Henry Thompson; Secretary/Membership - Molly b'Dam; and Director 1 position - Mountain Grizz.** Congrats to all.

Annual Match: The 2017 Battle of Rogue River is a GO! Mark your calendars for **May 19, 20, and 21, 2017.** Those of you who have attended in the past, know we will have tons of fun events scheduled including costume contests, Friday's potluck, the Ladies Tea, side matches, Wild Bunch and Plainsman matches, vendors and we always offer lots of shooter prizes. The 2017 theme will be "**Western Film Comedies**" which should make for some hilarious, fun stage scenarios. We are hoping that our match schedule will allow participants to attend both the Battle of Rogue River and then proceed to True Grit for the following weekends. So...**Mark your calendars.** Watch for our Match Application and updates shortly on our website at merlinmaraudercowboys.com.



January Stage Writers:

Stages #1, 2 - at Bay #1: Long Henry Thompson Stage #3 - at Bay #2: Molly b'Dam

Stages #4, 5 at Bay #3: Britt Ponsett

Dispatches From Territorial Governor Bear Bone Smith, SASS Reg. 10719, Merlin Marauder T.G

... will return next month .

And we all wish Bear Bone a swift, pain-free, and complete recovery! Take care, pard!

And a Special Salute to a Few of Our Other Pards who are currently sidelined with some medical issues of their own ... We wish you all the best and look forward to your speedy return.

MERLIN MARAUDER MATCH RESULTS

November

Rank	Alias	Category	OA Time	Total Misses	Net Stage1	Net Stage 2	Net Stage 3	Net Stage 4	Net Stage 5
1	Royal Flush	Senior	96.57	0.00	17.09	16.69	21.17	18.88	22.74
2	Johnny Dingus	Senior Gunfighter	162.45	2.00	28.13	31.41	30.01	44.11	28.79
3	Kidd Krystin	Senior Gunfighter	182.06	2.00	35.30	33.12	32.09	50.34	31.21
4	Butch Brass	Gunfighter	202.36	8.00	32.71	36.93	34.25	54.76	43.71
5	Cimarron River Deacon	Forty-Niner	202.59	1.00	36.08	30.02	32.54	48.71	55.24
6	Mountain Grizz	Senior Duelist	235.07	5.00	38.34	56.34	47.00	56.53	36.86
7	Imnaha Chuck	Merlin Cowboy	238.90	3.00	64.47	43.44	40.31	45.83	44.85
8	New Hope Kid	Forty-Niner	270.49	18.00	59.09	60.05	39.40	51.17	60.78
9	Barbarosa Mike	Sen. Frontier Cartridge Duelist	293.69	1.00	52.30	62.63	56.59	63.31	58.86
10	Cool Duckie Fish	Buckaroo	293.99	7.00	42.33	65.91	56.46	64.50	64.79
11	Ima Loden	Lady Forty-Niner	301.13	2.00	51.24	60.57	73.42	62.63	53.27
12	32 Bit Bill	Senior	307.92	14.00	48.12	44.32	38.24	103.56	73.68

December

Rank	Alias	Category	OA Time	Total Misses	Net Stage 1	Net Stage 2	Net Stage 3	Net Stage 4	Net Stage 5
1	Royal Flush	Senior	138.53	5.00	21.00	21.87	20.76	39.43	35.47
2	32 Bit Bill	Silver Senior	211.93	5.00	28.86	32.94	41.38	60.68	48.07
3	Nick L Ante	Gunfighter	215.58	9.00	34.02	38.63	52.78	41.76	48.39
4	Kidd Krystin	Senior Gunfighter	236.10	8.00	47.04	41.02	54.75	46.02	47.27
5	Britt Ponsett	Senior Gunfighter	263.97	11.00	46.64	50.05	60.23	53.17	53.88
6	Treacherous Jack	Silver Senior	268.61	8.00	41.99	41.26	56.73	83.31	45.32
7	Butch Brass	Gunfighter	280.93	14.00	33.19	55.90	52.91	78.36	60.57
8	Barbarosa Mike	Elder Statesman	311.57	3.00	46.11	67.33	63.48	68.04	66.61
9	Cool Duckie Fish	Buckaroo	317.63	8.00	53.39	53.80	56.01	85.79	68.64
10	Mountain Grizz	Senior Duelist	329.89	17.00	48.64	64.81	66.67	80.45	69.32
11	Cimarron River Deacon	Forty-Niner	351.61	19.00	56.73	58.89	70.39	78.64	86.96
12	Twilight Kate	Lady Young Gun	500.10	31.00	75.72	97.48	87.02	114.25	125.65

Happy New Year Trails!