

Mine Branch Epitaph



Newsletter Of The Gunpowder Creek Regulators

June 2008

MALLIE WOODS MEMORIAL SHOOT

—featuring—

BUFFALO BILLS

WILD WEST SHOW

On Saturday September the 13th the traveling troupe of William F. Cody ~ Buffalo Bill ~ will arrive at the town of Mine Branch to help us celebrate the 9th Annual Mallie Woods Memorial Shoot. WOW ~ what a treat!! A chance of a lifetime to see the “Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show”. Buffalo Bill was an American soldier, Indian scout for the Calvary, buffalo hunter for the Kansas Pacific Railroad and currently is the most colorful showman on the globe. The world renowned Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show will appear with many authentic old west personalities, such as the legendary “Wild Bill” Hickok, crack shot Annie Oakley, American Indian Sitting Bull and Texas gunman and scout “Texas Jack” Omohundro. The show will consist of a series of historical events that will showcase feats of sharpshooting and cowboy showmanship. Mr. Cody might even be impressed with some of our local folks ...you know we do have quite a few sharpshooters and showmen among us. Who knows? A.R. Stoner might even land him a place in the “Show” with his unmistakable (yeah, that’s my best description-he’s no Johnny Ringo) gun-twirling abilities. We hope that all the Regulators and townspeople will be in attendance to participate in this true spectacle of the old west frontier. Saddle up, Ride hard, Come hungry and heeled ...we might have to help defend the town. A grand time will be had by all!

Little Miss Sure Shot

by Chilkoot

Craack...Craack. Newt Fetchit looked at his pal, Carolina Boy. He heard it too! “Twenty-two I’d say” ventured Newt. “Yup”. Agreed Carolina. The boys had been catchin’ crawdads in Gunpowder Creek, not far from town. The two friends scrambled up the bank and onto the dirt road that led back into Mine Branch. Travelers on the road were few and locals with a .22 rifle were fewer. The boys hustled toward the shots, which were still resounding off the hills of Happy Valley. Coming upon a deserted fallow field, a girl stood, rifle at her shoulder. Craack! The rifle spoke again and a green glass ball, thrown by a man some yards away, exploded into dust. “Are you getting tired dear”? the man inquired. “No Frank. I’ll shoot awhile yet”. Suddenly. “You there! Boys!”, noticing the uninvited audience. Frank was about to run them off, but thought better of it. “What do you think of our “Little Miss Sure Shot”? WHO? “Little Miss Sure Shot”, Annie Oakley, surely even a pair of backwoods ruffians, such as yourselves, have heard of the world famous Miss Oakley. “No sir. We don’t think we have”. The wide eyed lads looked at each other and shook their heads in the negative. “My Dear, load your rifle and let us educate these sturdy young fellows as to your marksmanship skills”. In a twinkling of an eye a dozen shots blended into a single sound. An equal number of glass balls became dust borne on the breeze. Newt and Carolina, mouths agape, were transfixed. Never would they have believed such a thing ..and a girl had done it. “Close your mouths lads, else you may seriously deplete the population of locust in this hamlet”. “Doesn’t Miss Oakley ever miss a shot”? Asked Carolina Boy. A sly smile came over the man’s face. “Oh God, Frank don’t tell that story again, please”, as she continued with packing her firearms in a handsome brown leather case, emblazoned with a colorful label proclaiming: Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Shows. Oh well. Their equipment loaded into the buggy, Frank fished in his vest pocket for two tickets and handed them to the boys. “I expect that you two

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Little Miss Sure Shot *(cont.)*

are denizens of a local metropolis known as Mine Branch, are you not"? Both nodded in the affirmative. "Then lads make your departure for your environs announcing to all and sundries that ..." Buffalo Bill and his Wild and Woolly "adventure will arrive in your town and that you two have already previewed the main attraction. The buggy, it's occupants, rifles and colored glass balls were gone in a cloud of dust. Newt and Carolina looked around at the field stubble and weren't so sure that it hadn't been a dream ...except for the tickets left behind.

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MAY 2008 Notables...

- ❖ *Congratulations to Dipstick for a great match win with a total time of 133.70. Smokin'*
- ❖ *Great shooting by Sixgun Sallie ...TOP LADY finisher coming in 3rd overall.*
- ❖ *Four clean shooters in May. Col. Cid A Del, Blackheart Barrett, Walking Bear and you guessed it ...Hiem. Great shootin' pards.*
- ❖ *Creek Walker Bob was back at Mine Branch in May, but this time with his guns strapped on. Hope you enjoyed your 1st match Bob. Looking forward to shooting with you again.*
- ❖ *Welcome back Tracker Mike. Good to see you on the streets of Mine Branch again.*
- ❖ *Also, hardy congrats to Buckshot Johnson for being the last Regulator to receive the coveted Honor Coin.*
- ❖ *Thank You, Thank You, Thank You to El Hombre Jorge & Lil Luke for their hospitality and wonderful food that was made available to all at the Cookout & Campout.*

The Cowgirl Corner **Photo Shoot to Cowboy Shoot**

By Ripshin's Shadow

Throughout history there has always been the cowboy-Horse riding, cattle rusting, gun toting. Where does that leave the women who love guns as much as men? That's where I come in. I was first introduced to Cowboy Action Shooting and the town of Mine Branch as their photographer. The members enjoyed seeing themselves shooting and all decked out in their western gear. Through my photos, I saw the fun and the joy shooting brought to all the individuals and families involved. For two years I snapped shots of smoking guns, bullets in flight, expressions of deep concentration and laughter. It was during this time that my family urged me to try standing on the other side of the lens. I can remember the rush I felt as I pulled that trigger for the first time and hit my first target. The time I shot a clean stage, it gave me the same rush as looking through my camera lens. I felt like I'd been taken back to the Old West! I was hooked! It was then that I started noticing just how few women there were in CAS. I was proud to be one of them! Since I was introduced to CAS and became a resident of Mine Branch over five years ago, membership has increased tremendously ...especially women. For myself and my family Cowboy Action Shooting and the Town of Mine Branch isn't just about shooting. It's a day where I gather with my cowboy family and friends for some fun competition, laughter and food. So come on to the Town of Mine Branch ..grab a gun and strike a pose.

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The RAT is top Senior at Mule Camp

And last, but not least (Rat forced me to say that) let it be known to all that Gunpowder Creek's own, River Rat Randy took top honors in the Senior category at the SE Regional at Mule Camp. Randy finished 18th overall. You made us proud boy. And, I understand that the ride home was much more pleasant than last year ..at least that's what Herdzman told me.