



# THE LARIAT

Voice of the  
LITTLE RIVER RAIDERS

Website [www.littleriverraiders.com.au](http://www.littleriverraiders.com.au)

No3/2018  
President: Tony Diablo

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Scribe: Patrick Floyd Garrett

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi all,

As you can see nearly half of the year has gone and our AGM is fast approaching on 17 June 2018 at Eagle Park. We, as a Club will then be electing a new Committee so please be on the lookout for Nomination forms for Committee positions.

I love my job as President and would like to put my hand up for another year. I will also stress to members choosing to come on the Committee to think seriously about the commitment you are making because for a Club of our size there is quite a lot of work involved the Committee so you need to be ready to put in and do the work.

For 2019 we have a busy time due to the fact that aside from our normal shoots throughout the year we will be hosting the Single Action Nationals (to be formally announced later this year) in early April, Walker's Creek in July, Jenny Cole Shoot in October and then the State Titles, Rawhide in November. This will be, as I said, a busy year but a wonderful opportunity for our members to be involved in more than just our monthly Club shoots so please consider putting these extra shoots in your calendar to come along and be part of the experience.

Yours in shooting, Tony D. President.



## CAPTAIN CORNER (OR SAMBUCCA'S SPEAK).

Howdy all,

Well it's excitement all round for everyone I hope. We have been granted the 2019 Single Action Nationals!

They will be held at Eagle Park commencing Wednesday 3 April running through to Sunday 7 April, 2019.

The programme will be quite extensive incorporating 12 Stages on Friday through to Sunday as well as Long Range Rifle, Side Events, Cowboy Clays and other events to tantalise your taste buds and push the reloading press.

It promises to be an experience that will be memorable so try to make all 5 days if you can by putting it in your diary now and applying for leave if you have to.

Now, it will be a lot of fun but also some work involved, so I am asking you to consider helping out with any of the following:

- Match Director – I have volunteered for this position.
- Administration – looking after Entry Forms, signing in Competitors and handing out shoot bags as well as general information on the Range.
- Steel Marshall (and assistants – at least 3) – includes setting up and resets during the competition.
- Target Painting – making sure targets are painted ready for the next day.
- Paint – we need Black Paint either in Cans or Pressure Packs (48).
- Catering Officer – whilst most will be outsourced at this stage we need someone to co-ordinate this over the 5 days.

- Water – Ranges need to be supplied with water daily and this needs to be monitored particularly Friday through Sunday.
- Rubbish (and assistants at least 2) – we will have a Skip nearby but we need bins empty and Ranges kept clean and tidy.
- Toilet and Shower Cleaning – now don't rush for this job. I would like at least two who will assume responsibility for maintaining Toilets and Showers over the 5 days. Appropriate materials, including gloves, will be provide.
- Fund Raising and Sponsorship. Texas Fingers is looking after this but will need help and also any ideas you may have in this area.
- First Aid. We are looking for a First Aid person who is not competing. We have a number of accredited First Aiders but looking for others not competing that can help in this important area.
- Accommodation. Some can travel daily or camp on site but we need local accommodation for visiting competitors. I am looking for someone in the Werribee/Lara/Little River to suss out suitable accommodation and let me have details i.e. cost and availability.

Now that is a fair list of jobs but with volunteers we can cope with them easily.

If you would like to be involved in any of the above please let me know as soon as possible and if you would like to discuss further please give me a call on 0407 553 281.

Aside from the above there will be quite a lot of work to be done on the Ranges so a couple of additional working bees will be scheduled to get this done.

We will only see the Nationals this close every few years so take the opportunity to be a part of 2019 at Eagle Park.

### **CATEGORIES:**

Categories can give you variety in what and how you shoot and add another dimension to our sport.

The matter of Categories is covered the Shooter's Handbook that can be accessed via

[www.sassnet.com](http://www.sassnet.com) go to Shooter's Handbook and then pages 5 & 6.

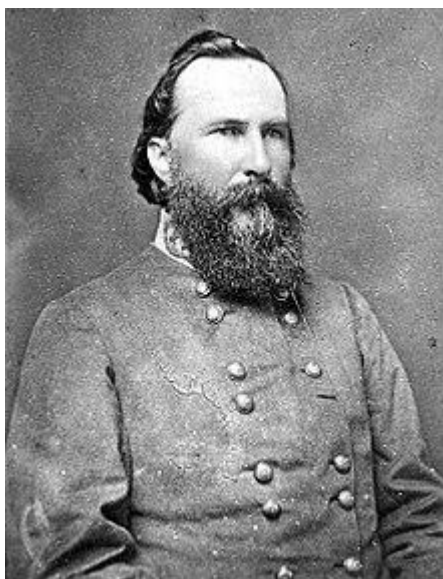
There are Open Age Categories (Cowboy and Cowgirl), Age Based Categories, Shooting Style

Categories and Costume Categories. We have people participating in all of these categories. Following along from the last Lariat I would like to mention:

**Classic Cowboy/Classic Cowgirl** category carries rules and guidelines for both costuming and firearm/calibre usage. Firearm Rules: - Any main match fixed sight revolver may be used. - Revolvers must be shot Duellist or Double Duellist style. See Duellist description for required shooting technique. - Rifles: Any 1873 or earlier manufacture SASS legal rifle or a replica thereof (e.g., 1866 Winchester, 1860 Henry, 1873 Winchester). - Revolver and Rifle Calibres: .40 calibre or larger, rimmed cartridges. Examples include, but are not limited to, .38-40, .44 Special, .44 Russian, .44 Mag., .44-40, .45 Schofield, .45 Colt, or .36 calibre or larger cap and ball. - May use any SASS legal ammunition as long as it adheres to the above calibre restrictions. SINGLE ACTION SHOOTING SOCIETY Shooter's Handbook Copyright© Single Action Shooting Society, Inc. 2017 Version 22.3 8 - Shotguns: SASS legal external hammer double barrel, single shot, or lever actions. External-hammer double barrel shotguns must have manually functioning hammers. Faux hammers and hammers that are cocked internally are illegal. Costuming Rules: - Must choose at least five of the requirements listed below, and all clothing items must be worn appropriately during all shooting events and awards ceremonies. o Chaps, western spurs with spur straps, cuffs, tie or scarf worn loosely around the neck or with scarf slide, vest, pocket watch with full length chain, jacket, sleeve garters, knife (screw knives do NOT qualify), botas, leggings, or braces. o No Straw or Palm hats allowed. - In addition to the above items, ladies may choose from the items listed below in order to compete within this category: Period watch, split riding skirt, bustle, hoops, corset, Victorian style hat (straw allowed), period jewellery, period hair ornaments (e.g., feathers), snood, reticule (period handbag), period lace up shoes, camisole, bloomers, fishnet stockings, feather boa, or cape. - No Buscadero or drop holster rigs allowed (i.e., part of the grip must be above the belt on which the holster hangs). - Boots are required and must be of traditional design with non-grip enhancing (i.e., NO "Lug") soles. - Moccasins are not allowed. - Hats must be worn for the entire match.

See u on the range. Regards, Sambucca, Club Captain

## CONFEDERATE GENERAL JAMES LONGSTREET



James Longstreet (January 8, 1821 – January 2, 1904) was one of the foremost Confederate generals of the American Civil War and the principal subordinate to General Robert E. Lee, who called him his "Old War Horse." He served under Lee as a corps commander for many of the famous battles fought by the Army of Northern Virginia in the Eastern Theatre, and briefly with Braxton Bragg in the Army of Tennessee in the Western Theatre.

After graduating from the United States Military Academy at West Point, Longstreet served in the Mexican–American War. He was wounded in the thigh at the Battle of Chapultepec, and afterward married his first wife, Louise Garland. Throughout the 1850s, he served on frontier duty in the American Southwest. In June 1861, Longstreet resigned his U.S. Army commission and joined the Confederate Army. He commanded Confederate troops during an early victory at Blackburn's Ford in July.

Longstreet's talents as a general made significant contributions to several important Confederate victories, mostly in the Eastern Theatre as one of Robert E. Lee's chief subordinates in the Army of Northern Virginia. He performed poorly at Seven Pines, but played an important role in the success of the Seven Days Battles in the summer of 1862. Longstreet led a devastating counterattack that routed the Union army at Second Bull Run in August. His men held their ground in defensive roles at Antietam and Fredericksburg. Longstreet's most controversial service was at the Battle of

Gettysburg in July 1863, where he openly disagreed with General Lee on the tactics to be employed and reluctantly supervised several attacks on Union forces, including the disastrous Pickett's Charge. Afterwards, Longstreet was, at his own request, sent to the Western Theatre to fight under Braxton Bragg, where his troops launched a ferocious assault on the Union lines at Chickamauga, which carried the day. Afterwards, his performance in semiautonomous command during the Knoxville Campaign resulted in a Confederate defeat. Unhappy serving under Bragg, Longstreet and his men were sent back to Lee. He ably commanded troops during the Battle of the Wilderness in 1864, where he was seriously wounded by friendly fire. He later returned to the field, serving under Lee in the Siege of Petersburg and the Appomattox Campaign.

He enjoyed a successful post-war career working for the U.S. government as a diplomat, civil servant, and administrator. His conversion to the Republican Party and his cooperation with his old friend, President Ulysses S. Grant, as well as critical comments he wrote in his memoirs about General Lee's wartime performance, made him anathema to many of his former Confederate colleagues. His reputation in the South further suffered when he led African-American militia against the anti-Reconstruction White League at the Battle of Liberty Place in 1874. Authors of the Lost Cause movement focused on Longstreet's actions at Gettysburg as a primary reason for the Confederacy's loss of the war. Since the late 20th century, his reputation has undergone a slow re-assessment. Many Civil War historians now consider him among the war's most gifted tactical commanders.

### EARLY LIFE AND CAREER

James Longstreet was born on January 8, 1821 in Edgefield District, South Carolina, an area that is now part of North Augusta, Edgefield County. He was the fifth child and third son of James Longstreet (1783-1833), of Dutch descent, and Mary Ann Dent (1793-1855) of English descent, originally from New Jersey and Maryland respectively, who owned a cotton plantation close to where the village of Gainesville would be founded in north eastern Georgia. James's ancestor Dirck Stoffels Langestraet immigrated to the Dutch colony of New Netherland in 1657, but the name became Anglicized over the generations. James's father was impressed by his son's "rocklike" char-

acter on the rural plantation, giving him the nickname Peter, and he was known as Pete or Old Pete for the rest of his life.

Longstreet's father decided on a military career for his son, but felt that the local education available to him would not be adequate preparation. At the age of nine, James was sent to live with his aunt and uncle in Augusta, Georgia. His uncle, Augustus Baldwin Longstreet, was a newspaper editor, educator, and a Methodist minister. James spent eight years on his uncle's plantation, Westover, just outside the city while he attended the Academy of Richmond County. His father died from a cholera epidemic while visiting Augusta in 1833; although James's mother and the rest of the family moved to Somerville, Alabama, following his father's death, James remained with uncle Augustus. Augustus Longstreet, a man of some political prominence, was a fierce states' rights partisan who supported South Carolina during the Nullification Crisis.

In 1837, Augustus attempted to obtain an appointment for James to the United States Military Academy, but the vacancy for his congressional district had already been filled so James was appointed in 1838 by a relative, Reuben Chapman, who represented the First District of Alabama (where Mary Longstreet lived). James was a poor student academically and a disciplinary problem at West Point, ranking 54th out of 56 cadets when he graduated in 1842. He was popular with his classmates, however, and befriended a number of men who would become prominent during the Civil War, including George Henry Thomas, William S. Rosecrans (his West Point roommate), John Pope, D. H. Hill, Lafayette McLaws, George Pickett, and Ulysses S. Grant, who was of the Class of 1843. Longstreet was commissioned a brevet second lieutenant. After a brief furlough, he set out to join the 4th U.S. Infantry at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri. Longstreet spent his first two years of service at the post, which was under the command of Lt. Col. John Garland. In 1843, he was joined by his friend, Lieutenant Ulysses Grant.

In 1844, Longstreet met his future first wife Maria Louisa Garland, called Louise by her family. She was the daughter of Longstreet's commander, Lt. Col. Garland. Little is known of their courtship or marriage. Longstreet never once mentioned Louise in his memoirs, and there are no surviving letters between the two. Most anecdotes about

their relationship come through the writings of Longstreet's second wife, Helen Dortch Longstreet.

At about the same time as Longstreet began courting Garland, Grant became acquainted with and courted Longstreet's fourth cousin, Julia Dent, and the couple eventually married. Historians agree that Longstreet attended the Grant wedding on August 22, 1848 in St. Louis, but his role at the ceremony remains unclear. Grant biographer Jean Edward Smith asserted that Longstreet served as Grant's best man at the wedding. John Y. Simon, editor of Julia Grant's memoirs, concluded that Longstreet "may have been a groomsman," and Longstreet biographer Donald Brigman Sanger called the role of best man "uncertain" while noting that neither Grant nor Longstreet mentioned such a role in either of their memoirs.

Later in 1844, the regiment was transferred to Louisiana. On March 8, 1845, Longstreet received a promotion to second lieutenant, and was transferred to the Eighth Infantry, stationed in Florida. The regiment then received orders to join the army of General Zachary Taylor in Corpus Christi, Texas.

#### **MEXICAN-AMERICAN WAR**

Longstreet served with distinction in the Mexican-American War with the 8th U.S. Infantry. He fought under Zachary Taylor as a lieutenant in May 1846 in the battles of Palo Alto and Battle of Resaca de la Palma, while saying nothing in his memoirs about his personal role in the battles. He fought again with Taylor's army at the Battle of Monterrey in September 1846. He received brevet promotions to captain for Contreras and Churubusco and to major for Molino del Rey. In the Battle of Chapultepec on September 12, 1847, he was wounded in the thigh while charging up the hill with his regimental colors; falling, he handed the flag to his friend, Lt. George E. Pickett, who was able to reach the summit.

Longstreet was a veteran member of the Aztec Club of 1847. The Aztec Club was a military society for officers who had served in the Mexican War. Many distinguished officers, both Union and Confederate, who served the American Civil War were members of the Aztec Club.

## GETTYSBURG CAMPAIGN PLANS

Following Chancellorsville and the death of Stonewall Jackson, Longstreet and Lee met in mid-May to discuss options for the army's summer campaign. Longstreet advocated, once again, detachment of all or part of his corps to be sent to Tennessee. The justification for this course of action was becoming more urgent as Union Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant was advancing on the critical Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi River, Vicksburg. Longstreet argued that a reinforced army under Bragg could defeat Rosecrans and drive toward the Ohio River, which would compel Grant to break his hold on Vicksburg. Lee was opposed to a division of his army and instead advocated a large-scale offensive or raid into Pennsylvania. In his memoirs, Longstreet described his reaction to Lee's proposal:

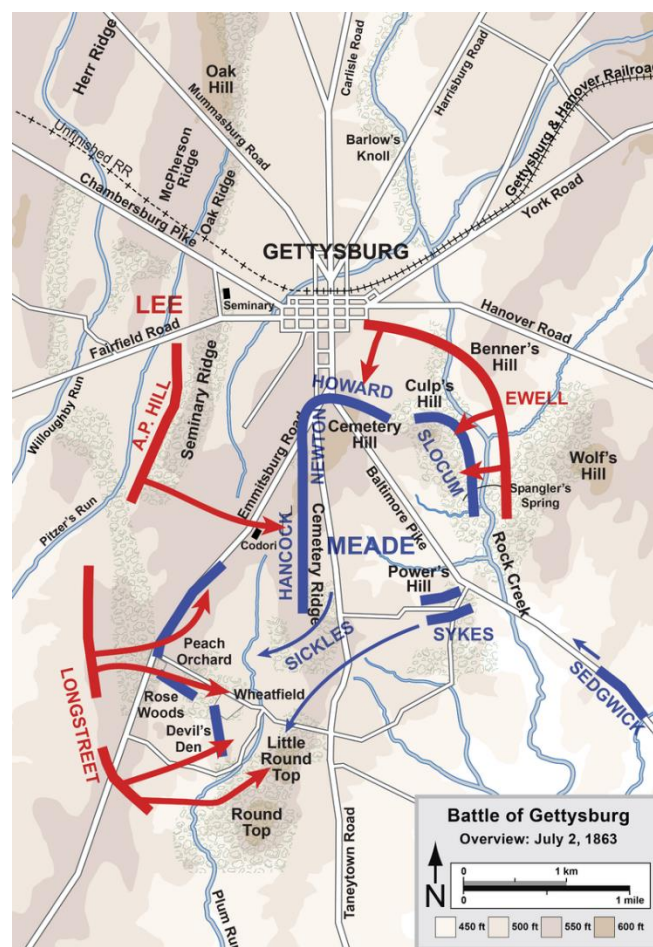
His plan or wishes announced, it became useless and improper to offer suggestions leading to a different course. All that I could ask was that the policy of the campaign should be one of defensive tactics; that we should work so as to force the enemy to attack us, in such good position as we might find in our own country, so well adapted to that purpose—which might assure us of a grand triumph. To this he readily assented as an important and material adjunct to his general plan.

This was written years after the campaign and is affected by hindsight, both of the results of the battle and of the postbellum criticism of the Lost Cause authors. In letters of the time Longstreet made no reference to such a bargain with Lee. In April 1868, Lee said that he "had never made any such promise, and had never thought of doing any such thing. Yet in his post-battle report, Lee wrote, "It had not been intended to fight a general battle at such a distance from our base, unless attacked by the enemy.

The Army of Northern Virginia was reorganized after Jackson's death. Two division commanders, Richard S. Ewell and A. P. Hill, were promoted to lieutenant general and assumed command of the Second and the newly created Third Corps respectively. Longstreet's First Corps gave up the division of Maj. Gen. Richard H. Anderson during the reorganization, leaving him with the divisions of Lafayette McLaws, George Pickett, and John Hood.

In the initial movements of the campaign, Longstreet's corps followed Ewell's through the Shenandoah Valley. A spy he had hired, Henry Thomas Harrison who went by just "Harrison", was instru-

mental in warning the Confederates that the Union Army of the Potomac was advancing north to meet them more quickly than they had anticipated, prompting Lee to order the immediate concentration of his army near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.



## HISTORICAL REPUTATION

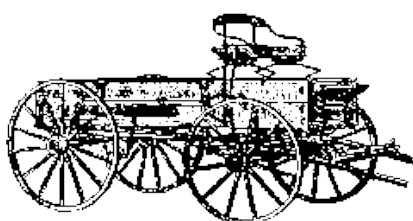
Authors espousing the Lost Cause attacked Longstreet's war career for many years after his death. Modern authors trace that criticism to Longstreet's acceptance of the defeat and accommodations both with the Republican party and freed blacks. The attacks formally began on January 19, 1872, the anniversary of Lee's birth and less than two years after Lee died. Jubal Early, in a speech at Washington College, exonerated Lee for the defeat at Gettysburg and falsely accused Longstreet of having attacked late on the second day and of being responsible for the debacle on the third. The following year, William N. Pendleton, Lee's artillery chief, claimed in the same venue that Longstreet disobeyed an explicit order to attack at sunrise on July 2. Both allegations were fabrications; however, Longstreet failed to challenge them publicly until 1875. The delay damaged his reputation, as the Lost Cause mythology had now taken hold.

Longstreet's former subordinate Col. John S. Mosby defended his commander, and other former Confederates who joined the Republican Party were subjected to similar criticism, including Gen. William Mahone and Robert W. Flournoy.

A "reconstructed rebel", Longstreet embraced equal rights for blacks, unification of the nation, and Reconstruction. After Longstreet died, his widow Helen Dortch Longstreet, privately published *Lee and Longstreet at High Tide* in his defense and stated that "the South was seditiously taught to believe that the Federal Victory was wholly the fortuitous outcome of the culpable disobedience of General Longstreet.

In the 20th century, Douglas Southall Freeman kept criticism of Longstreet foremost in Civil War scholarship in his biography of Lee. Clifford Dowd, a Virginia newspaperman and novelist, was noted for his severe criticism of Longstreet in the 1950s and 1960s.

The Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, and publication of Michael Shaara's novel *The Killer Angels* in 1974, based in part on Longstreet's memoirs, helped restore Longstreet's reputation. In 1993 the book was adapted into a film, *Gettysburg*, with Tom Berenger portraying Longstreet. *God and General Longstreet* (1982), also upgraded Longstreet "through an attack on Lee, the Lost Cause, and the Virginia revisionists. In 1993, Jeffrey D. Wert published a new Longstreet biography, labeling his subject "the finest corps commander in the Army of Northern Virginia; in fact, he was arguably the best corps commander in the conflict on either side. Military historian Richard L. DiNardo wrote, "Even Longstreet's most virulent critics have conceded that he put together the best staff employed by any commander, and that his *de facto* chief of staff, Lieutenant Colonel G. Moxley Sorrel, was the best staff officer in the Confederacy." Noting Longstreet's effectively delegating responsibilities for control of battlefield movements to his staff, DiNardo believed this allowed them to communicate more effectively during battles than the staffs of other Confederate generals during the war.



Equestrian statue of General Longstreet on his horse Hero in Pitzer Woods at Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg

#### IN POPULAR CULTURE

Longstreet plays a prominent role in Michael Shaara's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *The Killer Angels* and in the film *Gettysburg*, being portrayed by Tom Berenger. In the prequel, *Gods and Generals* (2003), he is portrayed by Bruce Boxleitner. Longstreet was played by Brian Amidei onstage in the world premiere of *The Killer Angels* at the Lifeline Theatre in Chicago.

Longstreet is a character in a number of prominent alternate history novels: Robert Skimin's *Gray Victory* (1988), Robert Conroy's *1901* (1995), and Harry Turtledove's *The Guns of the South* (1992) and *How Few Remain* (1997) which are not part of the same series, and Newt Gingrich & William Forstchen's *Gettysburg trilogy* (2003-2005). In addition, Turtledove's *War Between the Provinces* trilogy (2000-2002), which reimagines the Civil War in a magecraft high fantasy setting, casts Longstreet as the prominent character "Earl James of Broadpath."

Longstreet appears as a character in *Row After Row*, a full length one act play by American playwright, Jessica Dickey. The action of the play takes place one evening after a Gettysburg re-enactment. One re-enactor, Cal, plays Longstreet in the battle. In parts of the play, the action moves

to the moments leading up to Pickett's Charge. The play ends with a tormented Longstreet addressing the future, as he wonders if we will ever form a "more perfect union."

Longstreet appears as a cadet in "The Santa Fe Trail" played by Frank Wilcox (1940).



*Respectfully  
Your opponent  
James Longstreet*

James Longstreet in later life (1896), affecting the sideburns of his opponent at Fredericksburg and Knoxville



### COWBOY QUIZ

1, Where did the American Civil War begin?

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2, Who was the Union General who became the United States President?

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3, What was the real name of Billy the Kid ?

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4, Which actor starred as secret agent James T. West. In the wild wild west?

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5, Which actor played Little Joe in the TV series Bonanza?

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6, On what day was Jesse James killed and who shot him?

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7, What was the date that Rawhide series first aired on TV?

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8, Who's farm was it that John Wilkes Booth was caught?

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9, Where and when did Wyatt Earp pass away?

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10, When was the Pony Express founded and how long did it operate for?

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## COWBOY JOKES

1: Three cowboys of the world are sitting around camp talking about how tough they were and the tales kept getting bigger and bigger. The cowboy from Australia says, "I wrestled a 200 pound crocodile and may it cry like a baby."

The Cowboy from Brazil shakes his head and says, "I killed a 400 pound steer with my bare hands."

The Cowboy from Texas just smiled and kept stirring the campfire with his leg.

2: Back in the Old West three Texas cowboys were

about to be hung for cattle rustling. The lynch mob brought the three men to a tree right at the edge of the Rio Grande. The idea was that when each man had died, they'd cut the rope and he'd drop into the river and drift out of sight

They put the first cowboy in the noose, but he was so sweaty and greasy he slipped out, fell in the river and swam to freedom.

They tied the noose around the second cowboy's head. He, too, oozed out of the rope, dropped into the river and got away.

As they dragged the third Texan to the scaffold, he resisted, "Please! Would yaw'l tighten that noose a little bit? I can't swim!"

3: If a cowboy rides into town on Friday and three days later leaves on Friday, how does he do it? The horse's name is Friday!

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Regards *P.F.G.*

