



THE LARIAT

Voice of the
LITTLE RIVER RAIDERS

Website www.littleriverraiders.com.au

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President: Tony Diablo

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Scribe: Patrick Floyd Garrett

CAPTAIN'S CORNER (OR SAMBUCCA'S SPEAK)

Howdy all,

WORKING BEE:

The next one is Sunday 29 October. We have achieved so much in the past 12 months but still more fun on the horizon. We have received a Government Grant to cover cost of materials (\$4,000+) to install Shade Cloth across ranges 14 to 18. This will be quite a major project but the end result will see us shooting under better conditions particularly on those hot sunny days. We are just waiting for the final nod on the funding and we're set to go so please put the date in your diary. We also have a new Saloon in the making on Range 17 that needs to be finished off and the bar stocked.

JENNY COLE SHOOT:

The Annual Jenny Cole Memorial Shoot is scheduled for 14 October and our normal monthly match on 15 October. This will take a slightly different format this year with more of a novelty shoot that will be family orientated in the morning and 3 stages in the afternoon so put it in your diary and make a weekend of it if you can. Further details on the way.

RAWHIDE:

Yes, it's nearly here. 18 and 19 November are the dates so put it in your Calendar now and download the Nomination form from our Website. Remember the cost is included in

your membership. For those who don't know and for those that can't remember the weekend includes Long Range Rifle on Saturday morning, 4 Stages Saturday afternoon, a fantastic feed Saturday evening (organised by Chuck Wagon master Hoss) finished off with 6 Stages on Sunday. A great weekend to dust off the caravan, tent or swag or just travel down each day but make sure you get your nomination form in on time. If you can only shoot one day that is okay but you **must** put in a nomination form.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN:

As you are all no doubt aware the "Working with Children" programme has recently been overhauled with more stringent requirements as to those that have to have the check done. SSAA (Vic) has requested that all Range Officers have the check and we, as a Club, have had all the Committee undergo the check.

It is really quite easy and doesn't cost anything (which is a change) so if any members help with being a Range Officer and other duties that involve Juniors we ask that you go to the following site:

<http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/home/applications/apply+for+a+chec>

When you have the check please let Flossy know for the records.

RED FLAG:

Just a reminder that the Red Flag must be flying at our Range(s) before you remove firearms from your vehicle.

SPIRIT OF THE GAME:

I have a few matters that come under this heading:

- As a Club being there by 9.00 am or before to help set and/or staying to help tidy up are important as is sticking around to have some lunch. We like to start shooting by 9.30 am so that we finish in a timely manner for lunch.
- Brass and Targets. They don't reset themselves or pick themselves up. It's up to everyone to step up and help out with these jobs and also it helps the Posse to keep moving along.
- Costuming. I know I harp on this but, at the risk of repeating myself again, our Club License is issued on the basis that we are a "re-enactment" group. We need to be period correct in all respects and all weather. An Op shop is a great source of just about all the items we need without a big price tag.
- Signing in is required before we start shooting.
- Ammo. You need to have enough to get you through 6 Stages. On average you will need 120 Pistol/ Rifle and at least 25 Shotgun shells. Many bring their own and many use Club ammo so please make sure you bring sufficient or purchase this before the day's shooting.

Remember "Spirit of the Game" is the Cowboy way of being a good sport and we are all part of that Cowboy family.

If any of these points hit a nerve I don't apologise but simply ask that you consider the impact on others if you are not putting in!

Car Security:

Just a reminder again to make sure your vehicle is locked at all times at the range, particularly when you put your guns away for lunch.

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

JENNY COLE SHOOT

The BGRC have withdrawn their support for the Memorial Shoot so this year we will be doing it on our own.

There will be no big game rifle component to the shoot, we are working to add some more fun type events into the day.

Regards

Grizzly Grumps



LIFE AND DEATH OF WILD BILL HICKOK.

Early life

James Butler Hickok was born May 27, 1837, in Homer, Illinois (present-day Troy Grove, Illinois) to William Alonzo Hickok, a farmer and abolitionist, and his wife Polly Butler. His father was said to have used the family house, now demolished, as a station on the Underground Railroad. He was the fourth of six children. William Hickok died in 1852, when James was 15. Hickok was a good shot from a young age and was recognized locally as an outstanding marksman with a pistol. Photographs of Hickok appear to depict dark hair, but all contemporaneous descriptions affirm that it was red. In 1855, at age 18, James Hickok fled Illinois

following a fight with Charles Hudson, during which both fell into a canal (each thought, mistakenly, that he had killed the other). Hickok moved to Leavenworth in the Kansas Territory, where he joined "General" Jim Lane's Free State Army (also known as the Jayhawkers), a vigilante group active in the new territory. While a Jayhawker, he met 12-year-old William Cody (later known as Buffalo Bill), who despite his youth served as a scout just two years later for the U.S. Army during the Utah War.

Nicknames

James B. Hickok, in the 1860s, during his pre-gunfighter days. While in Nebraska, James Hickok was derisively referred to as "Duck Bill" for his long nose and protruding lips. He grew a moustache following the McCanles incident and in 1861 began calling himself Wild Bill. He was also known before 1861 by Jayhawkers as "Shanghai Bill" because of his height and slim build. James B. Hickok used the name William Hickok from 1858 and William Haycock during the Civil War. He was arrested while using the name Haycock in 1865. He afterward resumed using his given name, James Hickok. Most newspapers referred to him as William Haycock until 1869. Military records after 1865 list him as Hickok but note that he was also known as Haycock.

Early career

Mauled by a bear

In 1857, Hickok claimed a 160-acre (65-ha) tract in Johnson County, Kansas (near present-day Lenexa). On March 22, 1858, he was elected one of the first four constables of Monticello Township. In 1859, he joined the Russell, Waddell & Majors freight company, the parent company of the Pony Express. In 1860, he was badly injured by a bear while driving a freight team from Independence, Missouri to Santa Fe, New Mexico. According to Hickok's account, he found the road blocked by a cinnamon bear and its two cubs. Dismounting, he approached the bear and fired a shot into its head, but the bullet ricocheted off its skull, infuriating it. The bear attacked, crushing Hickok with its body. Hickok managed to fire another shot, wounding the bear's paw. The bear

then grabbed his arm in its mouth, but Hickok was able to grab his knife and slash its throat, killing it. Hickok was severely injured, with a crushed chest, shoulder and arm. He was bedridden for four months before being sent to Rock Creek Station in the Nebraska Territory to work as a stable hand while he recovered. The freight company had built the stagecoach stop along the Oregon Trail near Fairbury Nebraska, on land purchased from David McCanles.

Civil War service

After the Civil War broke out in April 1861, James Hickok became a teamster for the Union Army in Sedalia, Missouri. By the end of 1861, he was a wagon master, but in September 1862 he was discharged for unknown reasons. He then joined General James Henry Lane's Kansas Brigade and, while serving with the brigade, saw his friend Buffalo Bill Cody, who was serving as a scout. There are no records of Hickok's whereabouts for the next year, although at least one source claims that he was a Union spy in Confederate territory during this time. In late 1863 he worked for the provost marshal of southwest Missouri as a member of the Springfield detective police. His work included identifying and counting the number of troops in uniform who were drinking while on duty, verifying hotel liquor licenses, and tracking down individuals who owed money to the cash-strapped Union Army. In 1864, Hickok had not been paid for some time and was hired as a scout by General John B. Sanborn. In June 1865, Hickok mustered out and went to Springfield, where he gambled. The 1883 *History of Greene County, Missouri* described him as "by nature a ruffian... a drunken, swaggering fellow, who delighted when 'on a spree' to frighten nervous men and timid women."

Deputy U.S. marshal in Kansas

In September 1865, Hickok came in second in the election for city marshal of Springfield. Leaving Springfield, he was recommended for the position of deputy federal marshal at Fort Riley, Kansas. This was during the Indian wars, in which Hickok sometimes served as a scout for General George A. Custer's 7th Cavalry. In 1865, Hickok recruited six Indians to accompany him to Niagara Falls, where he put on an outdoor demonstration called *The Daring Buffalo Chasers of the Plains*. Since

the event was outdoors, he could not compel people to pay, and the venture was a financial failure

Marshal of Hays, Kansas

In July 1869, Hickok returned to Hays and was elected city marshal of Hays and sheriff of Ellis County, Kansas, in a special election held on August 23, 1869. Three sheriffs had quit during the previous 18 months. Hickok may have been acting sheriff before he was elected; a newspaper reported that he arrested offenders on August 18, and the commander of Fort Hays wrote a letter to the assistant adjutant general on August 21 in which he praised Hickok for his work in apprehending deserters. The regular county election was held on November 2, 1869, and Hickok, running as an independent, lost to his deputy, Peter Lanihan, running as a Democrat, but Hickok and Lanihan remained sheriff and deputy, respectively. Hickok accused a J.V. Macintosh of irregularities and misconduct during the election. On December 9, Hickok and Lanihan both served legal papers on Macintosh, and local newspapers acknowledged that Hickok had guardianship of Hays City

Marshal of Abilene, Kansas

On April 15, 1871, Hickok became marshal of Abilene, Kansas. He replaced Tom "Bear River" Smith, who had been killed on November 2, 1870. John Wesley Hardin, a well-known gunfighter, who was known to have killed at least 27 men. In his autobiography, Hardin made the unlikely claim that while surrendering his guns to the lawman due to a local ordinance, he had once disarmed Town Marshal "Wild Bill" Hickok with the use of "spin." "The outlaw John Wesley Hardin arrived in Abilene at the end of a cattle drive in early 1871. Hardin was a well-known gunfighter and is known to have killed more than 27 men. In his 1895 autobiography, published after his death, Hardin claimed to have been befriended by Hickok, the newly elected town marshal, after he had disarmed the marshal using the road agent's spin. However, Hardin was known to exaggerate. In any case, Hardin appeared to have thought highly of Hickok. Hickok later said he did not know that "Wesley Clemmons" was Hardin's alias and that he was a wanted outlaw. He told Clemmons (Hardin) to stay out of trouble in

Abilene and asked him to hand over his guns, and Hardin complied. Hardin claimed that when his cousin, Mannen Clements, was jailed for killing two cowhands, he persuaded Hickok to arrange for his escape. In August 1871, "Wild Bill" Hickok sought to arrest Hardin for killing Charles Couger in an Abilene hotel "for snoring too loud". Hardin left Kansas before Hickok could arrest him.¹

Death

On August 1, 1876, Hickok was playing poker at Nuttal & Mann's Saloon in Deadwood, Dakota Territory. When a seat opened up at the table, a drunk man named Jack McCall sat down to play. McCall lost heavily. Hickok encouraged McCall to quit the game until he could cover his losses and offered to give him money for breakfast. Though McCall accepted the money, he was apparently insulted. The next day, Hickok was playing poker again. He usually sat with his back to a wall so he could see the entrance, but the only seat available when he joined the game was a chair facing away from the door. He asked another man at the table, Charles Rich, to change seats with him twice, but Rich refused. McCall entered the saloon, walked up behind Hickok, drew his Colt's Model 1873 Single Action Army .45 calibre revolver and shouted, "Damn you! Take that!" He shot Hickok in the back of the head at point-blank range. Hickok died instantly. The bullet emerged through Hickok's right cheek and struck another player, riverboat Captain William Massie, in the left wrist. Hickok may have told his friend Charlie Utter and others who were traveling with them that he thought he would be killed while in Deadwood.



Colt Single Action Army Revolver



Second Generation Colt Single Action Army

Type	<u>Revolver</u>
Place of origin	United States
Service history	
In service	1873–1892 (Artillery Model – 1902)
Used by	<u>United States</u>
Wars	<u>American Indian Wars</u> , <u>Spanish–American War</u> , <u>Philippine–American War</u> , <u>Mexican Revolution</u>
	<u>Range wars</u>
Production history	
Designer	<u>William Mason and Charles Brinckerhoff Richards</u>
Designed	1872
Manufacturer	<u>Colt's Patent Firearms Manufacturing Company</u>
Produced	1873–1941, 1956–1974, 1976–present
Specifications	
Weight	1,048 g (with 7½" barrel)
Length	11" (279 mm, with 5½" barrel); 12.5" (318 mm, with 7½" barrel)
Cartridge	<u>.45 Colt</u> , <u>.44-40 WCF</u> , <u>.38-40 WCF</u> , <u>.32-20 WCF</u> , <u>.38 Colt</u> and many others, including <u>.22 LR</u> , <u>.38 Special</u> , <u>.357 Magnum</u> and <u>.44 Special</u>
Action	<u>Single-action</u> revolver
Feed system	6-shot <u>Cylinder</u>

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Regards *P.F.G.*

