

THE TRAIL RIDER



The Official Newsletter of the Trail Riders of the West, a Video Club Dedicated to the Saturday Matinee Westerns

VOLUME V, No. VI

SERIES No. 46 - JULY 1993

Howdy Thunder Eagle and Chippewa!

It has taken me since 1988 to introduce you to Rick and Tag Groat and it is a big smile to welcome Thunder Eagle and Chippewa to the Trail Riders, which is full of their friends and admirers. I first became acquainted with Rick and Tag back in 1983 when they performed their special brand of Western humor and stunts at Simi Valley's Western Film Festival. They and all the members of the Groat Brothers Wild West Show rode in and captured, robbed, and thoroughly entertained everyone in the theater. 'Twas one in nearly 5,000 performances in their career since their stunt group was formed up in 1964. Both Rick and Tag are accomplished actors, screen writers, and directors, and are now in the midst of pre-production work on a new film and another project that they hope will restore interest in making cliff-hanging serials again. Fun. Welcome Trail Rider Thunder Eagle (Rick) and Trail Rider Chippewa (Tag). Sure glad the five-year wait is over!

If you would like to write to them and welcome them into the Trail Riders, the address of Thunder Eagle and Miss Stephanie is: Mr. and Mrs. Rick Groat, 5096 Alta Street, Simi Valley, CA 93063; the address of Chippewa and Miss Rycee is: Mr. and Mrs. Tag Groat, 5096 Alta Street, Simi Valley, CA 93063.

If their addresses sound similar, it's because that parcel on Alta Street has been home to the Groat family since 1925. They have never had trouble receiving mail as their uncle was one of the first postmasters in the Simi Valley/Santa Susana District.

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Better get to practicin' Sam--July 11th is comin'!

TUMBLEWEED EXPRESS

By Patrick "Stoney" Bousquet

Howdy, Pard:



Time sure flies by for this Trail Rider. Here it is bunk-house chatter time again.

I talked to J.D. after his recent return from Colorado and it looks pretty certain that he and wife Sandy may soon be residents of the Centennial State. They have purchased a condo on one of the ski slopes and are looking for property in Steamboat Springs. J.D. has had three job offers and it looks as if it may be the one in Steamboat Springs; word could be coming anytime. When J.D. and Sandy leave, they will surely be missed. Here's hoping that the good Lord worked it all out for them.

A few nights ago, I had a nice talk with Dale Park, a former stuntman. Dale informs me that he is trying to set up a program at a stable to show kids the old Westerns and then let them play cowboys and outlaws like we used to do after a Saturday matinee. It's Dale's prayer that it will instill good role models for today's youth--good guy winning over bad guy--along with upright morals, etc. Dale plans to call the program "The Durango Kids." Let's all pull for Dale.

Say, riders, did you know that you can register opinions on various issues with the White House from your touchtone phone? Call 202-456-1414. For issues not listed, you can talk with a White House operator.

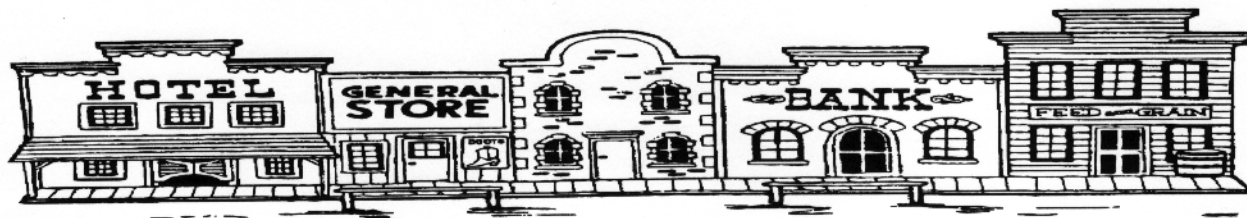
This Trail Rider has been able to attend the last two meetings and it has been enjoyable. One rider gave me a very special welcome and I appreciated that. As for future meetings, quien sabe? An old trail and dream seem to becom.

Here's a bit of trivia, riders. Did you know that Abraham Lincoln had four brothers-in-law who served in the Civil War? That's right, all for the Confederate Army!

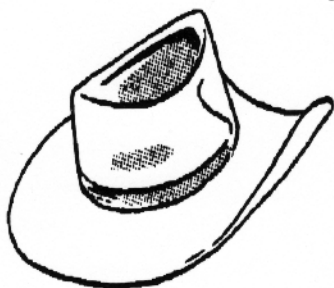
I just had some sad news. Richard Webb (Captain Midnight) has been in and out of the hospital since the beginning of April. Mrs. Webb was just leaving for the hospital to bring Dick home on Wednesday, but Mr. Webb's condition worsened. Mr. Webb went to meet his maker on Friday, June 11th, 1993; may God rest his soul. Our deepest sympathies go out to Mrs. Webb and the family.

Well, pard, the trail is calling and it's time to "saddle up," as the Duke said one time.

Hasta Luego *Stoney*



A Tip of the White Hat . . .



goes out to Wrangler Dennis Hardy for his recent cash contribution to the Trail Rider treasury. Wrangler Dennis has been recycling for the Trail Riders for some time and with this recent amount he has contributed over \$100. Thank ya Wangler Dennis!

We Had More Visitors

During the month of May, Wrangler Ron Blake visited the Trail Riders, enjoying some good times with us. Also, Johnny and Nancy Wakely visited, and Johnny (Jimmy Wakely's son), gave us some anecdotes about Jimmy's life and the great musical Westerns in which he played so large a part.



FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

By Dick "Colorado" Oakes

Trail Riders Take Trail Ride to Corrigan's

On Monday, May 24th, half of the Trail Riders, their ladies and guests gathered at Corrigan's steak House in Thousand Oaks for a special awards dinner celebration. Those folks attending were Buck and Miss Joyce, Colorado and Miss Carol, Durango, Dusty and Miss Charlene, Grizz and Miss Marjorie, Hondo and Mom Cathy (just in from Arizona!), Kiowa Slim and his friend and neighbor Wrangler Ron, and Slick and Miss Marilyn. Now, if you haven't chowed down at Corrigan's, you are missing a heckuva good meal! Not only were all the plates on time, they were all pipin' hot, thanks to a great kitchen staff and the charming, attentive Patricia, our friendly server. The filets mignons were perfect, the ribs were succulent, the salmon delicious, the chicken scrumptious--and everything was served with a smile.

The highlight of the evening was to be the award ceremonies, and we surely weren't disappointed! We were regaled with stories, true and apocryphal, from both Lee Aaker and Tom Corrigan, the evening's honorees. For instance, Tom told of the time he was pulled over to the side of the road by one of Simi's finest, who said Tom wasn't wearing his seat belts. Tom said he was, and to prove it, he could just ask his passenger Lee Aaker. After all, Lee was well known for his honesty in Rin Tin Tin, and could be counted on to tell the truth. According to Tom, when the officer asked Lee about it, Lee said, "Whatever he says . . . I don't argue with him when he's been drinkin'!"

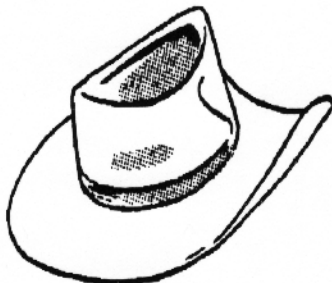
Tom, who was just back from a trip East, passed out 8x10 glossies of himself with his famous father, Ray "Crash" Corrigan, and personally autographed them to each of the Trail Riders on request. There were also Xerox copies of another "Crash" photo handed out and they were rapidly snapped up by Corrigan-philes! Lee talked with us about the good ol' days of matinee Westerns, "A" features, and TV series. Did you know, for instance, that Lee received his Academy Award for his role in Benji? And that of the 196 Rin Tin Tin shows made, only 164 were shown?

Upon receiving their plaques and certificates of honorary membership in The Trail Riders of the West, Tom explained at length that it was Trail Rider Buck who got Tom off his complacent duff and up to Sacramento to fight to get the Corriganville site made into a monument and park. Way to go, Buck! And a big Trail Rider thanks to Buck for making this Trail Ride a big success and a wonderful time!



Colorado

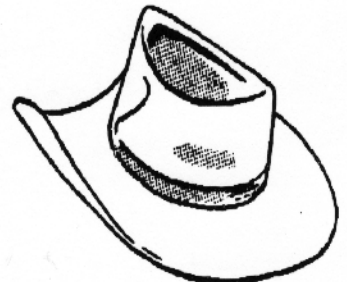
A White Hat Award . . .



deserve having "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow" sung to you better than we'll be doing.

goes out to Colorado for compiling a terr-iff-ic song book for the Trail Riders. Lyrics for 41 good old cowboy songs are listed in the book, complete with a brief histoy of each song. Terr-riff-ic gift to the Trail Riders, Colorado, and you

And Another White Hat Award!



A tip of the Stetson goes out to Texas Red for recently being voted the Best Entertainer in the Tri-Cities in a poll taken by *The Simi Valley Enterprise*. 'Twas never a doubt in my mind you would win, Texas Red, even though I filled out 100 ballots! Congratulations from all of the Trail Riders for this well-deserved honor, Texas Red!

We're Ready, Dave

Sixteen Trail Riders have reserved rooms for this year's Lone Pine Film Festival (October 8-10) and are ready to cheer Dave Holland and all the good folks on the Festival Committee to another weekend. Among those headin' up are Durango, Roper and Miss Nancy, Dusty and Miss Charleen, Colorado and Miss Carol, Slick and Miss Marilyn, Cowboy and Miss Naomi, Kiowa Slim and Miss Wilma, Trail Rider 7-1/2, along with Buck and Miss Joyce. Gonna be a grand weekend and we're ready, Dave!

July Birthdays

On Wednesday, July 7th, the Trail Riders will celebrate the birthdays of Trail Riders Texas Red (8th) and Slick (9th), along with white-hat hero Ken Maynard (21st).

July's Trail Rider Schedule



- July 7 Special Birthday Meeting at Roper's MARR-velous Ranch
- July 11 Terry Frost's Fast Draw Showdown Tournament at Colorado's Phantom Ranch
- July 14 Regular meeting at Roper's MARR-velous Ranch
- July 20 Board of Directors meeting
- July 21 Regular meeting at Roper's MARR-velous Ranch
- July 21 Recycling collection and dues are payable
- July 28 Regular meeting at Roper's MARR-velous Ranch

July Refreshment and Clean-up Committees Schedule



- July 7 Buck and Stoney
- July 14 Durango and Montana (with J.D., Texas Red, or perhaps Roper)
- July 21 Dusty and Colorado
- July 28 Slick and Cowboy



Board of Directors Report

Board of Directors meeting #3 was held Tuesday, May 18th, at Buck's Bar 20 with Directors Dusty, Durango, Roper, and Buck present. The Board finalized the format of Terry Frost's Fast Draw Showdown Tournament, elected to add an event in the afternoon after entry into the Simi Valley Days Parade, and to add barbecues to the Red Ryder and Terry Frost Tournaments.

Happenings at the Meetings

Reservations were placed for the Lone Pine Film Festival. Red Ryder rifles were ordered. Class of '92 Trail Rider and Riderette pictures were chosen. Committees for Red Ryder Tournament were chosen. A Trail Rider bulletin board was established. Miss Nancy was honored for her much needed help with the Trail Riders. A surprise birthday was set up for Trail Rider Montana.

Heard at the Meetings

My folder has a letter welcoming Dave to the Trail Riders...Don't you spell "Thunder Eagle" D-A-V-E?...I didn't get a Trail Rider badge...You don't need no stinkin' badges...Hey, Roper, can you interpret what that guy just said?...Don't call me Dude and notice I didn't stutter when I said that...You sure didn't, Dude...I didn't bring any home-made bread cause my oven's broken, so I brought some made in New York City...NEW YORK CITY?!...and so it went on...

Movies Watched During Meetings in May

Chapter 8 of Tim McCoy's serial *The Indians are Coming*, *Dawn Rider* starring John Wayne, Ken Maynard's film *Alias Badman*, *Return of the Lash* with Lash LaRue, and *Across the Rio Grande* starring Jimmy Wakely with Johnny and Nancy Wakely at the meeting.



TOMMY TOUGHTICKER

Stuntman Supreme

By Will "Kiowa Slim" Lacey

The concrete truck rolled over and stopped
At the bottom of the hill
The director said, we'll take that shot
We've filmed the perfect thrill.

The ambulance was sent away
No they don't need that thing
'Cause the work was done by Tommy Toughticker
Stuntman Supreme.

He'd been in hairy situations
Just like this before
He'd taken the plunge at Niagra Falls
And sailed through many a door.

When Actors find a scene too tough
Or don't want to soil their shirt
Why, they just call on Tommy Toughticker
To do their dirty work.

He was ran over by stampeding buffaloes
In the movie, *Dances with Wolves*
He said he had his work cut out
Dodging all those hooves.

He's in the Stuntman's Hall of Fame
He's well renowned and all
His specialty is the Wall of Flame
He says he has a ball.

But Tommy's in the hospital now
With a great big red-faced smile
He fell in the shower and broke his toe
Reachin' for a towel.

By Will Lacey

October 16, 1991



Silent Nights

I have just read in a recent issue of *Westways* that the National Park Service is going to once again offer "Silent Movies Under the Stars" at the Paramount Movie Ranch. The series is presented by the Silent Society, a committee of Hollywood Heritage Inc. They recommend you wear warm, comfortable clothing and bring a flashlight. Popcorn and beverages will be available. Admission is \$6.00 but parking is free.

For more information you can call (818) 597-9192 or (213) 874-4005.

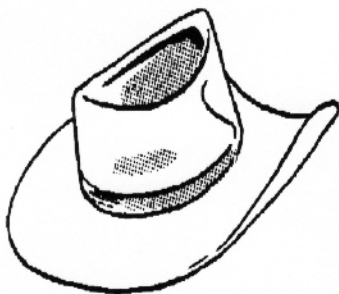
A Fun Trail Rider Day



Fifteen Trail Riders and Riderettes gathered together Sunday, June 13th, at the Marr Ranch in Simi Valley to compete in the Fourth Annual Great Red Ryder Daisy B.B. Shoot-out Tournament. After all the smoke cleared, Colorado was cheered as the 1993 Sharpshooter Award winner and the first recipient of the Dave Pitts' Roving Red Ryder Award. Slick received the Charles King Award, Bandit received the Marksman Award, and Cowboy received the Budd Buster Award. Miss Charleen received Buck's Award, and Thunder Eagle, Roper, Durango, and Miss Joyce received Semi-finals Awards.

At the Awards Dinner, everyone said over and over what a great fun day and tournament it was. Stories were told of the day's competition and three cheers were raised for Colorado on his perfect 50 score shot during the second elimination round of the tournament and for his expert handling of his Daisy Red Ryder Golden Eagle B.B. Rifle that enabled him to win this tournament for the second time in as many years. Yep, Colorado hit the target with his shooting and everyone agreed that Slick hit the target too with the Venison stew he and Miss Marilyn cooked for the Awards Dinner.

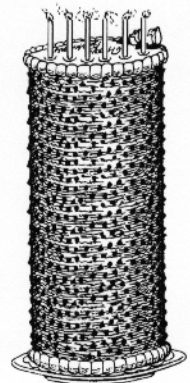
Tip of the White Hat



A Tip of the White Hat goes out to Grizz for making discount purchases available to everyone to own a genuine Daisy Red Ryder B.B. gun with walnut stock and forearm, and with the Red Ryder signature burned in the stock. Good going, Trail Rider!

Surprise!

And did the guys and gals of the Trail Riders ever catch character member Trail Rider Montana flat footed as they celebrated his, ahhh, errr, 39th birthday a few years, I mean a few days early on June 2nd. They all gathered at his Ivy Slope Ranch to sing Happy Birthday, load him up with a bunch of gifts, and help him eat his birthday cake and ice cream. Happy birthday, Montana!



**WISHING YOU ALL
A HAPPY
FOURTH OF JULY
WEEKEND**





I'VE FACED SOME MIGHTY TOUGH HOMBRES IN MY FILM SHOWDOWNS, BUT NEVER A BUNCH LIKE THE TRAIL RIDERS!

The Trail Riders of the West
 Proudly Announce the First Annual
**TERRY FROST'S
 FAST DRAW
 SHOWDOWN
 TOURNAMENT
 AND BARBECUE**

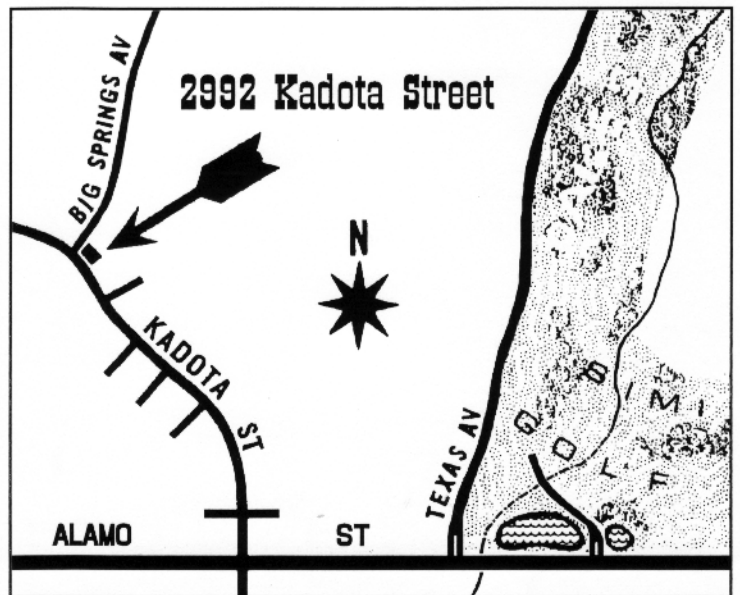
SUNDAY, JULY 11, 1993
1 p.m. to 5 p.m. (?)
Colorado's Phantom Ranch, Simi Valley

Award to the winner and lilies to the losers.

Contact Jack "Buck" Harding at (805) 522-8472, if you have any questions about this fun event.

Official Rules

1. Tournament is open to all current dues-paid Trail Riders and their Ladies.
2. Tournament will use qualifying and dual-elimination format.
3. Showdown fast draw will consist of two Trail Riders facing each other and seeing who first knocks off their dividing rod.
4. No cross-draws permitted; all draws must come from side holsters.



1993 Officers

FOREMAN

Jack "Buck" Harding

LEAD WRANGLER

Patrick "Stoney" Bousquet

BANKER

Don "Dusty" Maiers

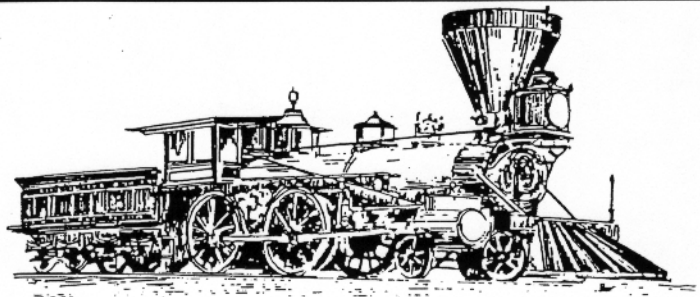
CLERK

Jack "Buck" Harding

RAMROD

Tim "Durango" McIlvain

To All Trail Riders of the West



We are bringing a "train load of thanks" for the nice birthday party of Wednesday, June 2nd, from this old hombre. The gifts of the video tapes, the western shirt, and the western town with all its beautiful buildings, are very much appreciated. Many thanks for the effort and time on your part, brother Trail Riders of the West, for a great birthday party! "Happy Trails to each of you."

Trail Rider *MONTANA*
BUCK

Rounding-Up with Buck

June was quite a month for the Trail Riders with Thunder Eagle and Chippewa becoming members, Lee Aaker and Tom Corrigan joining our other honored members, with Johnny and Nancy Wakely coming to one of our meetings, and with the Fourth Annual "Great Red Ryder Daisy B.B. Shoot-out being such a fun day. Top that off with a Trail Drive to "The Hollywood Collector's Show" and ya really got a month full of the Trail Rider experience. Wishing you all a happy Fourth of July weekend pardners, and I'll be writing the riders trails with you again in the August issue of THE TRAIL RIDER.

BUCK
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THE TRAIL RIDER



THE TRAIL RIDER is published monthly for the members of "The Trail Riders of the West," and is distributed the third Wednesday of each month. The deadline for submitting articles is 9:00 PM on the last Saturday of the month for the following month's issue. Please submit articles to Buck at any Trail Riders meeting, or mail them to Jack R. Harding, 1053 Erringer Road, Simi Valley, California 93065. For Trail Rider information, telephone Buck at (805) 522-8472.

Editor-in-Chief and Writer.....Jack R. "Buck" Harding
Publisher.....Dick "Colorado" Oakes
Contributors..... Patrick "Stoney" Bousquet, Will "Kiowa Slim" Lacey, Dick "Colorado" Oakes