



RangeWars!

Range wars occurred in the American West, prior to the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 which regulated grazing allotments on public land. Range wars included the Pleasant Valley War, the Colfax County War, the Mason County War, the Johnson County Range War and others.

Conflict over land was a somewhat common occurrence in the development of the American West but was particularly prevalent during the late 1800s and early 1900s when large portions of the west were being settled by Americans for the first time. It is a period which historian Richard Maxwell Brown has called the “Western Civil War of Incorporation”.

The vast majority of the well-known feuds in the American West were the result of political confrontations or land control. For those involved, their actions were rarely seen as lawless, but rather a means to bringing some kind of “law” to an area where chaos tended to prevail.

Regardless of the reasons, these “wars” resulted in hundreds of deaths, when vengeance was taken and bloody vendettas resulted in warring factions continuing to battle, sometimes for years.



Rev. Tolby

Colfax County, New Mexico

Rich landowners bought up territory under the Maxwell land grant, but over the course of more than a generation settlers moved in. Complicating things were the dubious land title transfer circumstances, where too many government officials and politicians also got their hands into the deals. Grant officials formed the Santa Fe Ring, which began making false accusations against the settlers in an effort to dislodge them. Government officials also joined the fray on the side of the wealthy grant company. One local preacher, Rev. Franklin J. Tolby took up cause of the settlers and was murdered by grant company hired guns. It's September 14, 1875 and you're riding with the posse that killed Tolby. It's not your fault that he and his parishioners are standing in the way of "legal" land ownership. He is the target, not his goods, so leave his horse and belongings be.

Ammo

5 pistol (10 for two-gun shooters), 10 rifle, 4 shotgun.

Starting Position

Rifle and shotgun, safely staged .

Procedure

Seated on horse, or standing next to horse, if unable to swing leg off horse

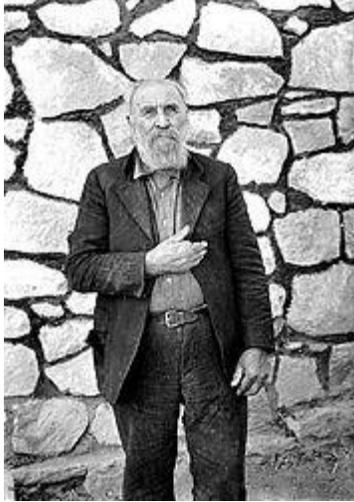
When ready dismount and proceed to doorway, and say "*We're Not Here for a Blessing Reverend.*"

At the buzzer, engage pistol targets, 1,2,2,3,3. Two-gun shooters continue on 3, 4,4,4,4, Make pistol safe.

Move to window and engage rifle targets, 1-2-2-3-3-3-4-4-4-4. Make rifle safe.

Move back out doorway and engage shotgun targets, 1-2-1-2. Make shotgun safe.

Time stops.



George W. Coe, survivor, 1934 photo

Lincoln County, New Mexico

Two feuding clans engaged in hostilities after a debt was forcibly settled by a seizure of horses from a certain John Tunstall, who was murdered after he confronted deputies about the seizure. A posse called the Regulators formed to avenge this killing by the Dolan cowboys, with its core members Billy the Kid, George and Frank Coe, Jose Chavez y Chavez among others acting as the backbone of the group. After several skirmishes and questionable acts by both sides the Regulators are surrounded in Lincoln, and holed up in the McSween House and the Ellis Store. It's July 15, 1878 and you're with Billy and the Regulators in the McSween House. As the Dolan men and their accompanying US Army troops set fire to the house it's time to bail out ... if you can make it past the troops!

Ammo 5 pistol (10 for two-gun shooters), 10 rifle, 6 shotgun, pocket pistol or derringer

Starting Position

Standing at door, loaded pistol(s) safely holstered.

Pocket pistol/Derringer safely staged on barrel.

Rifle, loaded with ten rounds, safely staged.

Shotgun safely staged, four shot shells on person.

Procedure When ready, Shooter says *“Col. Dudley, You Ain't Takin' Me Alive!”*

At the buzzer, engage rifle targets, through door, 1,1,3,3,2 repeat

Engage shotgun targets 1, 3, 2,1,3,2

Engage pistol targets, 1, 1,3,3,2. Two-gun shooters, repeat.

Engage Pocket pistol/Derringer target for bonus.

Time stops.



Cattle Branding- 1891

Johnson County, Wyoming

In the 1880s, competition between homesteaders and cattle ranchers began to press in on the cattlemen, and rustling (among other things) were starting to thin out the herds. The cattle barons began blaming the settlers, and eventually took matters into their own hands. They first set up stock associations to control branding in an effort to stop calves from being siphoned off to the black market under unregistered brands. But before long, the fighting came to a head using hired guns, sieges, and executions. After the turmoil was quelled by the 6th Cavalry in 1892, most of the witnesses and perpetrators simply disappeared. Today, it's 1886 and you've brought in a few head of "diverted" calves for sale that the local market, and the members of the newly-formed Wyoming Stock Growers Association are accusing you of having an illegal brand on your animals. If you can't make your case, you better escape before some of the local sheriff's men hear the commotion!

Ammo 5 Pistol (10 for two-gun shooters), 10 Rifle, 6 shotgun, pocket pistol or derringer

Starting Position Standing with safely holstered loaded pistol(s).

Rifle and Shotgun safely staged on wagon

Procedure

When ready, shooter yells "***Look, this here's a bona fide brand of bovine beauty!***" to which the Association members (audience) yell "***That's a No-Name Brand!***"

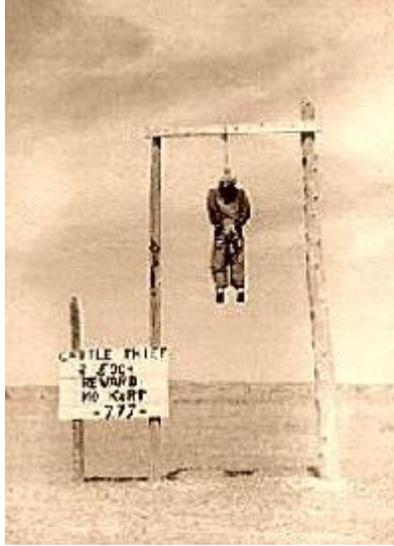
At the buzzer, Engage shotgun targets; 1-2-1-2-1-2. Make shotgun safe.

Retrieve rifle and engage rifle targets; 1,5,2,4,3 repeat Make safe

Engaged the pistol targets; 1,5,2,4,3 Two gun shooters repeat.

Engage Pocket pistol/Derringer target for bonus.

Time stops.



Mason County, Texas

In 1875, one Texas county suffered a carnival of lawlessness including cattle rustling. Local vigilance committees took up arms and began midnight lynchings, ambushes, and any other methods to try to restore order. One unlucky victim, a 17-yr old cowboy named Allen Bolt, was left beside a road near Mason with a note on his back: “Here lies a noted cow thief”. Even lawmen were accused of rustling. The resulting conflict was also fueled by language and cultural differences between Anglos and Germans (who owned most of the choicest land). It’s May 15, 1874, and today an innocent man stands at the gallows to await his fate. While not sure of his innocence, you decide to intercede based on your friendship. The fact that he’s a deputy, and engaged to your daughter has nothing to do with it. Save that man before the trap door gets sprung!

Ammo 5 pistol (10 for two-gun shooters), 10 rifle, 4 shotgun, derringer/pocket pistol.

Starting Position

At doorway.

Procedure

When ready, shooter says, *“I’ll save you Deputy!”*

At the buzzer, engage pistol targets, 1-2-3-4-5. Two-gun shooters, repeat. Safely holster pistol(s).

Move to window. Retrieve rifle and engage rifle targets, 1-2-3-4-5 repeat. Make rifle safe.

Retrieve shotgun and engage shotgun targets, 1-2-1-2. Make shotgun safe.

Move to derringer/pocket pistol and engage derringer/pocket pistol targets for bonus.

Time stops.



Saturday Long Range

.***THIS STAGE IS OPTIONAL!***

Ammo

10 Per Rifle, 5 pistol, 4 shotgun.

Targets

3 rifle caliber rifle, 2 pistol caliber rifle, 2 pistol/shotgun, .22 gallery target (weather permitting)

Starting Position

Standing with low ready pistol(s), Rifle safely held at Cowboy Port Arms, or Shooter in position with single-shot rifle

Procedure

At the buzzer, shooters engage the appropriate target for their caliber, alternating shots on 2 targets, except for the .22 target.

POSSE MEMBERS: you will keep your same work assignments on this stage!

POSSE LEADERS: Keep the action moving- run this stage like any other. Try to accommodate two shooters at once, shooting different banks of targets. Position shooters so brass falls on mat.

PLEASE NOTE that there is a SEPARATE scoring sheet for this stage! Do NOT put scores for Long Range on the regular sheets.

Time is not the primary scoring method, hits are. For this stage, the shooter must announce his/her caliber choice to the scorer before the stage begins.

.22 rifle shooters are scored in repeating or single shot rifle OPEN category, depending on action type.

Shotgun Stampede is also scored separately.

Counters count Hits only, last shot stops the clock.

Time breaks ties in number of hits only.

*If time allows,
shooters may shoot a second gun of a different caliber,
but only after all shooters have completed their first gun.*



Col. S. N. Wood

Stevens County, Kansas

Two new towns sprang up in what would one day be ratified as Stevens County: Hugoton and Woodsdale. These townships competed for both residents and control of the local assets. After many double-crosses, fraud and other acts of ill repute the towns spawned many acts of lawlessness. Sheriff Cross (installed by local landlord Col. Wood) has formed a posse at Hugoton to chase down renegades. They caught up with them at the township of Voorhees, where Cross' posse was nearly killed by some large haystacks after being disarmed in what would later be called the Hay Meadow Massacre. One of the ambushers, Sam Robinson, just shot Sheriff Cross not even 10 feet from you, and now you need to fight your way out to survive!

Ammo 5 pistol (10 for two-gun shooters), 10 rifle, 4 shotgun

Starting Position Standing at fence with pistols holstered.

Rifle, loaded with ten rounds, safely staged.

Shotgun safely staged, four shotshells on shooter.

Procedure When ready, Shooter says ***"Robinson, We Have No Arms!"***

At the buzzer, engage pistol target. In a Nevada sweep 1,2,3,2,1. Two-gun shooters, repeat.

Make pistol(s) safe.

Engage rifle targets in a Nevada Sweep (1-2-3-4-3-2-1-2-3-4). Make rifle safe.

Engage shotgun 1-2-1-2. Make shotgun safe.

Time stops.



W.W.Tunstall

Lincoln County N.M.- The Beginning

The Jessie Evans Gang was hired in 1877 by the Murphy-Dolan Faction to harass their opposition in Lincoln County by rustling cattle and horses belonging to the Tunstall – McSweens. The Evans gang, among others, were dispatched with Sheriff William J. Brady to arrest John Tunstall and on February 18, 1878 Tunstall was ambushed and killed, igniting the Lincoln County War. This is the day, and Tunstall won't be taken alive, but you'll give him the chance.

Ammo 5 Pistol (10 for two-gun shooters), 9 Rifle, 6 shotgun, derringer/pocket pistol

Starting Position

Derringer/Pocket pistol safely staged on table . Standing at horse next to the rock, safely holstered pistol(s), loaded.

Shotgun safely held at Port Arms.

Rifle safely staged, nine rounds in magazine.

Procedure When the shooter is ready, say *“Tunstall, You're Coming With Us, Dead Or Alive!”*

At the buzzer, engage shotgun targets; 1-2-3-1-2-3. Make shotgun safe.

Triple-tap three rifle targets; 1-1-1-2-2-2-3-3-3. Make rifle safe.

Move to left window.

Sweep pistol targets; 1-1, 2,2,3. Two-gun shooters engage 3,2,2,1,1. Make pistol safe.

Engage derringer/pocket pistol targets for bonus.

Time stops.



Seward County, Kansas

When Sam Wood was killed as he left the courthouse in Springfield, and his killer was freed due to a lack of jurors, his associates vowed revenge on Botkin, the District Judge. Word of an upcoming ambush reached Botkin from more than one source, and the uniformity of the times/dates was too good to be ignored. Sheriff Dunn and his party formed a posse at the judge's residence and left early for the reputed ambush site, a canyon nearby. The roots of this conflict go back to the Hay Meadow Massacre, where four of Wood's adherents were executed. Sam was active in the trial of the ambushers, and he was marked for death by a witness... who fulfilled his promise right in front of Mrs. Wood's eyes.. Today it's January 3, 1892 and your posse enters the canyon you run right into a group of almost 30 armed men- the ambush meant for Judge Botkin is about to be reversed!

Ammo 5 Pistol (10 for two-gun shooters), 10 Rifle, 6 shotgun , pocket pistol or derringer

Starting Position Standing, pistol(s) safely holstered loaded.

Rifle, loaded with ten rounds, safely staged at wagon.

Shotgun held at Cowboy Port Arms, six shotshells on shooter.

Procedure

When the shooter is ready, say, ***“Get Out of the WAY! Ambush!!”***

At the buzzer, engage shotgun targets 1-2-3-2,1,2

Make shotgun safe.

Move to rifle and engage rifle targets 1, 2,3,4,5, 5, 4,3,2,1

Make rifle safe.

Move back to left and engage pistol targets in a sweep; (1-2-3-4-5). Two-gun shooters, 5,4,3,2,1.

Make pistol safe.

Engage Pocket pistol/Derringer target for bonus.

Time stops.



Lucien B. Maxwell

Colfax County, N.M. (Continued)

The good Rev. Tolby's cause lives on after his untimely murder. Defense of the settlers against the land barons of the Maxwell Land Grant draws new support as Rev. Tolby's death only serves to strengthen the settlers' resolve. Now, Rev. Oscar Patrick McMains is carrying on Tolby's action against the barons. It's 1875 and you're the good Reverend, giving an inspirational call to action. Better rally the troops fast, because the same guns for hire that murdered Rev. Tolby are approaching!

Ammo

5 pistol (10 for two-gun shooters), 10 rifle, 6 shotgun, pocket pistol or derringer.

Starting Position Standing at door, pistol(s) safely holstered loaded.

When ready, shooter says *"Defiance! And Contempt For That Which is Contemptible!"* Posse replies *"Amen Reverend!"*

Procedure

At the buzzer, engage pistol targets, 1,5,2,4,3 Two-gun shooters, repeat. Safely holster pistol(s).

Move to window and engage rifle targets, 1,5,2,4,3 repeat Make rifle safe.

Retrieve shotgun and engage shotgun targets, 1,3,2,1,3,2. Make shotgun safe.

Engage Pocket pistol/Derringer target for bonus.

Time stops.