
September
2025

THE HOWLER
At 5 Dogs
Latest News, Updates & More

5 Dogs
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2025 - 2026 Town

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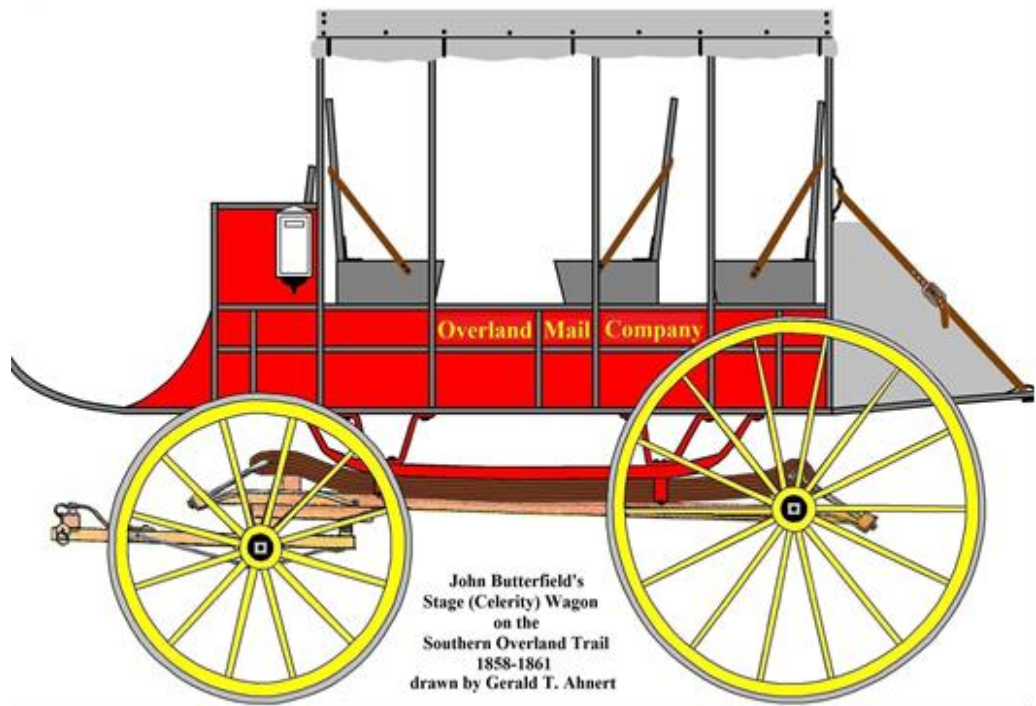
The Mayor's Anvil:
Forging Understanding
By Mayor Fordyce Beals

In current times when you leave the gate of the 5 Dogs Range you could choose to go north to San Francisco or south to San Diego or east to Saint Louis Missouri. At the same gate in 1858 the "Overland Mail Company" stage gave you the same options.

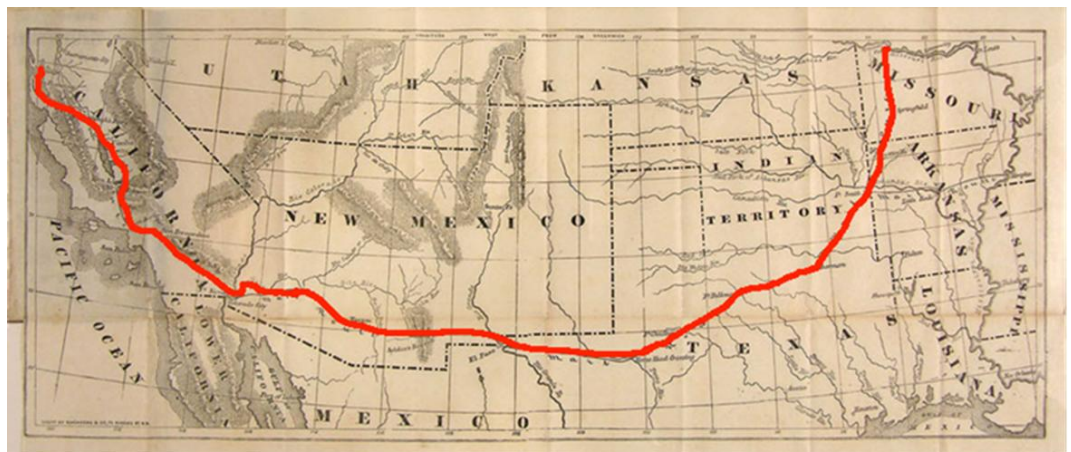
Prior to 1858, no overland mail route existed in the US; mail that moved between the east and west coasts traveled by ship. In 1857, the Post Office Department contracted with John Butterfield to carry mail between Tipton, Missouri, and San Francisco, California. The contract was set for \$600,000 per year, an unheard-of sum at the time for postal contracts. The route (see map) traveled across the South, to avoid snow-covered mountain passes and provide year-round service. Stations were built about 20 miles apart along the route to allow for fresh horses and mules. Butterfield's, "Overland Mail", stagecoaches began traveling

across the 2,600-mile-long route on September 16, 1858. The scheduled 24-day trip averaged 108 miles a day. The line ran for 3 years and was a victim of the civil war.

Celerity means 'swiftness of speed'. The term "celerity wagon" is sometimes used instead of "stage wagon." It was about 60% of the weight of a stagecoach and was designed for the rough frontier conditions where the trail was not as well developed, in sand, and for traversing steep inclines. They were open on the sides with no doors or windows. Often a canvas top was supported by light uprights. They had canvas or leather curtains fastened to the top that could be rolled down as a barrier to the dust. The stage wagon was used by Butterfield's Overland Mail Company exclusively on 70% of the Southern Overland Trail on the 1,920-mile (3,090 km) section between Fort Smith, Arkansas, to Los Angeles, California. The stage ran day and night and passengers slept and sat between stations. A quick bite to eat and a change of the 4 horses or mules and driver every 20 miles or so. No one on a Butterfield stage was ever killed by outlaws, but some died in accidents caused by the mostly unbroken mules or mustangs running wild. Butterfield's stages were not allowed to carry shipments of valuables. It would seem that people then were tougher than the average today.



50 pounds of mail carried under driver's seat



A company map showing route - note that some of states are yet to be created



THE SHERIFF'S LOG

Howdy All,

August is wrapping up and the weather hasn't been too bad, at least for the shoot at the beginning of the month. The stages Sam Ootie were creatively simple, so they were a lot of fun to shoot. Since it was the 'Paniolo' show shoot honoring our fellow Hawaiian cowboys and cowgirls there were many shooters suitably attired. Good time was had by all!

Gunpowder N Grace is writing her 'back to school' scenarios for the September match so sharpen your pencils and practice those math and spelling skills! She's staying with the shadier bays, just in case it is hot so come out for some 'back to school' shooting.

Brandin Iron and Bull are working on more unloading tables and Miss Barah Lee Misditt, and I are working on more staging tables. Thanks to everyone for all they are doing to make the range a safer place to shoot.

Looking ahead, Buddy Love will be writing the October stages, his famous 'Gunfighter Throwdown'. If you ever wanted to shoot gunfighter style for the fun of it, here is your chance. Or shoot your favorite shooting style, it's up to you.

The She-Bang is back on November 1-2 with lots of Shenanigans going on. Check out next month's Howler and the Facebook page for more information.

December stages will be written by Utah Blaine and Lucky Lu. I wonder what Santa will bring!

Kings River Regulators September match is 'Women of the West'. This is an opportunity for cowgirls to learn a few new shooting skills as well as a lot of events happening. And there is plenty of room for the cowboys! Check out their web page: www.kingsriverregulators.com and Facebook

5 Dogs Creek is hosting Range Fest put on by Dirty Birds Guns and Ammo. Check it out at: <https://rangefest.com/>. 5 Dogs Creek have some cowboys and cowgirls in costume at the range with guns for those who stop by to see what the cowboy range is about.

There sure is a lot going on out there on the prairie!

Lap Dog

SEPTEMBER

Shooting Schedule:

9/6, SATURDAY

Office opens 8:00
Shooter's Mtg. 8:30
Match Starts: 9:00

9/7, SUNDAY

Office opens 8:00
Shooter's mtg. 8:30
Match Starts: 9:00



2025 MATCH **CALENDAR**

SEPT 6-7

OCT 4-5

NOV 1-2

DEC 6-7

COME JOIN US FOR SOME CAMPING FUN!



Friday Evening (5:00-ish)

Appetizers (Hot or cold)

Saturday Evening, (6:00-ish)

Bring your favorite potluck grub to share.

Plates & utensils provided

SATURDAY CLEAN SHOOTERS



(8/2/25) AMBS ACES, LAP DOG, FORDYCE BEALS, BULL MCFEARSON

SUNDAY CLEAN SHOOTERS



(8/3/25) COYOTE CARSON, DAISY CROCKETT, MISS BARAH LEE MISDITT, LAP DOG, DUTCH LONGHORN)

Territorial Governor's News:

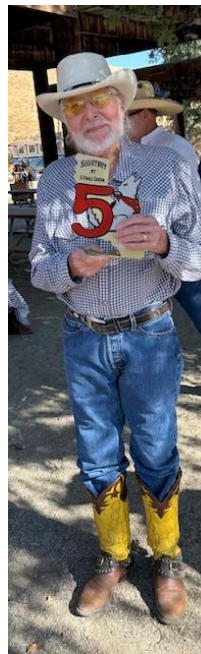
(Watch for the Professor's wise words of wisdom here again soon.)



Professor Cubby Bear
(cubbybear29521@aol.com)

WANDERIN' AROUND with Utah Blaine

(Watch for the "Top Hand's" return here soon)



Range Wranglers' Notes:

(Brandin Iron's News here soon.)



In Appreciation Of All Our Education Specialists:

