
MARCH
2026

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

Naturalized US citizen puts Fresno CA on the world map -The Fresno Scrapper

A 25-year-old Scot named James Porteous who was the son of a wheelwright and blacksmith took passage to America in 1873. By 1876 he was selling wagons in Fresno, California. By 1880 he was an American citizen who had been woven into Fresno Valley farm life. His wagon shop, Fresno Agricultural Works, went on to become the largest agricultural implement business in the Central Valley. Today, that business is known as the Fresno Ag Hardware, and it has the distinction of being the oldest continuously operated business in Fresno.

In his work with Fresno farmers, Porteous came to understand the Valley's dependence on irrigation. Valley farmers needed a more efficient way of constructing levees, canals, ditches, furrows, and stock ponds in their sandy soil. The problem was harder to solve than it seemed. Yet Porteous solved it. His series of patents reveal a subtle thread of real inventive genius. The Fresno scrapper is a machine pulled

by horses used for constructing canals and ditches. Porteus' C-shaped scraper had a blade along the bottom. It scooped dirt as it was pulled along. The machine rode on runners and could be tilted. An operator walking behind it could change the angle. When it was full, he tilted it back and let it slide on the runners. He could dump dirt as he passed over low spots and smooth out terrain. He could vary the angle of attack to match the soil.

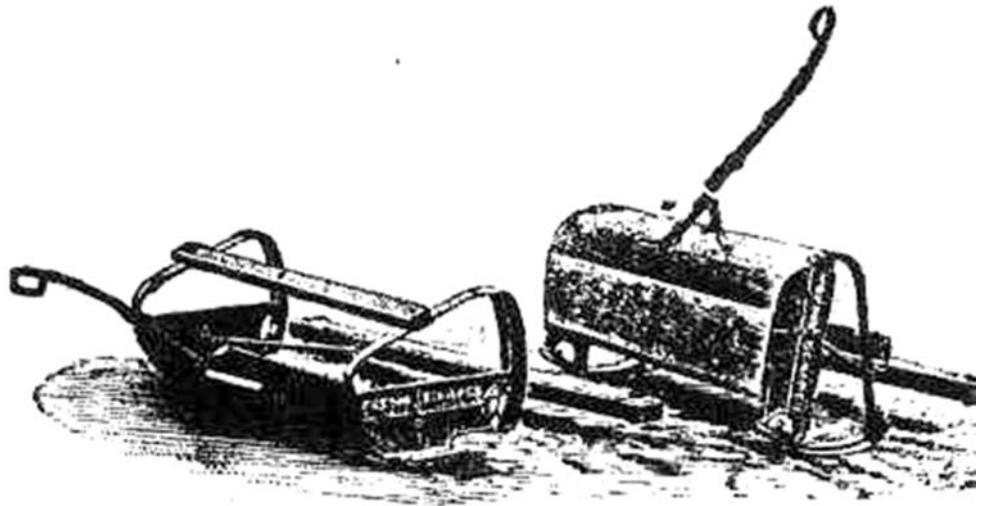
Porteus called it the "Fresno Scraper". The Fresno Scraper was one of the most important agricultural and civil engineering machines ever made, having the ability to scrape and move a quantity of soil, and to discharge it at a controlled depth, thus quadrupling the volume of soil which could be handled manually by a worker with a shovel and horse drawn wagon. Between 1886 and 1920, thousands of "Fresnos" were produced for use in agriculture, land leveling, digging ditches, road and railroad construction, and in general construction, too. On a global scale, the scraper's design was exported to regions including South America, India, the Orient, South Africa, Australia, and Europe, aiding infrastructure projects in colonial contexts such as canal and road building. The two-horse model originally retailed for \$28. The design of the Fresno scraper forms the basis of most modern earthmoving scrapers. The five-foot Fresno scraper pulled by four good mules is reported to have moved 225 cubic yards of dirt in one long day (approximately one half million pounds of soil).

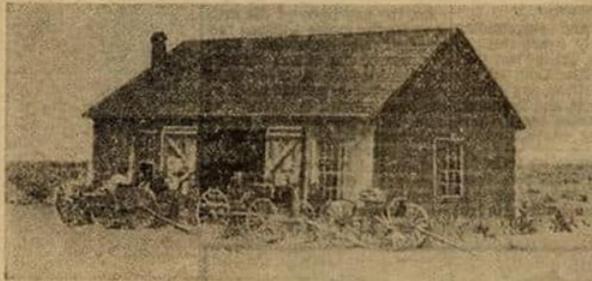
The Fresno scraper's introduction in the late 19th century significantly boosted California's agricultural economy by enabling the efficient construction of irrigation canals, levees, and ditches, which transformed arid lands in the Central Valley into productive farmland. This innovation unlocked the fertility of the San Joaquin Valley, supporting the expansion of farming operations that relied on water from rivers like the San Joaquin, and laid the foundation for the region's emergence as a global agricultural hub.

FRESNO
Agricultural * **W**orks,

SOUTH OF COURT HOUSE,
FRESNO, . . . CALIFORNIA.

SEE OUR PATENT FRESNO SCRAPER.





FRESNO AGRICULTURAL
WORKS

We Started Here in

1876

We Were Here in

1904

TULARE at "L" ST.



FRESNO AG
HARDWARE

1956

OUR PRESENT PLACE OF BUSINESS

Fresno Ag Hardware

2704 BLACKSTONE

PHONE 7-8457

FRESNO SCRAPER

FORMERLY FROM: The Hudson Carriage Co.



Contractors
Equipment Co.

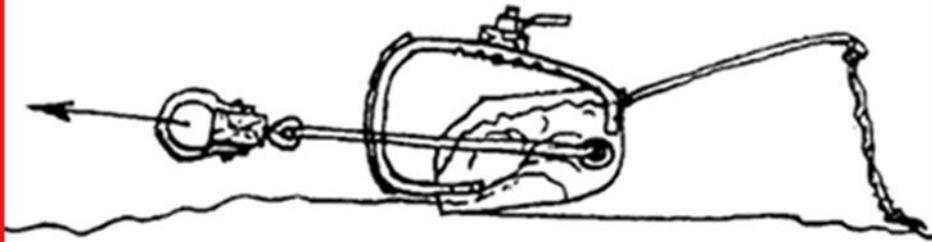
Nos.	Size	Width Cut	Capacity	Weight Each	Each	Code
3	2 Horse	3½ ft.	12 cu. ft.	236 lbs.	\$15.50	CURL
2	3 Horse	4 ft.	14 cu. ft.	249 lbs.	16.50	CURRANT
1	4 Horse	5 ft.	18 cu. ft.	308 lbs.	17.00	CURRY

Prices Includes Doubletree, Rings and Clevises.

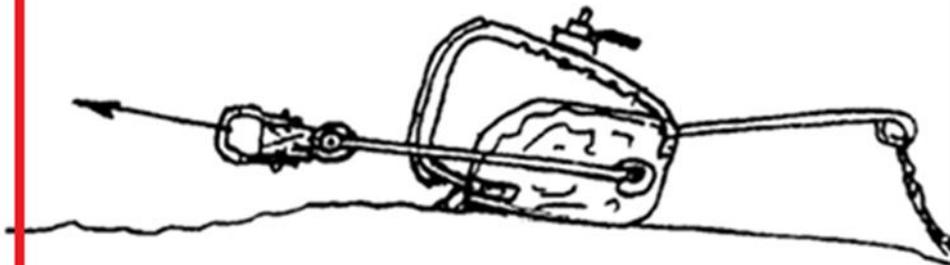
Prices Approximately Net and Subject to Market Changes

FRESNO SCRAPER

(a) Scraping to Load Bowl



(b) Sliding Load



(c) Dumping Load and Grading to Desired Thickness



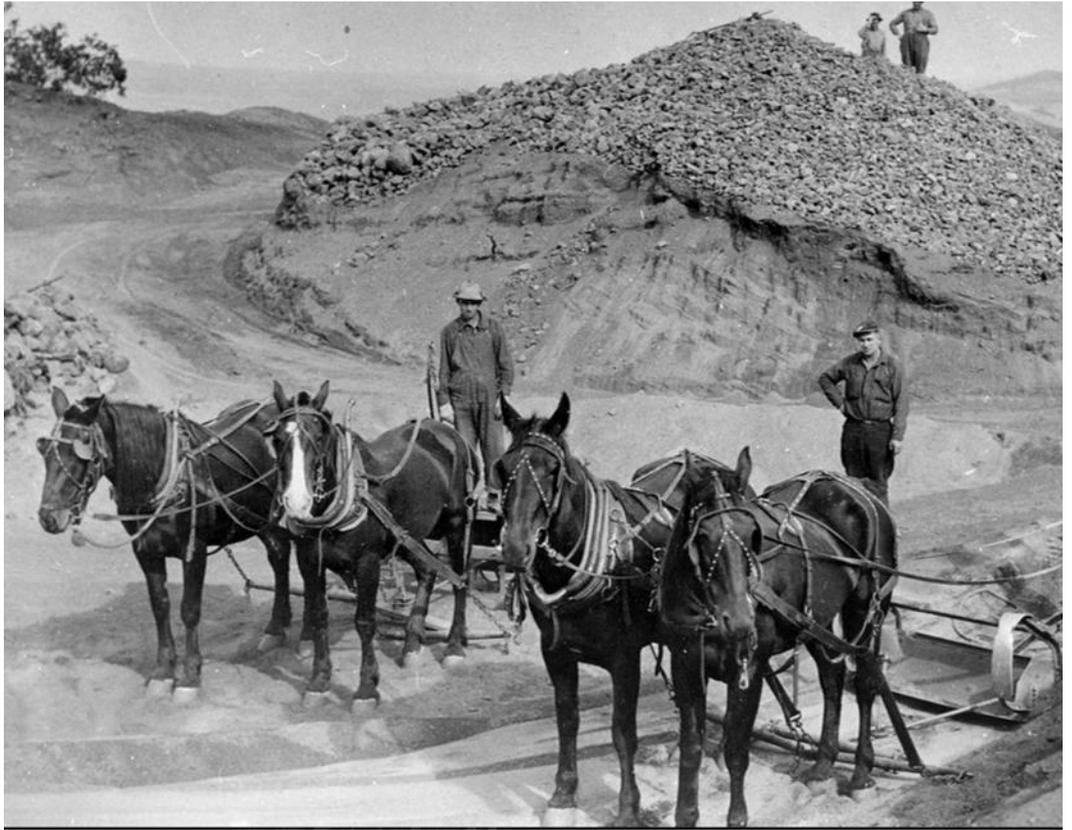
FIGURE 8 FRESNO SCRAPER
MODES OF OPERATION



A factory fresh Fresno, most likely a reconstruction











THE SHERIFF'S LOG

Howdy All,

The February match was one of those matches where you don't know if you're headed down range or up range. Shooting on January 31st and February 1st is a bit like trying to reload .38 ammo and .45 ammo at the same time, got to keep your wits together. Keep your hats on because March is the same, not wanting to leave February behind, we will shoot **February 28th and March 1st**. Yeehaw doggies, that's almost confusing!

What wasn't confusing, to a few shooters anyway, was Bull McFearson's stages. The weather and the stages were so perfect that Dirt McFearson couldn't help himself, he had to drive down to shoot with us. It's always great to see him! Big thank you to Bull for writing those stages.

Those stages were so good we used them for our 'bonus' match on February 7th. Great crowd and again, a lot of fun!

Fordyce Beals is writing the stages for the March match and as an experienced stage writer his are always good. We will be using some of his stages for our '**bonus' match on March 7th** so load up lots of ammo for both those matches.

There will not be Friday appetizers in March because it is still too cold although nice to hang around the firepit until the sun sets and it's too cold! Although, we will have the potluck on Saturday night.

We are on winter hours for Saturday; the office opens at 9:30 and shooter meeting at 10:00. This time is for both the regular match and the 'bonus' match.

It is exciting that all the bays have the new larger unloading table. They have already come in handy and now that every bay has one, problems with pesky guns won't interfere with a shooter needing to unload. If you get a chance, look under the rugs to see the coloring and the brands. All the brands have a meaning, just ask Brandin Iron! **A big thank you to Brandin Iron and Shotgun Lynn for building the tables.**

We will have a Town Council meeting on Saturday after the scores are read. See you at the range,

Lap Dog

MARCH Shooting Schedule:

2/28, SATURDAY

Office opens 9:30
Shooter's Mtg. 10:00
Match Starts: 10:15

3/1, SUNDAY

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



2026 MATCH CALENDAR

MAR: FEB 28-

MAR 1

APRIL: 4

(Range closed for
Easter, 4/5)

"Bonus Match"

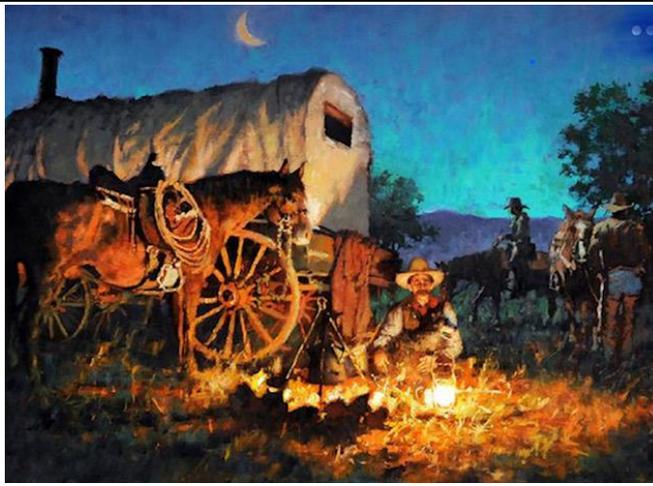
4/11

(& 12 if enough
interest)

MAY: 2-3

JUNE: 6-7

COME JOIN US FOR SOME CAMPING FUN!



Saturday Evening Potluck (6:00-ish)
Bring your favorite potluck grub to share.
Plates & utensils provided

SATURDAY, 1/31 CLEAN SHOOTERS



PANHANLE RED & LAP DOG (& Friends)

SUNDAY, 2/1 CLEAN SHOOTERS



SHOTGUN LYNN, SAM OOTIE, LAP DOG (& FRIENDS)

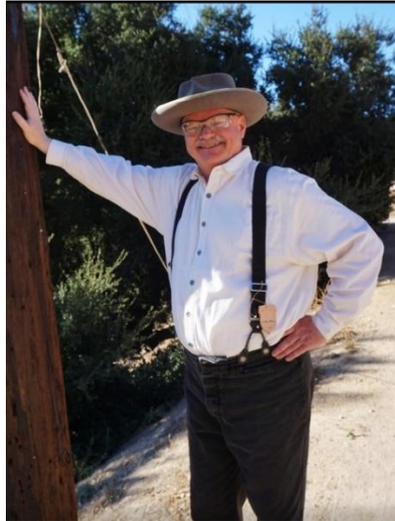
SATURDAY, 2/7,
BONUS MATCH
CLEAN SHOOTER



Sheriff Lap Dog

Territorial Governor's News:

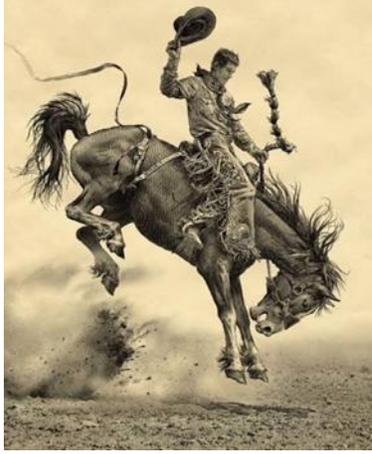
(Watch for the Professor's wise words of wisdom here again soon.)



Professor Cubby Bear
cubbybear29521@aol.com

Range Wranglers' Notes:

(Brandin Iron's News here soon.)



Mayor Fordyce's Range Notes:

Sass Pocket Range Officers Card

Print and cut out for range use

<https://sassnet.com/uploads/downloads/Shooters%20Handbooks%20-%20CAS/CAS%202025%20SHB%20-%20%20Vers%2027.9%20-%20May%202025%20-%20%20FINAL.pdf>

SASS® Range Operations Basic Safety Course	Pocket RO Card — Current as of January 2024 "MSV" Minor Safety Violation = 10 Second penalty "SDQ" = Stage Disqualification; "MDQ" = Match Disqualification		M S V	S D Q	M D Q
Empty or live round in magazine, action, or on the carrier of the long gun in which it was loaded, or an empty in the chamber of a long gun- after the next firearm is fired, or if last firearm, put down on the unloading table.			X		
Empty long guns that slip and fall but don't break 170 or sweep anyone			X		
Cocking a revolver before it reaches 45 degrees downrange			X		
Leaving the stage anytime between when the first and last shots have been fired on the stage				X	
Leaving the firing line after stage has begun before all firearms have been verified as clear				X	
Loading at other than designated location				X	
Holstering or staging revolver with hammer cocked (not fully down) or down (on a live round)				X	
Any dropped unloaded firearm on the firing line				X	
Discharge impacting 5-10 feet from shooter, while on the firing line				X	
Cocked revolver leaving shooter's hand				X	
Changing location or leaving the designated loading area with a live round chambered in a long gun with the action closed				X	
Unsafe gun handling (fanning, etc.)				X	
Use of illegal or illegally-modified firearm				X	
Dry firing at the loading or unloading table(s)				X	
Violation of 170 rule (without sweeping anyone)				X	
Sweeping anyone with unloaded firearm				X	
Arriving at the designated loading area with uncleared firearms after completing a stage within the same day (assessed on the previously completed stage)				X	
De-cocking to avoid a penalty if cocked at the wrong time, position or location				X	
Not adhering to loading or unloading procedures				X	

SASS® Range Operations Basic Safety Course	Pocket RO Card — Current as of January 2024 "MSV" Minor Safety Violation = 10 Second penalty "SDQ" = Stage Disqualification; "MDQ" = Match Disqualification		M	S	M
			S	D	D
			V	Q	Q
Shooting on the move (shooting multiple shots during continuous movement)				X	
Leaving the designated loading area with a RIFLE having a live round under a cocked hammer/hammer down on a live round				X	
Staging or discarding a long gun containing a live round in the chamber (once it leaves the shooter's hands)				X	
Use or presence of outlawed/illegal items				X	
Dropped gun (loaded)					X
Discharge impacting within 5 feet from shooter, while on the firing line or any discharge away from the firing line. Any discharge in the loading or unloading areas.					X
Sweeping anyone with loaded firearm					X
Willful failure to comply with a "cease fire" or "Stop" command given by, and while under the positive control of, the CRO/TO					X
Any two (2) stage DQ penalties or 2 F.T.E./S.O.G.s during the course of a match					X
Belligerent attitude/unsportsmanlike conduct					X
Shooting under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or impairing medications					X
Leaving the firing line with a malfunctioning firearm unless under direct supervision of a match official					X
Shooting out of category. e.g., Not wearing the correct items in Classic Cowboy or not making enough smoke in B/P Categories 1st violation is a procedure, 2nd violation is SDQ, 3rd violation is MDQ			P	2	3
<p>Procedural: Unintentional errors caused by confusion or mistakes. 10 seconds; no more than one procedural penalty may be assessed per stage.</p> <p>Failure to Engage/Spirit of the Game: Willfully shooting a stage other than the way it was intended in order to gain a competitive advantage, not meeting the Ammunition Power Factor or willfully disregarding a non-shooting procedure. 30 seconds.</p> <p>Reshoots are granted for failure of props/match equipment; Range Officer impeding shooter progress; or timer failure.</p> <p>Reshoots for failure of shooter equipment or firearms may be granted at the discretion of the Match Director (except at annual or state/regional champion-ships and above). Only safety penalties carry over. Restarts shall be allowed for a competitor to achieve a "clean" start, up to the point at which the first round goes down range. Multiple restarts by the same shooter, that in the judgment of the R.O. are seen to be taking advantage, will not be entertained as they are not in the spirit of the game.</p>					

Mayor Fordyce's Range Notes (cont.)

Link to Shooters Handbook

<https://sassnet.com/uploads/downloads/Shooters%20Handbooks%20-%20CAS/CAS%202025%20SHB%20-%20%20Vers%2027.9%20-%20May%202025%20%20-%20FINAL.pdf>



WANDERIN' AROUND with Utah Blaine

The Story of Annie Oakley

Introduction

Annie Oakley, though she was not an outlaw, she was a sharpshooter who truly shattered gender barriers. Her precision use with firearms earned her fame and respect. Annie wowed audiences in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, showcasing her skills that rivaled those of any gunslinger (Moore p. 7).

Her life was a testament to breaking boundaries, and inspiring countless women to pursue their dreams. Her journey was not without hardship; she faced financial struggles and challenges in a male-dominated world (Moore p. 7).

Annie Oakley's Life

Annie was born Phoebe Ann Moses, or as some sources say, Mosey, on August 13, 1860, in Darke County, Ohio. She is, not surprisingly, remembered as one of the leading women of the American West (Biography p.1).

Annie's parents, were [Quakers](#) of English descent. Annie was the sixth of Jacob and Susan's nine children and the fifth of the seven surviving ones. Annie's father, who was 61 years old at the time of Annie's birth in 1850, died from pneumonia at age 66. Her mother later remarried but was widowed once again (Wikipedia p. 1).



In the spring of 1870, she was, so to speak, "bound out" to a local family to help care for their infant son, on the false promise of fifty cents per week. Which would be equivalent to \$12 per week in 2024, and an education. In one instance, the wife put Annie outside in freezing temperatures and without shoes as a punishment for having fallen asleep over some darning. Annie referred to this family as "the wolves". Sometime around the spring of 1872, Annie ran away from "the wolves". But even in her autobiography she never indicated the couple's real names (Wikipedia pp. 2-3).

It is possible that a shooting match took place in the spring of 1881. Apparently, the exact date of the event was never recorded, though one of the participants, Frank E. Butler, a top shooter, and a vaudeville performer, indicated it took place near Greenville, possibly North Star, during interviews in 1903 and 1924 (Wikipedia pp. 2-3).

Oakley and Butler were married a year afterward. A certificate on file with the Archives of Ontario indicates they were married in 1872, though many sources say the marriage took place in 1876, but no recorded certificate confirms that date. One possible reason for contradictory dates is that Butler's divorce from his first wife, was not yet final in 1876 (Wikipedia p 3). Whatever the case, Annie and Butler embarked on a union that would last more than half a century (Biography p.1). Throughout her career, the public was often led to believe that she was five or six years younger than her actual age (Wikipedia p.3)



Oakley and Butler joined up with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show in 1885. They toured with the show for more than 15 years with Oakley receiving the spotlight and top billing while Butler worked as her manager and assisting her with her stunning displays of marksmanship. Oakley had met Native American leader Sitting Bull in 1884. He was so impressed with her manner and abilities that he "adopted" her and bestowed upon her the additional name of "Little Sure Shot" (Biography p. 1)



Annie temporarily left the Buffalo Bill show but returned two years later, departing in time for the [Paris Exposition of 1889](#). This three-year tour cemented Oakley as America's first female star and she earned more than any other performer, except Buffalo Bill himself.

In Europe, she performed for [Queen Victoria](#) of the United Kingdom, King [Umberto I of Italy](#), President [Marie Francois Sadi Carnot](#) of France, and other crowned heads of state. Annie is reported to have supposedly shot the ashes off a cigarette held by the newly crowned German [Kaiser Wilhelm II](#) at his request (Wikipedia p. 4).

Across her long career, it is believed that Annie Oakley taught more than 15,000 women how to use a gun. She believed very strongly that it was absolutely crucial for women to learn how to use a gun, but not just a form of physical and mental exercise but also having the ability to defend themselves. She said: "I would like to see every woman know how to handle guns as naturally as they know how to handle babies" (Wikipedia pp. 5-6)

During her retirement years Annie pursued hobbies including hunting and fishing, and she taught marksmanship to other women. In the early 1920s she and Butler were involved in a car accident in which they were both severely hurt; however, she did manage to perform again for a time in 1924 (Biography p. 1).

Oakley died on November 3, 1926, in Greenville, Ohio. The news of her death saddened the nation and brought forth a wave of tributes. Butler died on November 21, 1926 (Biography p. 2).

Final Comment

From her humble beginnings as Phoebe Ann Moses to being center stage as Annie Oakley and the champion shooter and star of *Buffalo Bill's Wild West*, she is remembered as a western folk hero, an American legend, and an icon. Across her long career, maintained her dignity and quietly proved she was superior to most men on the shooting range. And thanks to Hollywood and history, the legend of Annie Oakley has endured into the twenty-first century (Shriver p. 5).

Legacy and Media Depictions

A part of Oakley's lasting legacy is the Irving Berlin musical *Annie Get Your Gun* (1946), based on her life story, with the initial run starring Ethel Merman and later Broadway incarnations starring Reba McKentire and Bernadette Peters.

Another media treatment of Annie Oakley's life has appeared in the 1935 film *Annie Oakley*, which is noted for being historically inaccurate.

Then there is the 1950 film adaptation of *Annie Get Your Gun*, starring Betty Hutton.

In addition, there are a variety of books aimed at both children and adults.

There is also the Annie Oakley exhibit at the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame in Fort Worth, Texas (Wikipedia p. 6).



References

1. Biography. "Annie Oakley was a Renowned Markswoman and a Star who Worked with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show." July 28, 2020.
2. Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia. "Annie Oakley." No date.
3. Moore, Aria. "Meet the 12 Notorious Female Outlaws Who Ruled the Wild West." Past Revisited. May 20, 2025.
4. Shriver, Anne Marie. "Annie Oakley." Buffalo Bill Center of the West. No date.



May you troubles be less
And your blessings be more



And nothing but happiness
Come through your door.

St Patrick's Day

S G O	Y I K	
Y T B P G T	N Z K C F O	CLOVER
N K W G E R J Z G	E Y X G T V B B L	GOLD
H S L X H E H O N	B O E P C O W D D	GREEN
P O U M O E J W T L	P W E L L W G P U L	HOLIDAY
S F C K B N E R N J	W P U E C P T P C O	IRELAND
S F K S H A M R O C K	O N K G M A O N Y Z G	IRISH
D Y T R A D I T I O N	Q C E A R Y M B D A I	LEGEND
D Y B A K S V D S A I N Z A J B N L A R		LEPRECHAUN
T T E Q R M S R D K D L D A X		LUCKY
M V S T J F E T C		MARCH
K J Z Z A J V Y P I V U K		PARADE
D C N R P B G D R L R N L Y R		PINCH
I R I S H T U D L Z E W E E J O A V P		POT
R T M B E S H F C Q P V Q L H B C I N I O		RAINBOW
U K X L V O S F W R I O L A D R Z N W N C		SHAMROCK
O C X K R L J K H E O A L M N R B X B V C Q Q		STPATRICK
H F R M I W X C C S W C D K X V O I H H E		TRADITION
V R S D K Y R H C P S M R A T C W N Z J Z		
Z Q A Z T A A Y C J V X K R U B W C T		
O Y G E M U A J M R V U C A M A K		
M F W N W B O R O X V N P		
N R H G J X R U W		
	K V N	
	D E A	

