



OUTDOORS

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SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 1969



Three Points Public Shooting Range

Shooting history was made in Tucson yesterday when dignitaries gathered to dedicate the Three Points Public Shooting Range. Standing on a ridge overlooking the range are Jack Mantle, Game and Fish Commissioner from Tucson; Bob Jantzen, Game and Fish

Department director; Milt Hood, president of the Tucson Rifle Club; Fred Weiler, Bureau of Land Management director from Phoenix; and Bob Spillman, Game and Fish Commission chairman from Phoenix.

Three Points Range Opens After Formal Dedication

The new \$100,000 Three Points Shooting Range was formally opened to the public yesterday.

Hosts for the opening ceremonies were Milton Hood, president of the Tucson Rifle Club, and Robert Spillman, chairman of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission. Many other local and state dignitaries were on hand for the event.

The TPSR includes five separate ranges: smallbore, high power, black powder, sighting-in and silhouette.

The new range was built by the TRC in cooperation with G&F on 1,280 acres of land two miles west of Three Points and 27 miles west of Tucson on the Ajo Hwy.

"It is intended to be a recreation area specializing in shooting which is open to the public," Hood said. "We want to develop this facility to serve the gun owner who just wants to plink away for an hour or so. And we also have the first silhouette target range in the state."

Presently, the range is operational but it does not yet have the looks and refinements of an established facility.

In 1919 the Tucson Rifle Club received its charter from the National Rifle Assn. and 20 years later a range was built on W. Anklam Rd. about a half mile behind St. Mary's Hospital. Included in the area were facilities for the Pima Pistol Club and the Broken Arrow Bowmen archery club.

But two years ago the Pima County Junior

College selected the range as the site for its facilities. On Sept. 14, 1967, the rifle and pistol clubs accepted \$45,000 from the junior college for relocation costs. Subsequently, the TRC chose the Three Points area to be the site of its new range — the G&F obtained two sections of land from the Bureau of Land Management and in turn leased the land back to the TRC.

The pistol club, meanwhile, decided to withdraw its \$22,000 and find another site. Final details have not yet been worked out to develop this new range on the north side of the Santa Catalina Mountains near Golder Lake.

The bowmen have built a range in the Tucson Mountain foothills on Trails End Rd.

"We have used up all of the \$23,000 and have at least another \$75,000 in donated labor, materials and equipment," Hood said.

Future plans call for a trailer-camper area not only for competition shooters who come in for weekend matches but also for the general public. Picnic tables and ramadas along a ridge overlooking the range are also planned.

"If we get some good summer rains, the ranges will have a cover of green grass which will improve the appearance of the area immensely," Hood said.

The G&F has made a large entrance sign on the Ajo Hwy. The water well and pump was also financed by the state.

The first facility encountered after driving into the TPSR is the silhouette range.

"This has become a very popular competitive shooting pastime in Mexico," Hood said.

Metal counter-balanced targets are placed at varying distances and shooters are required to hit as many of the targets as possible — like a carnival shooting gallery. At 200 meters, five "chicken" targets have been placed and the shooter must knock over as many as possible with five shots. The same procedure is followed with javelina at 250 meters, turkey at 385 meters and bighorn sheep at 500 meters.

"The shooters and the spectators can hear the bullets bang on the heavy metal targets and watch them topple over," Hood said, "We think this silhouette range will become one of the most popular out here."

A 100-yard sighting-in and plinking facility has been built just to the west of the silhouette range. Muzzle loading shooters have the next facility which features a high ramada so the shooters can handle their long rifles in the shade.

The small bore competition range with 25 target positions has been finished. And on the far west end is the high power range with shooting lines at 200, 300, 600 and 1,000 yards.

Present plans allow for the public to use the range at a cost of 50 cents per day or \$10 per year membership. A range house with office, kitchen, restrooms and storage rooms has been built.

DEDICATION OF THREE POINTS PUBLIC SHOOTING RANGE

11:00 A. M. April 12, 1969

LOCATION: 37 miles southwest of Tucson and approximately
two miles west of Robles Junction on State Route 86.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- 11:00 A. M. 1. M/C Bob Spillman to give an impromptu thank you for all those who came.
2. M/C Announce the raising of the colors by the Catalina Boy Scout Council.
3. M/C Introduce Father Millane for the invocation.
- 11:15 A. M. 4. M/C Bob Spillman who will speak on the formation of this new range.
- 11:40 A. M. 5. Followed by TRC President Milt Hood who will explain the facilities and its future objectives.
- A. - Milt to make acknowledgement (broadly) to all those who contributed time, material and labor.
- 11:50 A. M. 6. M/C Introduce Fred Weiler who will represent the government.
- 11:55 A. M. 7. M/C Reading telegrams.
- 12:05 P. M. 8. Director Bob Jantzen to M/C, Commissioners shooting muzzel loaders at Silhouette Range (Mexican turkey shoot) - Ready - Aim - Fire.
- 12:10 P. M. 9. M/C Bob Spillman announces official opening when Director Bob Jantzen and TRC President pull the string to two cannons.
10. Lunch.

4-8-69