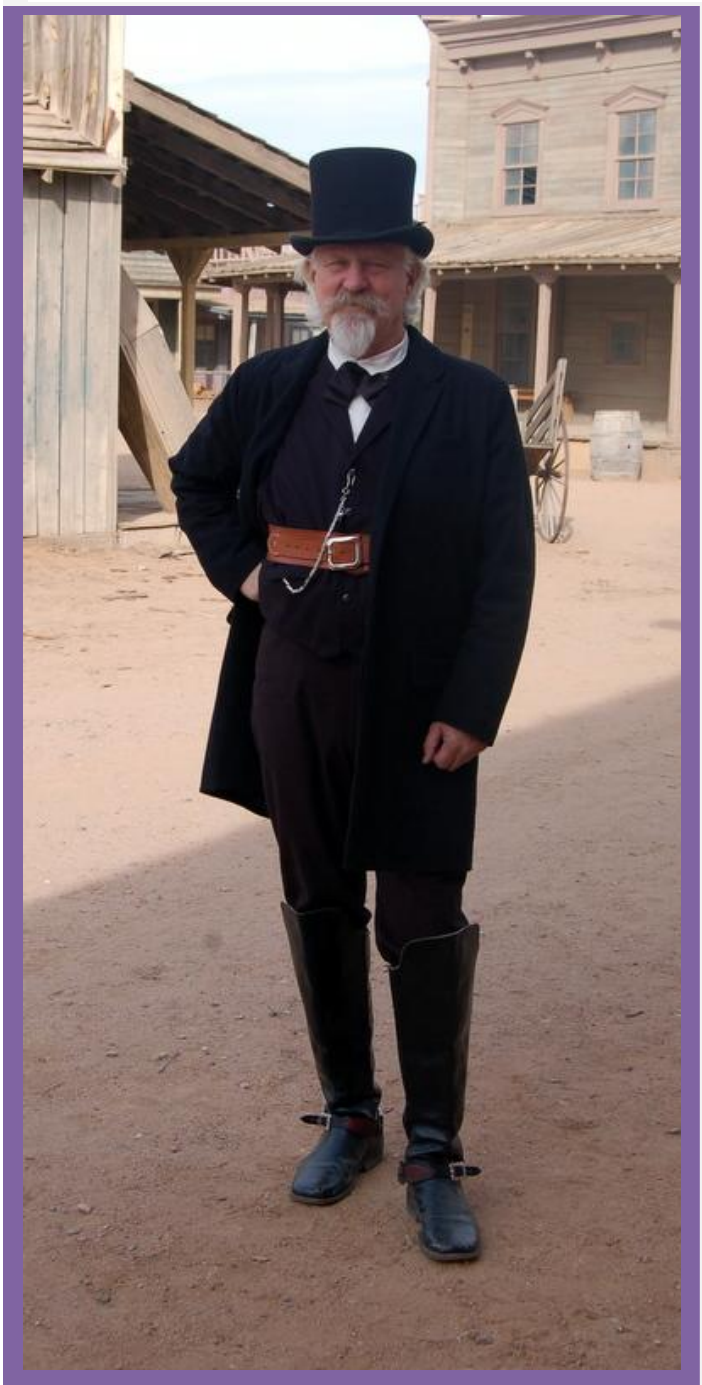




The Reel west newsletter

Our last day of filming. The horses are gone. Every scene is now in town, our town, Brimstone. We have a lot of scenes to film, so we are hoping to hear those famous last words, "It's a Wrap!"

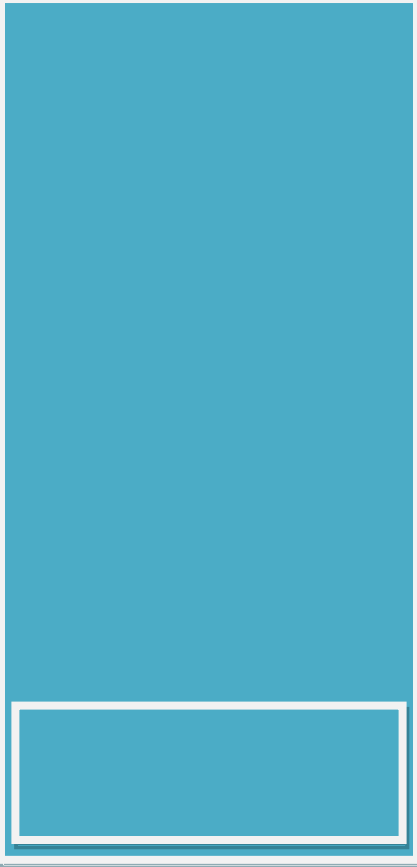


J.T. Ripper in his full costume.

Day 15
Friday
April 15th

On Location
at
Bonanza Creek Ranch

Weather
High Temp: 60+
Low Temp: TBD
Conditions: Beautiful





Junior Sessums' wife and sons are on set today after arriving late last night (this morning). Junior is played by Matt May and those are his real sons Parker to the left and Matty on the right. Parker is the kidnap victim. They told all their friends that they had to take a day off of school to be in a movie. How cool is that?



Steve 'blocks the scene'. Tells everyone what is going to happen.



Above – Steve blocks the dining room scene.

Left – Patti, in full costume. I talked her into handling the clap board.

Below – The food is on the table. I don't think it's any secret there will be a blooper reel. The one from this scene is hilarious.



A camera eye's view of the scene. Aaron giving direction to Indy, Ripper and Chocktaw's wife.



Below - The Church. This will come into play shortly.



Steve blocks the scene with Patti and Marsha. Marsha with a black wig is portraying Juanita. She does an excellent Spanish accent.

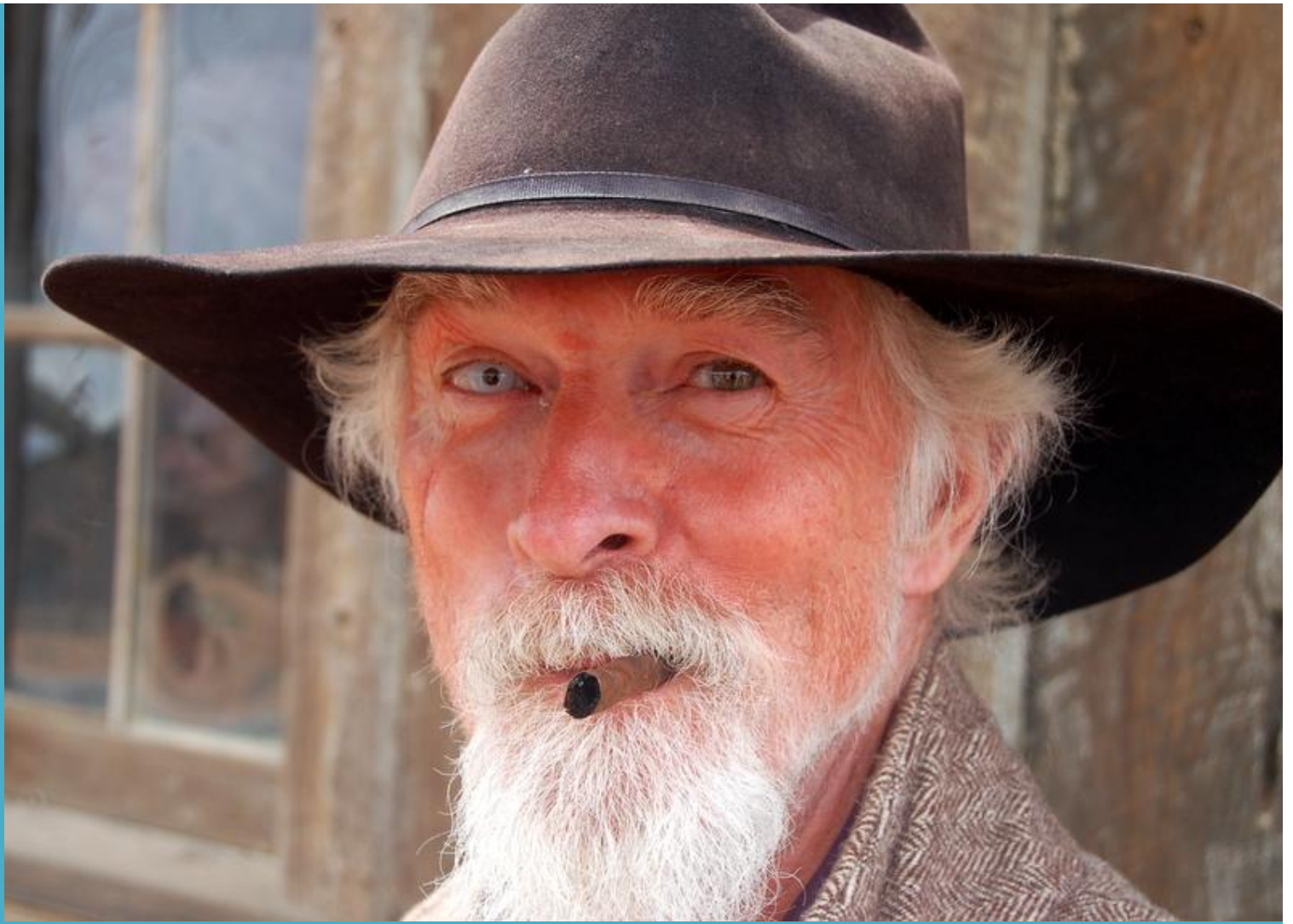


Doc Crabb and Marshall Todd discuss the scene.

Getting ready to do the church interior scene.



Getting ready to do the exterior church scene. Hard to tell, but One-Eyed Jack Bass, by the door, is holding a lit torch.



Above – A close-up of Dead Eye Jake.



Left –
Torches? Check!
Accelerant? Check!
Lighter? Check!
Water? Check!
Fire Extinguisher?
Check!
Just in case we really
start the church on
fire

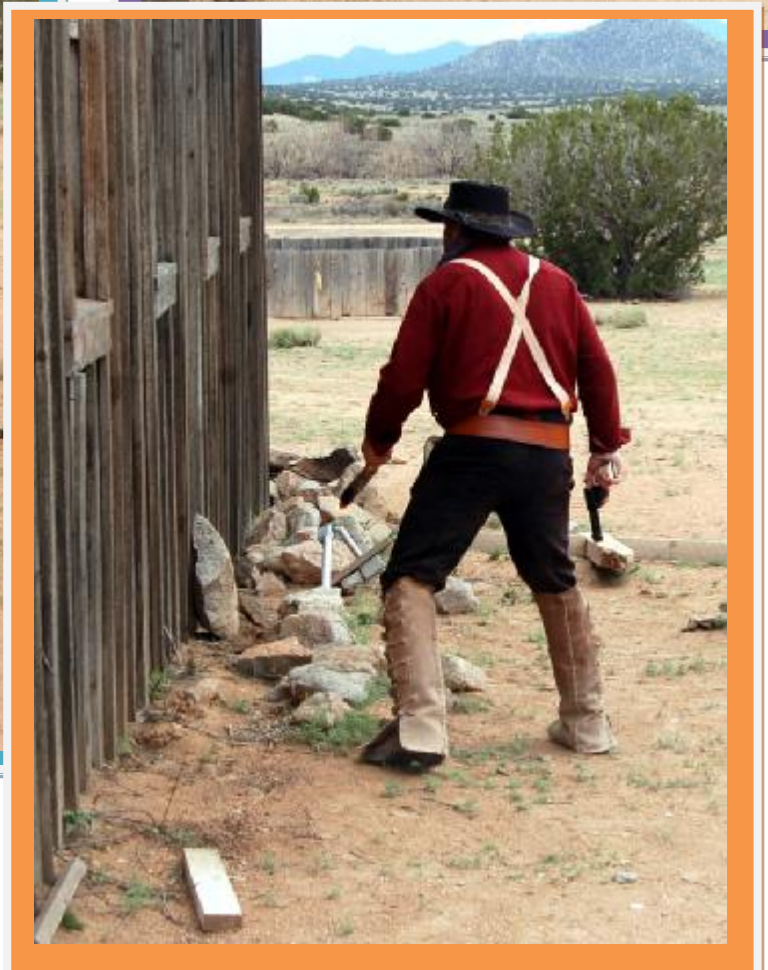
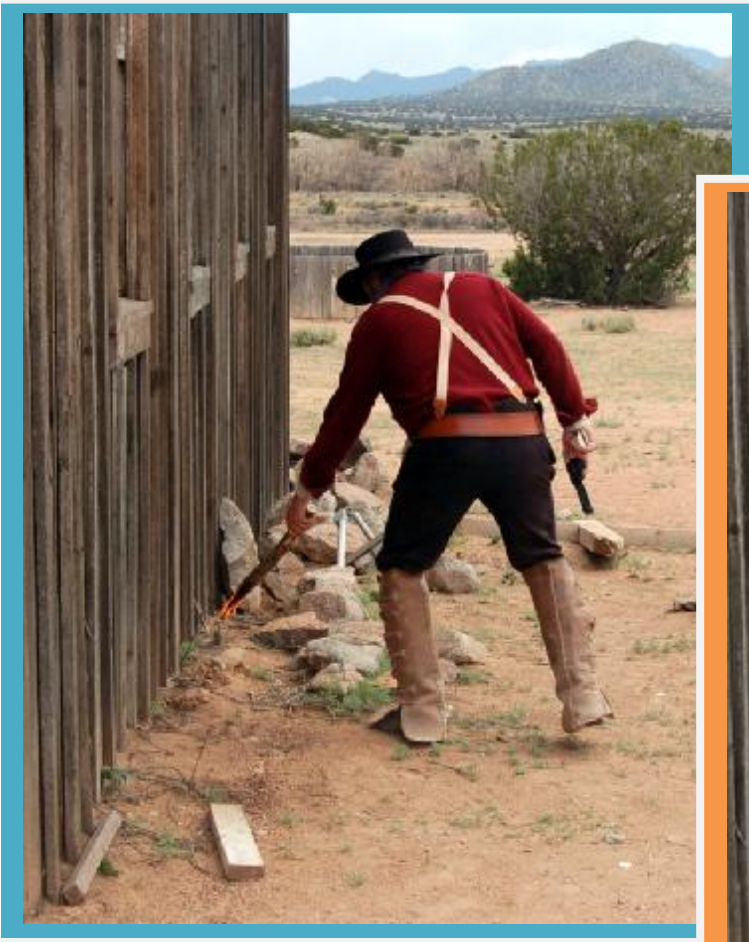
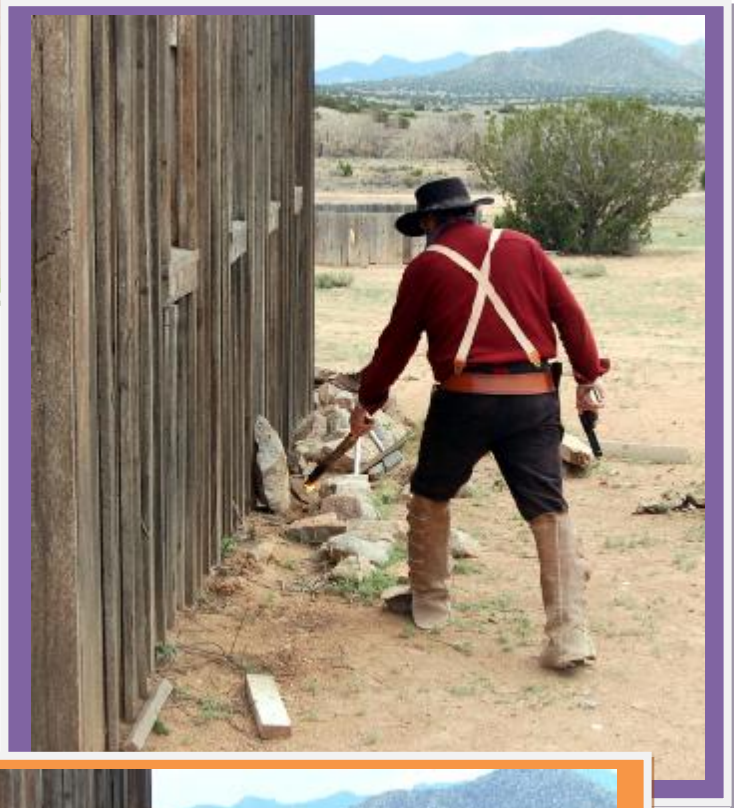


Waiting for Aaron to say "Action when ready!" Ok, I know what you're thinking – Burn down a church? With the people inside? We are really bad, Bad Guys.





Through the magic of stop-action photography (thanks Chisum), you get to see my best side, moving along the church wall, putting end to all those stinkin' do-gooders inside the church.



Right – Moving left to right – Aaron, Miss Belle (Shari), Blondie (back to camera handling the clap board), Marshall Hill (behind Blondie), Lopin’ Jake, and of course, Steve. He just has to be in every shot doesn’t he.

Below is Sam. A real-life Steam Punker. Sharon told me he is 19 or 20, and is heading to New York to study Opera singing. He is also Aaron’s wife’s niece’s boyfriend.



Below - Pete Tenderfoot arrives in the Real West.





Yup, real period rifles, cleared and ready for action. We will get to use blanks later on.

Ripper's knife collection, and his preferred method of murder and mayhem. He doesn't carry a gun.



Getting ready for my big bar scene. Dick is in the background loading blanks for firing at the lantern.



Above – Aaron checks lighting and camera angles.

Below – Dick shoots the lantern chimney.



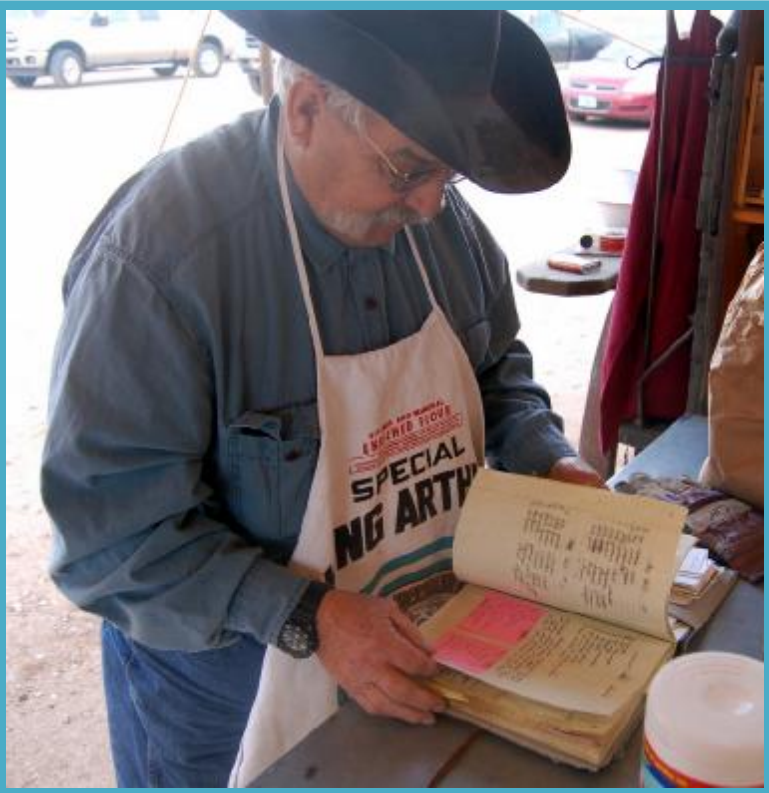


Man those steaks look good!!



They look even better on the grill !! And the smell?

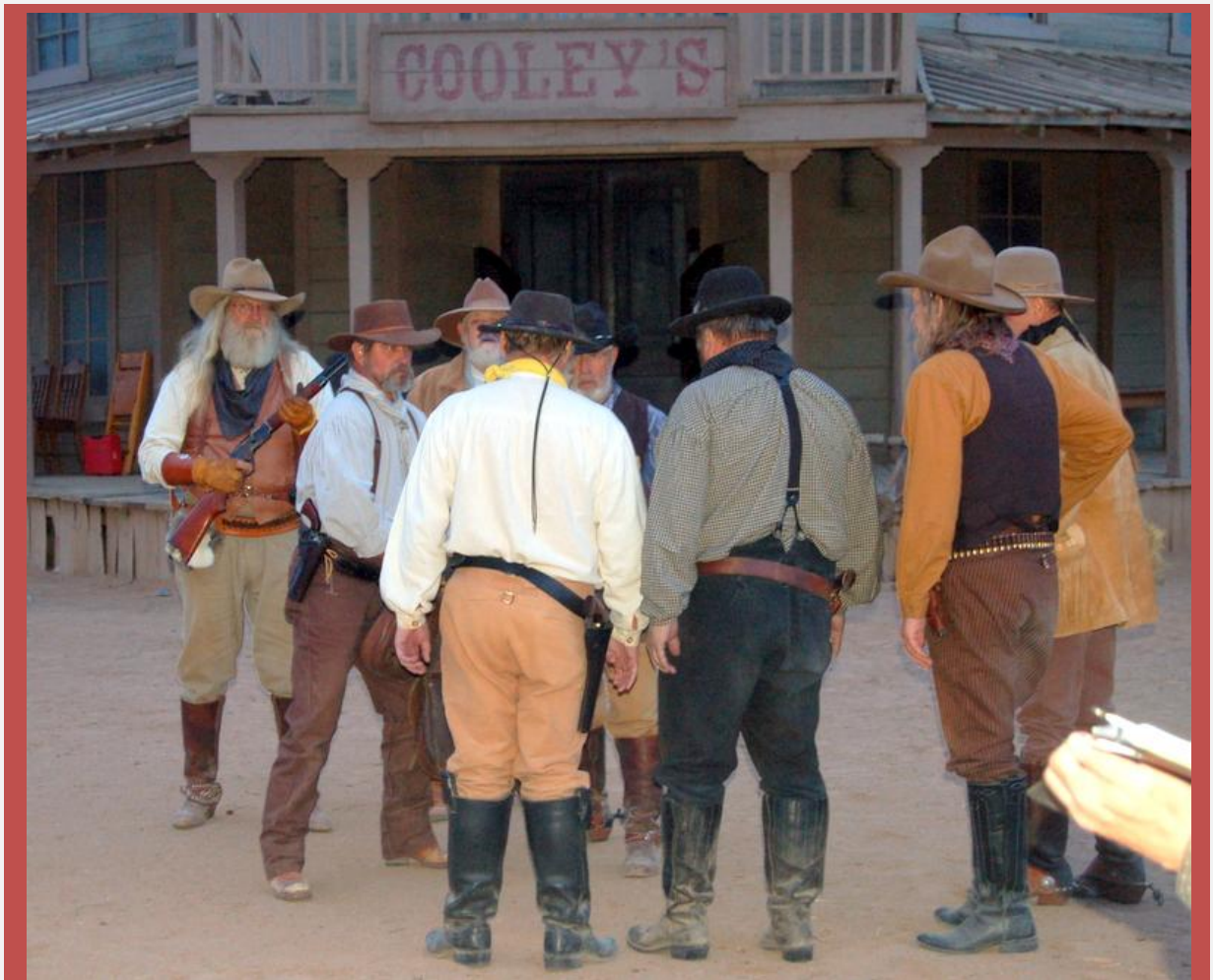
Heavenly.



or the life of me I can't remember his name and he printed emails are in the truck. He was kind enough to show me his famous, personal cookbook that has all the secret recipes.



As you can see in both photos, the clouds have rolled in, the sun is going down, we were losing the light to film by. Aaron finally told Steve it was too dark (right after my scene of course). Steve almost wept because our film was not finished. What were we going to do now? Bonanza Creek Ranch to the rescue. Steve was given permission to finish filming Saturday, at no cost, but had to be off the grounds by 1:30. Everyone cheered. It would have been a big disappointment to ALL of us if we could not have finished the movie.



About 8:30 that slave-driver Steve finally let us eat dinner. Just kidding Steve. This is so much like it would be on a real movie set location shoot – everyone keeps working until its done, even if they have to wait an extra two hours to eat.

This whole experience has been so realistic: do the interior scenes while we still have light; rain, snow, wind, keep rolling; dinner is delayed; actors get bucked off their horses and sent to the hospital (after finishing his scenes, atta boy Rodeo Rankin); action when ready; if you know your scene is coming up, why aren't you on the set?; do you know your lines?; gun misfires; 12-15 hour days.

Just an incredible experience. Thanks Steve and Marcie.

I can say that now because, as you all know, I lost two days writing newsletters due to late nights, so as I write this, I already know how everything turned out.



So this newsletter is dated 4/15, but I am actually writing it on 4/17. I will just continue as if today was the 15th and not try to double up. There is a whole shebang of photos for tomorrow, and I will apologize now about how some of them turned out. I am disappointed. I thought I was a better photographer than that. But, that story is for the Wrap Party tomorrow.

Good Night,

Ace