

Dillon Down Under ⁶⁹

By Ian Williams

This is the story of an "old" Dillon 550 and a young Australian current World Champion Single Action shooter. He loads all his ammo on the 550, which is almost as old as he is!

My son's name is Jason Williams and he shoots under the alias of "Patrick McCarty" (thought to be the real name of Billy the Kid).

He is a life member, number 32447 of SASS, the Single Action Shooting Society. Jason has travelled from Australia to compete at End of Trail, the World Championships of Single Action shooting, six times. This year he won the Traditional Category and is the current World Champion. In 2002, he finished second overall by one rank point from a field of over 700 competitors and on every other occasion he has made the "Master Gunfighter" shoot-off which features the "best of the best," or the top 20 shooters. He has also been the winner of two World Championship side events at EOT, World two-person Family Team Champion in 2001 and World Speed Rifle Champion in 2002.

Jason loads his .38 Special rounds on the Dillon 550 I purchased about 25 years ago from Malcolm Bone in Australia (who, incidentally, has been importing and selling Dillon equipment in Australia from the beginning). I would estimate that Jason and I have produced in excess of 200,000 rounds on that 550.



I was a competitive State centre-fire shooter until I started shooting Single Action with Jason about seven years ago. The most impressive statistic about the 200,000-plus rounds produced over nearly 26 years is that in all that number, over all those years, there has been only ONE FAULTY ROUND. Yes, that's correct, only ONE IN OVER 200,000 ROUNDS!

Jason has been shooting for about nine years and shoots Single Action in the Traditional Class. Details of some of his Single Action shooting successes are as follows:

End Of Trail

SASS World Championships

- 2007 – World Champion, Traditional Class
- 2005 – 15th Overall
- 2004 – 5th Overall
- 2003 – 11th Overall
- 2002 – 2nd Overall and World Speed Rifle Champion
- 2001 – 6th Overall and World

Two-Person Family Team Champion

Australian Single-Action Shooting Achievements

- Current and five-time Australian National/SASS Regional Overall Champion
- Current and seven-time South Australian State Overall Champion
- Five-time Overall Winner of "Silverado"
- Six-time Overall Winner of "Winter Roundup"
- Overall winner of many Regional/Club events

In Summary, an impressive shooting record achieved with the help of a very impressive reloading press, the Dillon 550!



Dillon's Low Powder Sensor



By Peter Caroline

You know that funny feeling you get in the pit of your stomach when you pull the trigger during a match and you hear that dull "thwuck" sound as a projectile gets lodged somewhere in your barrel? It's embarrassing, and it's also stress-producing, since you then wonder how many more of your reloads have little or no powder in them. Sometimes, you catch your error before you finish reloading. You glance at your powder measure and happen to notice that there's no powder in it. And you wonder how many of the "loaded" rounds sitting in your cartridge bin are not in fact loaded.

Either of these occurrences does not make for a good day. Removing a projectile that's been wedged part-way up a barrel is no real fun, and neither is taking apart several dozen

maybe-not-loaded rounds. A little Monday-morning quarterbacking will tell you that neither of these experiences are really necessary. In case you haven't noticed, Dillon does offer a gadget called a Low Powder Sensor. This battery-operated device sits on top of your powder measure, in place of the cast metal lid. When the powder level drops to about 1/2" of powder remaining, the Low Powder Sensor emits a mildly annoying sound and turns on a bright red LED. This is your cue to pour more powder into the hopper.

To err is human, and that's why we humans need such handy reminders as the Low Powder Sensor. For only \$39.95, it can save you from extra work, embarrassment and a lot worse.

For more information about the Dillon Precision Low Powder Sensor, see Page 35.

