

The Best of Gunsite Gossip I

Gary Heartsill

15 April 2020



Photo by GH

Jeff Cooper (1990). *The Gargantuan Gunsite Gossip*. Paulden, AZ: Gunsite Press.¹



¹ <https://www.gunsitestore.com/product/library/books/gargantuan-gossip-1/>

Jeff Cooper's first newsletter book covering the years 1981 to 1989 is 702 pages long. He started late in '81 after a request was made to have a newsletter for Gunsite training. Jeff says "It apparently delights some people and infuriates others, which I find most gratifying...I certainly do not object to praise, but I always love a fight and relish the chance to cross swords personally with those who complain about me to the editors." [Note: *most formatting* is mine – gh.]

"The objective of *Gunsite Gossip* is to edify the shooter and to irritate the liberal" (p. ix).

1982

"The Constitution of the United States was designed for a moral and religious people and is inadequate for the government of any other kind" (p. 37). – John Adams

Guru say: "Preoccupation with benchrest inhibit good marksmanship" (p. 58).

1983

"You never have trouble if you are prepared for it" (p. 76). – Theodore Roosevelt

"Is your pistol within easy reach as you read this? If not, you did not get your money's worth out of API" (p. 83).

"Blessed are they who, in the face of death, think only about the front sight" (p. 93). – The Guru

"I do not believe that all men are created equal, for the best of all possible reasons: because it is not so" (p. 95). – John Hancock

"Whenever there is light enough to see your sights, you ought to have your boots on" (p. 97). – Anon

"When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace" (p. 103). Luke 12:21

The mission of the rifle may be three-fold: hunting, fighting, or professional trick shooting. A rifle built for any other purpose is essentially a toy.

...

Bumper Sticker in Salinas:

**THOSE WHO *WILL NOT* READ HAVE NOTHING
OVER THOSE WHO *CANNOT* READ**

p. 128

"The person you see in the mirror is the one responsible for your safety" (p. 129).

"Do not get into a fight if you can possibly avoid it, but never hit soft. Don't ever hit a man unless you must, but if you do hit him, put him to sleep" (p. 131) – Theodore Roosevelt

Scout's creed:

"I know were they are and where I am, while they only know where they are" (p. 132) – C. Schollenberg

When it comes to marksmanship **it is the man, not the gun**, that counts (p. 136).

How about: “The West wasn’t won with an empty gun” (p. 151).

**“One cannot have:
Too many books,
Too many wines,
Or too much ammunition” (p. 140) The Guru**

1984

To the thug who offers you the traditional choice: “Your money or your life,” we propose the answer: “How about plan C?” (p. 156).

“One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors” (p. 166) – Plato

The sooner we turn the schools back over to private enterprise, the better off we will be (p. 172).

The following line is offered by Siegfried Hübner of Germany as satisfactory in a lethal confrontation:

“Shoot, or don’t shoot – either way your will regret it!”

“There is no expedient to which a man will not resort to avoid the real labor of thinking” (p. 181). – Sir Joshua Reynolds

“They who beat their swords into plowshares generally wind up doing the plowing for those who do not” (p. 192). – Peter Young

“The best things in life are free – but risky” (p. 196) – Mike Waidelich

“People who live in glass houses shouldn’t throw grenades” (p. 198) – Fritz

1985

The word, incidentally, is “shottist,” not “shootist.” Look it up!

Axiom:

No worthy automobile can ever find happiness at 55 mph (p. 222).

A recent survey quoted by Mrs. Ruth Silva in the *Wall Street Journal* discovers that cops do not hit as well in lethal confrontations as private citizens. We suggest that most cops are not “into” guns, whereas most private citizens who use guns in self-defense probably are. Whether you hit or not depends upon whether you are a shooter or not – not whether you wear a badge (p. 223).

Notable bumper sticker recently observed:

**I ♥ IT ALL
I BRAKE FOR ELEPHANTS
REMEMBER KAL 007!
GUN CONTROL: DRAW QUICKLY, SHOOT CAREFULLY!**

(p. 232)

Individually, we do not bear arms because we are afraid. We bear arms as declaration of capacity. An armed man can cope – either in the city or in the wilderness – and because he is armed he is *not* afraid.

This is the root of hoplophobia. The hoplophobe fears and , yes, hates us *because* we are not afraid. We are overwhelmingly “other” than he, and in a way that emphasizes his affliction.

There is not much room for compromise here. We cannot expect reason to carry weight, but we can meet propaganda with propaganda, and our task is easier because our position is demonstrably the right one. And most people are not complete fools. (p. 240)

“Preoccupation with equality is the disease of the incompetent” (p. 243). – The Guru

Jack Dalton gets on the train. When asked for ticket he displays his six-shooter and says, “Here is my ticket.” Conductor nods, walks on by, presently returns with double shotgun, asks, “Ok, Sonny, when do you want me to punch your ticket?” (p. 258).

In view of the foregoing, we quote this message from *Tass*, via United Press: “The American bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are a crime that cannot be justified or forgiven.”

We submit this for the all time *Chutzpah* award – not of the month, not of the year, not of the decade, and not even of the century, but of *all time*. (p. 271)

1986

The state has the right to protect citizens from other citizens. It has no right to protect citizens from their own stupidity.

The socialist argument is that, since the state is financially and materially responsible for the medical care of its people, any carelessness on the part of the people is subversive.

We would like to think that we do not live in a totally socialist state – at least not yet. (p. 296)

We note that one of the distinct advantages of the Naval Service is the fact that in any form of confrontation, argument, or altercation, the junior always gets the last word – that being, of course, “Aye, aye Sir!” (p. 296).

We fought our most important war 120 years ago, to settle the issue of who is in charge in the United States. We thought that issue was settled. When it comes to matters of foreign policy, it is the federal government who is in charge.

But now we see that the city of Los Angeles has decided to override the Federal Bureau of Customs and Immigration, and declared LA to be in a haven for illegal aliens.

Hummm...

Los Angeles Police Department is indeed a fine organization of its type, but I do not think it can stand up against the 82nd Airborne – if we have to resolve this argument by force. (p. 299).

“True corruption is the belief that there is no difference between right and wrong” (p. 311) – Bill Buckley

“An insult unpunished is the parent of another” (p. 315) - Thomas Jefferson

“I not only disagree totally with everything you have said, but I am revolted by the whimpering tone in which people of your kind express themselves.” (Wish we had said that!) (p. 318).

[Reference the NRA] “but it is our NRA (and *our* army):

It is well to remember that the battle is never ending. We will never win it, but, as long as we keep fighting, neither will we ever lose it. (p. 319) {my highlight}

“Pinpoint accuracy in a pistol is very much like absolute top speed in a passenger car – interesting but not significant” (p. 352). [my under line]

“The crowning irony of modern diplomacy is that anyone truly faithful to the ideals of the United Nations would begin by pulling out of it” (p. 367) – Bill Buckley

1987

We have noticed both James Kilpatrick and Erma Bombeck carrying on about the difficulty of opening modern packaging examples. People who ask us **why we always wear pistols here at Gunsite** are reminded that this is one easy way to get some of these things open. (p. 402)

If they cannot get your gun, they may very well get your ammunition. (p. 412)

The *bullet* comes out of the barrel.
The *cartridge* goes into the breech.
As you carefully choose your apparel,
Take equal pains with your speech. (p. 412)

“The highest obligation and privilege of citizenship is that of bearing arms” (p. 425) George Patton

“Traveling unarmed is like boating without a lifejacket” (p. 456) – The Guru

“The gun is to crime as the camera is to pornography” (p. 465) – Cameron Hopkins

We reserve the right to scoff
at hyphenated Americans.
Any true American should
think far more about whither
he is going than whence he
has come (p.478).

To all the Family we strongly recommend *The Closing of the American Mind* by Allen Bloom. (p. 479)



[The only thing better than the drawings in this book by Paul Kirchner is his portrayal of someone we know who carries this rather large 1911 in his 'back' holster... he always wins the battles with the Goblins!]

A sinner can reform, but stupidity is permanent (p. 534).

"A 'liberal' is a man who carries a 357 or smaller" (p. 538) – W. A. Ross, NRA.

The kudu is certainly a perfect game animal...and long may he ornament the bush! (p. 544).

The carbine cannot do the work of a real rifle, but it is all the rage in the world's armies, and we are obliged to study its technique whether we like it or not.
With a little effort you can actually learn to like it (p. 545).

A sign outside a mansion in County Wexford, Ireland:

"This house is guarded by shotgun three nights a week. You guess which three!" (p. 556).

One is reminded of the shibboleth

"When my government does not trust me I do not trust my government" (p. 577).

We were recently taken much aback to learn of some sort of poll which concluded that John F. Kennedy was America's greatest president. "Heavens to Elizabeth! Here is a man whose only great achievement was the loss of Cuba, and he is ranked by some bunch of quizzes above George Washington and T.R.! Do you suppose kids get that sort of garbage in our schools?" (p. 586).

"To simplify matters it may be advanced that a Republican favors liberty more than equality, where as a Democrat favors equality more than liberty" (p. 586) – The Guru

1989

As has been obvious through out the history since the Stone Age, an unarmed man can never be free (p. 603).

"Don't tell people your troubles. Half don't care, and the other half think you had it coming" (p. 611) - Old West

Carrying a double-action 9mm automatic pistol for protection is like playing golf with a tennis racket. You can do it, but why should you? (p. 616).

Letter to the Editor: *Arizona Republic*

"So, the Einsteins in government are now telling us how scary it is to have automatic and semi-automatic weapons in the hands of the public because, ostensibly, the public isn't smart enough to operate them safely; only bad guys have a real need for them; and someone might get hurt by using them.

"Funny, I was thinking how scary it would be if only the government had them!" (p. 625) M. Bibb, AZ.

Bumper Sticker:

DON'T TAKE MY GUN – GET YOUR OWN!

"'Bourgeois' is an epithet which the riffraff apply to what is respectable, and the 'aristocracy' to what is decent" (p. 643) – A. Hope

New bumper sticker, p. 665:

**SUPPORT GUN CONTROL
HELP CRIMINALS AND GOVERNMENT UNITE**

**“What young man
could be bored with a uniform to wear,
a fast airplane to fly,
and something to shoot at?”** (p. 689) Group Captain Geoffrey Page, RAF

[You may have noticed there were no inputs for the year 1981 and that is fine but this next note will be worth the whole year of the Best of Gunsite and reiterate what Jeff Cooper and his friends and trainers do at Gunsite. This one is on page 12 and is per Mike Kiester]

“I arrived home about 1 a.m. I parked the trailer in the carport and went to the door. It was locked. I had no key. After several tries I found the utility room door open and the dryer running. I crossed to the kitchen door and thought that maybe I should yell I was home. Opening the door I met seventy pounds of alerted Airedale, 140 pounds of steel-eyed wife, and three pounds of Model 29...

I was the object of a Condition **Orange**, about to be a Condition **Red**.

Rule #1 was without a doubt true,
as she began to point the revolver.
I hoped she remembered rules 2 and 3.
She deflected just before covering me and said,
‘You should make more noise.’ “

“Her stance was poor but she remembered the safety rules.
Gunsite trains one to shoot and not to shoot”

