



Cash & carry for cowboys

by Glenn Rahman

One does not play any role-playing game long before his character needs equipment not listed in the game rules. Take the case of the *BOOT HILL™* Wild West game by TSR: Prices are given for things like horses, guns, and rifles— but what if one's character has to do some carpentry? How much does his tools cost? Or, how much must he spend at the general store if he wants to go to the church social wearing a string tie, a high-crowned hat, and silk socks? The GM may know what some of these items cost in today's world, but what did they

cost a century ago? And who (without research) can put a price on archaic items, such as a graphophone, a stereoscope or a single-horse buggy?

Fortunately, the prices of everyday merchandise of the latter 19th century are fairly well preserved in the historical record. Compared to today's costs, 19th-century prices were phenomenally low — a saddle cost \$8, a pound of meat 10¢, a cigar 1¢. One must remember, however, how low the wages were in those days. A working man might earn only 20¢ per hour or less. If today's common hourly wage of \$4 is used for comparison, it is apparent that the printed price

of Western goods must be multiplied at least twenty times to approximate their true cost (percentage of income) to a 19th-century purchaser.

With this understood, let's go to a well-stocked general store of *BOOT HILL* vintage. Usually, the prices in the following list refer to the middle-range selling price of the item, and the given prices represent costs near main centers of transportation. If goods must be expensively transported by peddlers or mule skinnners to areas of small population or great remoteness, prices will be considerably higher.

GUNS

Hand Guns

Remington Derringer, .41, single shot	\$5
Revolver, Colt Army; double action, .44, 6 shots	\$14
Revolver, Colt Frontier; single action, .45, 6 shots	\$13
Revolver, Colt Navy; double action, .38, 6 shots	\$12
Revolver, Smith & Wesson; double action, .44, 5 shots....	\$13

Rifles and Shotguns

Rifle, Colt; .38, 15 shots	\$12
Rifle, Spencer; 56-52 caliber, 8 shots	\$10
Rifle, Winchester repeating; .38, 15 shots	\$11
Shotgun, Spencer repeating; 12 gauge, 6 shots	\$30
Shotgun, single barreled; 16 gauge, one shot	\$6
Shotgun, double barreled; 12 gauge, two shots (utility)	\$20
Shotgun, double barreled; 12 gauge, two shots (utility)	\$50

Ammunition

.38 bullets _____	85¢per box of 100
.44 bullets _____	\$1.40 per box of 100
.45 bullets _____	\$1.60 per box of 100
12 gauge shotgun shells _____	90¢ per box of 100

Other gun-related items

Black powder _____	\$2.25 per 12½ lb. keg
Cartridge and shot belt _____	\$1.40
Gun grease _____	15¢ per 2 oz. tube
Holster, pistol _____	20¢
Holster belt with cartridge loops _____	15¢
Rifle sheath _____	\$1.15

MEN'S CLOTHING**Footgear**

Plow shoes _____	\$1.25/pair
Riding boots _____	\$5/pair
Western boots _____	\$3/pair

Suits, coats, etc.

Coat, duck _____	\$1.25
Coat, Mackintosh _____	\$5
Pants, work _____	\$.1
Shirt, flannel _____	\$1
Shirt, white (utility) _____	3/\$1
Shirt, white (dress) _____	\$1.50
Shirt, work _____	50¢
Suit (utility) _____	\$5
Suit (quality) _____	\$10
Socks, silk _____	35¢/pair
Socks, wool _____	18¢/pair
Tie, broad _____	50¢
Tie, string _____	7¢
Underwear, woolen _____	\$1.10

Other items

Bandanna _____	5¢
Beard, false _____	\$1.75

Cane, metal-tipped _____	20¢
Cigars, Havana _____	50 for 65¢
Cigars, stogie _____	100 for \$1
Cigarettes _____	10 for 4¢
Mustache, false _____	10¢
Pipe, tobacco _____	25¢
Razor, straight _____	\$1.75
Spectacles _____	75¢
Tobacco, plug _____	21¢/lb.
Watch, 14 karat _____	\$12
Watch (utility) _____	\$1.75
Wallet _____	25¢

Hats

High-crowned _____	\$5.25
Derby _____	\$1
Sombrero _____	3
Stetson _____	\$3.90
Straw-hat _____	50¢
U.S. Cavalry hat _____	\$1.40
Vaquero hat _____	\$3

Gloves

Buckskin _____	\$1
Mittens, wool _____	13¢

CANNED AND DRIED GROCERIES

Bacon _____	7¢/lb.	Oatmeal _____	3¢/lb.
Beans _____	10¢/3 lb. can	Peas _____	10¢/3 lb. can
Beef, corned _____	12¢/lb.	Phosphate _____	15¢/8 oz. btl.
Beef, dried _____	15¢/lb.	Pumpkins _____	10¢/3 lb. can
Cheese _____	11¢/lb.	Rice _____	5¢/lb.
Chocolate _____	50¢/lb.	Root beer _____	10¢/8 oz. bottle
Coffee _____	30¢/lb.	Salmon _____	13¢/lb.
Corn _____	10¢/2lb. can	Sweet potatoes _____	15¢/lb.
Ham, boneless _____	10¢/lb.	Tea (bargain) _____	35¢/lb.
Hominy _____	2¢/lb.	Tea (quality) _____	60¢/lb.
Lard _____	7¢/lb.	Tomatoes _____	8¢/3 lb. can

WOMEN'S CLOTHING**Footgear**

Boots _____	\$2.75/pair
Shoes _____	\$2/pair

Hats

Dress hat _____	\$2
Straw hat _____	50¢

Coats, dresses, etc.

Chemise _____	80¢
Corset _____	\$1
Shirt, cotton _____	50¢
Shirt, satin _____	\$1
Shirt, woolen _____	\$1.50

Other items

Diamond, 1 karat _____	\$70
Gloves, kid _____	\$1/pair
Ostrich plume _____	33¢
Perfume _____	25¢/oz.
Ring, 14 karat gold _____	\$1.50

MEDICINES AND TOILET ITEMS

Bath tub _____	\$5	"Microbe killer" _____	\$1½ gal.
Castor oil _____	25¢/half pt.	Quinine _____	12¢/25 pills
Cod liver oil _____	50¢/pt.	Rat poison _____	12¢/lb.
Corn & bunion plaster _____	6¢	Soap _____	15¢/cake
Cough syrup _____	30¢/4 oz.	Turkish towel _____	5¢

TOOLS, HARDWARE AND CAMP EQUIPMENT**Tools**

Auger bit _____	10¢
Drill brace _____	\$2.50
File _____	15¢
Hammer _____	40¢
Monkey wrench _____	25¢
Saw _____	45¢
Shovel _____	80¢

Knives

Camper's two-bladed knife/fork _____	35¢
Butcher knife _____	30¢
Hunting knife _____	70¢
Knife sheath _____	15¢

Traps

Bear trap _____	\$6
Fox trap _____	45¢
Wolf trap _____	\$2

Other items

Axe, hunter's _____	40¢
Axe, woodchopper's _____	50¢
Axe handle _____	25¢
Lantern, railroad _____	50¢
Nails _____	\$1.65/keg
Padlock _____	40¢
Paint _____	6¢/lb.
Screws _____	2¢/doz.
Tent, miner's (7' x 7') _____	\$5

KITCHEN AND HOME

Coffee pot _____	80¢	Stove, potbellied _____	\$10
Cup _____	5¢	Stove, wood/coal _____	\$10
Frying pan _____	15¢	Water bucket, cedar _____	20¢
Pan, covered _____	60¢	Water bucket, metal _____	80¢

ENTERTAINMENT**Reading material**

Hardcover book _____	75¢
Bible _____	90¢

Music

Accordion _____	\$5
Banjo _____	\$9

Concertina _____	\$3
Fiddle _____	\$6
Graphophone _____	\$25
Graphophone record _____	50¢
Guitar _____	\$7
Harmonica _____	25¢
Piano, upright _____	\$100

TRANSPORTATION AND COWBOY, GEAR**Wagons and carriages**

Buggy _____	\$36
Surrey, 2-seater _____	\$45
Wagon, farm _____	\$40
Wagon, market _____	\$34
Wagon, road _____	\$25

Wagon cover (1 l'x13') _____	\$4.50
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Harnesses

Farm team harness _____	\$20
Single-horse buggy harness _____	\$10
Two-horse buggy harness _____	\$20
Two-horse carriage harness _____	\$30
Two-horse wagon harness _____	\$22.50

Saddles

Ladies' saddle _____	\$7	Texas saddle _____	\$10
Stock saddle _____	\$12	Western saddle _____	\$8

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Dynamite blasting machine. _____	\$15
Field glasses _____	\$5
Spyglass, 15x magn. _____	\$3
Steel safe, 22" high _____	\$50
Stereoscope _____	50¢
Tombstone _____	\$7