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ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

Annie Oakley Guns Down “Cocaine Libel”



From 6 to 15 yr of age, sharpshooter Phoebe “Annie” Mosey (1860–1926) sniped at rural Ohio’s wild game with such accurate “headshots” that her proceeds paid off her widowed mother’s mortgage. Avoiding Annie’s stage surname of Oakley (a family name from a Cincinnati suburb), “Buffalo Bill” Cody billed her from 1885 to 1901 on his “Wild West Show” as Sitting Bull’s adopted daughter, “Little Sure Shot.” Later, after newspapers sensationalized a Chicago actress’ confusing claim of abusing cocaine as “Any Oakley,” the real Annie gunned down 54 of her 55 legal opponents in libel suits. Ironically, a 66-yr-old Annie Oakley would die . . . not from a gunshot . . . but from the lack of a shot—lack of a simple vitamin B-12 injection to reverse the fatal course of her pernicious anemia. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image also appears in the *Anesthesiology Reflections* online collection available at www.anesthesiology.org.)

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