

The TEXAS JACK SCOUT

VOLUME IX NO. 1.

APRIL 1994

TEXAS JACK INDUCTED INTO COWBOY HALL OF FAME!

Excerpts taken from the National
Cowboy Hall of Fame News Release.

OKLAHOMA CITY -- The newest inductees into the National Cowboy Hall Of Fame's "Hall of Great Western Performers" are Jack Elam, one of the most famous villains of the screen, and "Texas Jack" Omohundro, known for his traveling western stage performances with co-star "Buffalo Bill" Cody in the late 1800's. The ceremonies took place at the 33rd annual Western Heritage Awards on Saturday, March 19, 1994 at the national museum.

"Texas Jack" Omohundro was born in 1846 in Virginia. At sixteen, he joined the Confederate Army and worked directly under Col. J.E.B. Stuart. When the war was over, he promptly moved to Texas with only his horse and the clothes on his back. He was hired as one of the first Texas cowboys at the largest ranch in Texas and quickly became involved with cattle driving from Texas to Nebraska and Missouri, with his path being the infamous Chisholm Trail. (cont. on page 3).

TEXAS JACK

COMBINATION

GLOBE THEATER, Friday and Saturday, Metinee Saturday at 2 P.M. Sept. 21 & 22

from the Editor's Desk...



What an exciting time for the Texas Jack Association! After countless hours of hard work by many people, Texas Jack was inducted into the National Cowboy Hall Of Fame on March 19, 1994 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Dennis and Julie Greene and Jack and Jane Omohundro were on hand to receive this great honor. This recognition by a national organization of the role Texas Jack played in our history opens the door for more opportunities to establish a lasting memorial to him. One of the primary goals of the Texas Jack Association has always been to educate people about Texas Jack and make his name and the facts of his short but eventful life familiar to the average person. To that end, all the members of the Association have a role to play in spreading the word and perhaps recruiting new members. Our members are the lifeblood of our organization and without everyone's continued support the Texas Jack Association will dwindle into obscurity. How sad that would be after finally obtaining one of our goals. Let's not let it happen!

The dates for the 1994 Texas Jack Round-Up have been set for Wednesday, July 20th through Saturday, July 23rd. Lowell, Massachusetts is the site of the Round-Up and Henry Kucharzyk and Peter Alexis have worked hard to arrange a Round-Up all of us will enjoy and remember. Highlights include a tour of historic Lowell, a bus tour of Lexington and Concord, a wonderful banquet, and a gravesite ceremony on July 23rd, the anniversary of Josephine Morlacchi's death.

Josephine and Texas Jack owned a three-story building in downtown Lowell, called Suffolk Hall, and a lovely farmhouse in East Billerica where they used to vacation when not on tour. After Texas Jack's death, Josephine retired to Lowell to live with her sister in Suffolk Hall and for a time taught dance in her school 'Morlacchi Teaching the Puzzle'. Josephine died of cancer on July 23rd, 1886 and was buried in St. Patrick's Cemetery in Lowell. During the time that Texas Jack and Josephine lived in Lowell, the town was the second largest in Massachusetts and enjoyed a deserved reputation as a textile giant. As it is today, Lowell was a sophisticated center for cultural activities.

Historically, Lowell and the surrounding Merrimack Valley have been the site of two revolutions; the American Revolution and the

"THE TEXAS JACK SCOUT"
A NON-PROFIT, TAX DEDUCTIBLE CORPORATION

THE TEXAS JACK ASSOCIATION, INC.
A Non-Profit
Tax-Deductible Corporation

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* Mrs. Nellie Snyder Yost	Author of BUFFALO BILL, THE CALL OF THE RANGE, NO TIME ON MY HANDS, and MEDICINE LODGE, North Platte, NE

*deceased

Industrial Revolution. Lowell was the focal point for the combination of capital, labor, and high technology mechanization that brought about the industrial age in America. The history of the mills and its workers has been well preserved and has made Lowell a fascinating place to visit as well as a beautiful one in the New England countryside.

The 1994 Round-Up, like the previous ones, will be a special time to see the Texas Jack members we only see once every two years as well as to explore the history of a different area, always with an emphasis on our favorite cowboy, Texas Jack. At the business meeting we will decide the direction our organization will take in the future. I can't wait to see you all!

Finally, I must mention that dues are due on January 1st of every year so if you have not yet paid for 1994 please send a check today to R.C. Omohundro, Jr., P.O.Box 5, Fork Union, Va. 23055. Please make checks payable to the Texas Jack Association and indicate who the dues are for. Dues are tax-deductible and the fee for one year's membership is \$15 for adults, \$10 for children 12 and under. Remember the Association's sole source of income is from dues and donations so we need everyone's financial support! Until next time,

Peggy

Texas Jack Induct. cont. from page 1.

On one of his trips driving cattle to Nebraska, "Texas Jack" met Col. William F. Cody, then a scout in the U.S. Army. "Buffalo Bill", as he was more commonly known, hired Jack as an army scout and they began conducting hunts throughout the West for visiting European and English nobility. Upon hearing of the duo's many brave and daring travels, dime store novelist Ned Buntline sought them out to bring to the eastern stage a taste of the adventurous West. In a show entitled "The Scouts of the Prairie", the two filled the houses with their bold tales of daredevil adventures of life as western hunters and scouts. During the 1873-74 season, Wild Bill Hickok joined the scouts in a new play entitled "Scouts of the Plains". He lasted only one season and headed back to where he believed he really belonged - the West.

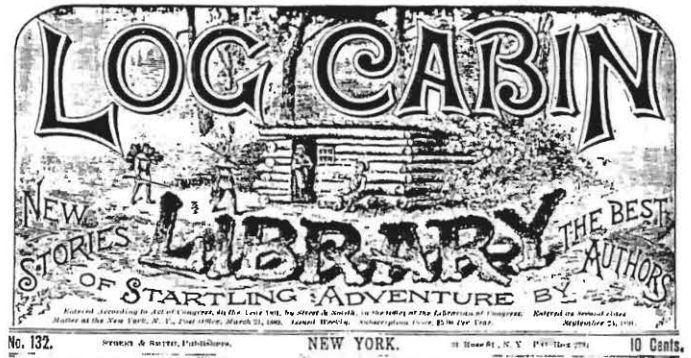
It was during his stage career that Jack met his wife, Josephine Morlacchi, a prominent stage actress and dancer. They were married for only seven years when Jack contracted pneumonia and died at age 33. "Buffalo Bill" paid a public tribute to "Texas Jack" at his gravesite in Leadville, Colorado, and arranged to have erected a "suitable monument...one more worthy of a brave and good man".

"I am not an actor," Jack Elam says firmly. Acting is my profession. I act for a living. There is a difference". All of which means that the brilliance of the often bearded Elam's 44 year career has securely established him as one of the best known and most delightful screen villains of all time.

(continued on next page)

Jack Elam was born in Miami, Arizona on Friday the 13th of November. His first foray into films was after the war as bookkeeper for Sam Goldwyn Studios, then later as controller for the "Hopalong Cassidy" pictures. Until his first debut in show business in a film entitled "The Sundowners" with John Barrymore, Jr. and Robert Preston, he was one of the highest paid auditors in the motion picture industry. But shortly after his debut, Jack Elam, who as one critic stated "...is so good because he's so bad", was discovered in his role as the heavy in Rawhide.

Since that time, Elam has appeared in over 100 movies and 200 television episodes, including 24 segments of "Gunsmoke." He also was a regular on "The Dakotas," "Temple Houston," "The Texas Wheelers," "Struck by Lightning," and "Easy Street." His film credits include the comedic-villainy, "Rio-Lobo" with John Wayne; "Dirty Dingus Magee" with Frank Sinatra; and "Support Your Local Sheriff" with James Garner.



OR
THE WHITE KING OF THE PAWNEES.
 By NED HUNTLINE.
 CHAPTER I.
 THE SIGNING OF THE WILL.
 In France, near Avignon, where the silvery Durance weds the beautiful Rhone, the waters as clear and cold as the eye of a vernal, can even now be seen a monumental glory of those chivalric days when men lived and died in armor—when their

BIGOT AFTER SHOT, SO FAST THAT HIS REVOLVER STEAMKED FIRE!
 TOLD HOW WELL TEXAS JACK KNEW HIS WORK.

Things To Do And See In Lowell

Visit the Working People's Exhibit, housed at Patrick J. Mogan Cultural Center, a restored boardinghouse which displays the life and work experiences of the "mill girls" and the immigrants who followed. Don't miss the exhibit on Texas Jack that will be running while we are there!

Browse through the Brush Art Gallery & Studios and leisurely enjoy the New England Quilt Museum.

Tour the Whistler House Museum of Art, birthplace of famous artist James McNeil Whistler. The museum features rotating art exhibits and maintains a collection of the Lowell Art Society.

Take the Pawtucket Canal Tour and travel by trolley and boat to explore mills and gatehouses on Lowell's only transportation canal.

(more on page 10)

TEXAS JACK, WESTERN SCOUT

by Mike Flanagan from The Denver Post Magazine/ January 19, 1986. There are two errors to correct; first, Texas Jack's name was John Baker not John Burwell, and Second, the Omohundro name has not been traced back to Pocohontas. Perhaps that's some mischief Jack told as he was quite the storyteller!

"Come, you red fiends, come!" he said bitterly. "Yell your loudest while you can, for more than one will yell his last ere Texas Jack goes under!"

Ned Buntline
Texas Jack, The White
King of the Pawnees.

FOR A BRIEF TIME, Texas Jack was one of the biggest celebrities from Out West. An 1873 playbill raves: "The Originals! Living Heroes" Representative Men! Buffalo Bill! Texas Jack! Wild Bill!" His status over the years has dropped to relative obscurity, making him one of the first Western heroes one of the most forgotten.

John Burwell Omohundro, Jr., was the fourth child born to Virginia settlers J.B. and Catherine Baker Omohundro, in Fluvanna County on July 26, 1846. His mother was French, and his father could trace his family tree back to Pocahontas's father, Chief Powhatan.

In his youth, Omohundro craved the outdoors, becoming a crack shot and an excellent horseman. At age 16, probably sensing he would never get anywhere with the sobriquet of "Virginia Jack", the young man set his sights for Texas.

Where Omohundro actually landed never has been documented. All that is known is that he worked on a Texas ranch, learning to rope and brand with the best. In 1863, the 17-year-old enlisted in the army of the Confederacy

and served for the duration. After the war, he tried to get back to the West by boat, but was shipwrecked on the coast of Florida. Here he worked for a year teaching school, until he had enough funds to get to Texas by land.

Omohundro received his famous nickname after making a cattle drive to Tennessee. When the dusty trail boss arrived with beef on the hoof in a small town, a crowd gathered. "Where you from, stranger?" called a voice. "Texas." "What's your name?" "Jack." With a loud hurrah for "Texas Jack," a star was born.

That star was nurtured under the guidance of William F. Cody, whom Omohundro met while working in a bar in North Platte, Nebraska. Cody persuaded Jack to join the royal hunt of Russia's Grand Duke Alexis in January of 1872. Following that frolic, Omohundro worked as the white guide for the Pawnee Indian summer hunt. Next, Cody convinced Texas Jack that he could parlay his scouting career into theatrical stardom.

Texas Jack and Buffalo Bill arrived by train in Chicago on December 11, 1872, to appear in a hastily written play by dime-novel superstar Ned Buntline. The Scouts of the Prairie opened later that month. The actors remembered none of their lines, but the play was a smash. Texas Jack celebrated the fifth day of his acting career by falling head

over heels in love, not with the stage, but with the actress playing the Indian maiden Dove Eye.

Guisseppina Morlacchi, a petite Italian knockout, was equally attracted to the rustic Texas Jack. Born in Milan in 1846, the professional dancer had come to America in 1867. Following her New York debut, one critic expounded, "She is...small, delicate, fiery, with a fine, little head and a luminous face, and she dances with all her soul as well as with all her body." Her legs were insured for \$100,000.

"Texas Jack was not the first to try to win the charms of Morlacchi, but he was the most successful. (When one prospective suitor had slipped a \$5000 diamond ring on her finger, she threw it back, saying, "Bah, I can earn it with one of my toes.") Throughout the "Scouts" tour, Jack and Guisseppina were inseparable. At the close of the season, Jack went hunting with Buffalo Bill. In August 1873 he journeyed to Rochester, New York, where he and Morlacchi were wed.

Texas Jack, by now a dime-novel star, toured in 1873 with Cody Bill in The Scouts of the PLains. It was similar to the original with one exception. The boys were dissatisfied with the way Ned Buntline shared the profits and had replaced him with Wild Bill Hickok.

After the troupe dissolved, the omohundros purchased a home in civilized Lowell, Massachusetts. Jack would depart from time to time, usually as a well-paid scout for the Earl of Dunraven. By 1877, the couple had their own stock company, appearing nationwide in plays such as Texas Jack in the Black Hills.

Omohundro also found time to write, usually for Eastern publications that devoured frontier features. Describing a stampede he once observed, "A thousand beef steers can rise like a flock of quail in the roof of an exploding powder mill and will scud away like a tumbleweed before a high wind, with a noise like a receding earthquake."

The end of the trail came prematurely. At the height of their popularity; the Omohundros came to Leadville, Colorado, to entertain and cash in on the mining boom. They appeared at the Grand Central Theatre in the spring of 1880. It appeared they planned to stay--Guisseppina even opened a dance school. Jack's luck was about to run out, though. A chain smoker, he came down with a bad cold, which progressed into pneumonia. On June 28, 1880, Texas Jack was dead at 33.

At the Tabor Opera House funeral, the scout-turned-actor was eulogized in grand tones. His fame began to diminish soon after, as other heroes rushed in to take his place. Jack probably would have been philosophical about it all. He himself once wrote, "How many though; never finish, but mark the trail with their silent graves, no one can tell. But when Gabriel toots his horn, the 'Chisolm Trail' will swarm with cowboys. 'Howsomever, we'll all be thar', let's hope, for a happy trip, when we say to this planet, adios!"



Sum divorce lawyers git their three squares a day frum triangles.

* * *
I cal'ate no house o' correction hez ever equalled th' ole family woodshed.

* * *
Tis sed that he who laughs last ... is sumtimes th' dumbest.

* * *
Highways t'day might better be called "Die Ways."

ROUND-UP IN LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS!!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS!!



THE 1994 Round-up will be held July 20-23 in Lowell. Our itinerary is as follows:

Wednesday, July 20th...Arrival at the Sheraton Inn, Lowell. .
Registration and Reception from 7:00pm until ?

Thursday, July 21st....Easy walking foot tour of historic Lowell
including trolley ride and museum stops. 9:00am
to 1:30pm.

Arranged lunch at historic Old Worthen House.
1:30pm.

Free time. Options include a trip into Boston,
whale watching, the brewery exhibit, and a
concert under the stars among many others!
From 3:00pm on.

Friday, July 22nd.....Bus tour of the Billerica homesite, Lexington
and Concord (site of Revolutionary War action),
Walden Pond, and Alcott House. Lunch will be
available in Lexington at noon. From 9:00am to
4:00pm.

Saturday, July 23rd....Ceremony at Josephine Morlacchi's gravesite.
10:00am to 12:00pm.

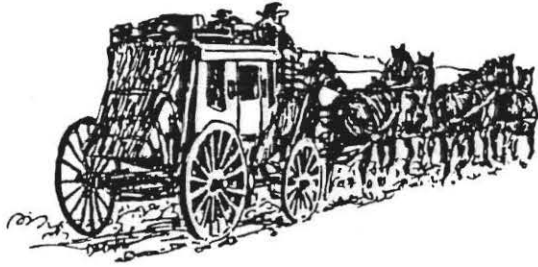
Business Meeting. 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Banquet. 6:00pm.

Sunday, July 24th.....Departure.

Tickets are \$65 per person and include all the bus tours and museum
admissions, lunch on Thursday and the Banquet on Saturday night. Please
order tickets by June 20th.

Rooms have been reserved at the Sheraton Inn, Lowell at a special
discount rate of \$62/night. Contact the hotel desk at (508) 452-1200
to make reservations. Airline reservations should be made to fly into
Logan airport in Boston. Transportation to Lowell is available by a
shuttle that runs continuously to the Sheraton. Car rentals are also
available. Babysitting, if needed, can be arranged through the hotel
upon arrival.



A VISIT TO . . .

LOWELL

Lowell, Massachusetts, is more than just a city; it is the place where life in the United States changed dramatically a century and a half ago. Lowell was transformed from a tiny rural town into America's first great industrial city. Incorporated in 1826 and named after Francis Cabot Lowell, the city used innovative textile technology, and a unique work force of young Yankee farm women to mass produce cotton cloth. The rise of the corporation and the growth of an urban working class resulted from the great success of this venture and marked the beginning of the industrial age in America.

Francis Cabot Lowell was an importer of English textiles and a leading Boston industrialist. industrialist. Aware of the growing demand for cloth and of the infant textile industry's potential as a secure investment, he apparently memorized the workings of power looms after a visit to the textile mills of Manchester, England. Upon returning to America, Lowell raised capital and solicited investors. The first mill built by the Boston Manufacturing Company was in Waltham, Mass., a few miles up the Charles river from Boston. Lowell succeeded in devising a fully integrated textile mill at Waltham. For the first time in America, all steps in the textile manufacturing process—from bale to bolt—were conducted in one mill, an innovation that became known as the "Waltham-Lowell system."

The Boston Manufacturing Company enjoyed remarkable success in its early years. The investors began planning to expand their business to East Chelmsford, later renamed Lowell, a farming village on the Merrimack river, 30 miles from Boston, and a few miles from Pawtucket Falls, a source of hydroelectric power. By this time, Lowell had died, and a former British Army officer named Kirk Boott took charge of the construction of the new mills, canals, locks, machine shop, and worker housing. He designed buildings and laid out streets. He even planned the first church in Lowell, St. Anne's. By 1846 the mills were turning out almost one million yards of cloth a week, and by 1850 there were 10 large mill complexes employing more than 10,000 people. Until the Civil War, Lowell was the largest concentration of industry in America.

One of the Lowell mills most striking differences from other industrial enterprises was the recruitment of young farm women from the surrounding countryside. To house these women, the companies built scores of boardinghouses. In the mid 1830's nearly three-fourths of the female workers lived in boarding houses, usually under the charge of responsible older women. Another striking feature of the Lowell mills was the monthly payment of cash wages. Most other employees paid workers with credit at a company store or settled wages four times a year.

But wages were not Lowell's sole attraction for women. The city

also offered social, cultural, and religious opportunities. In evenings after work, the women might attend a lecture, exhibition, or a play. They could subscribe to magazines and newspapers that were probably unknown in the countryside. Some joined lending libraries or literary circles that offered intellectual stimulation. The city's clothing and dry goods stores put those in their home towns to shame. A wide array of Protestant churches offered sabbath services, Sunday schools, and various social activities. Lowell offered its women workers experiences they could never have known on the farm.



Opportunities like these were dearly won. For their newfound independence, the women were required to stay for at least a year. Their working conditions were hardly healthful. The need to stand all day took its toll. To maintain humidity (necessary to keep the yarn from breaking) the windows were nailed shut, leaving the air filled with lint and making the work rooms hot, damp, and noisy. These conditions left the workers susceptible to lung disease and typhus. The boardinghouses, while certainly an improvement over the living conditions of the typical English textile worker, were crowded and ill-ventilated.

Eventually these conditions led to labor unrest ... more about that in the next issue.

Excerpts taken from Lowell, The Story of an Industrial City. Produced by the Division of Publications National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

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ADULT-SIZES S-XXL \$15.00

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(Things To Do . from page 4)

- Experience the Concord River by hiking, canoeing, or whitewater rafting on it.
- Explore Lowell by leisurely walking along the scenic canal paths. St. Anne's Church, located in downtown Lowell, is the 1824 Episcopal church built for and by the mill girls. It houses an exhibit room with historic memorabilia.
- Dine at one of the many ethnic restaurants located throughout Lowell.
- Visit the Prince Pasta Museum and learn amazing facts about pasta in a hands-on museum.
- Listen to a concert under the stars as part of the Market Mills Summer Stage Outdoor Concert Series.
- Stay for the oldest multi-ethnic festival in the country hosted by Lowell during the last week in July.,

visit the Boott Cotton Mills Museum, the first major National Park Service museum on industrial history, which brings to life the mills of early 1900's when looms were belt driven, harnesses were rocking and shuttles were flying.



**WE WANT TO HEAR
FROM YOU!!!**

We would appreciate knowing how you feel about the newsletters that you have been receiving. Do they contain information that you find interesting? Or not? Do you have any suggestions or contributions? If so, we welcome them, and we need them!

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