

The TEXAS JACK SCOUT

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FEBRUARY/MARCH 1992

TJA MEMBER HENRY KUCHARZYK of Lowell, Massachusetts was recently featured on the front page of THE SUN's "Sundaystyle" section! A picture of Henry kneeling in front of M'lle. Morlacchi's tombstone appeared with the caption, "RESTS IN LOWELL: Henry Kucharzyk got interested in the exotic story of Josephine Morlacchi and eventually located her grave in St. Patrick Cemetery." Following is the story that accompanied the photo...

Josephine Danced with a Gentle Wolf

by David Perry

April 7, 1991

THE SUN, Lowell, Massachusetts

Peter Alexis comes across people looking for information all the time. As an assistant at Pollard Memorial Library, he toils in the local history and special collections. He is forever digging through old documents, certificates and newspaper articles.

And then Henry Kucharzyk walked in one day and asked about Guiseppina "Josephine" Morlacchi.

"I've heard of most things in passing," says Alexis. "Usually, I can say, yeah, I've heard of that. But this seemed out of left field."

When Alexis started looking into Morlacchi, no one locally seemed to know much, if anything about her. But after her death July 23, 1886, much of Lowell turned out for a solemn high mass at St. Joseph's Church. Clergy of all denominations showed up. Some stores closed. Local newspapers scrambled to praise her every virtue.

The petite, Italian-born ballerina who had apparently wowed friends and neighbors in Lowell and East Billerica with grace, dark beauty and personality, had succumbed to stomach cancer. She is buried alongside her sister, Angelina, in St. Patrick's Cemetery off Gorham Street. To say the least, she was a dancer.

The story of Josephine Morlacchi combines the gritty wild west with the beauty and refinement of ballet, elements of pre-feminist independence with old-world Italy. According to some accounts, she introduced the can-can, the high-kicking dance that swept Paris in the mid-1800s, to America. And it's a pretty good love story to boot.

(please see JOSEPHINE, p. 12)

The following excerpt is reprinted courtesy of
ADIRONDACK LIFE, Volume XXII, number 7, December 1991.

NED BUNTLINE

OR, THE BLIGHTER OF BLUE MOUNTAIN LAKE

by Elizabeth Folwell

"The life history of Col. Edward Zane Carroll Judson ('Ned Buntline') is more thrilling than romance, as his career, from boyhood to middle age, was a succession of adventures by land and sea; as a sportsman and angler in the then primitive wilderness in the Adirondacks, as a midshipman in the Navy, a soldier in the Seminole war, the Mexican war, the four years of warfare between the North and the South and finally in the Indian Wars of the wild west." (From LIFE AND ADVENTURES OF NED BUNTLINE by Fred E. Pond ("Will Wildwood"), New York, 1919)

". . . a black-hearted toad. . . a rank coward, an assassin, a seducer and a murderer. . . with a face like a bladder of lard, almost goggle-eyed, hump-backed and red-headed." (From PRIVATE LIFE, PUBLIC CAREER AND REAL CHARACTER OF THAT ODIOS RASCAL NED BUNTLINE!! AS DEVELOPED BY HIS CONDUCT TO HIS PAST WIFE, PRESENT WIFE AND HIS VARIOUS PARAMOURS! COMPLETELY LIFTING UP THE VEIL AND UNMASKING TO A HORROR-STRICKEN COMMUNITY HIS DEBAUCHERIES, ADULTERIES, REVELRIES, CRUELITIES, THREATS AND MURDERS!!! by Thomas V. Patterson, New York, 1849)

The Adirondacks' first writer-in-residence, Edward Z.C. Judson, a.k.a. Ned Buntline, Edward Minturn, Charley Clewline, Reckless Ralph, Sherwood Stanley, Julia Edwards and Ethelbert the Wanderer, was a legend in his own mind. Published accounts of his real and imagined exploits fueled the tabloids of the mid-1800s: With a handful of fellow adventurers he plotted to annex Canada and was foiled in Quebec City; he fought in a dozen duels and led murderous mobs. He railed against obscene literature as he carried on numerous torrid love affairs, and spoke out for temperance with booze on his breath. He met a jack-of-all-trades from Iowa, William Cody, and catapulted him into fame as Buffalo Bill, thus creating the mythical Wild West that Americans swallowed hook, line and sinker.

Buntline cranked out no less than 150 serial romance novels during his half-century career, all about fallen angels, prodigal sons, devious foreigners, demure maidens and virtuous, red-blooded American men; his THE MYSTERIES AND MISERIES OF NEW YORK was a runaway best-seller in 1847. He made a fortune from unabashed trash and rivers of saccharine.

Buntline left his mark on the howling Adirondack wilds in the years preceding the Civil War and paved the way for a generation of outdoor writers. He's the person who insisted that Clinch, or Tallow, Lake be called the more lyrical Blue Mountain Lake, and the first year-round road out of that territory was hewn in order to get Buntline's manuscripts to his publisher.

Buntline's tales of his experiences with rod and gun were among the first to describe the Adirondack woods and waters to a national audience; these hyperbolic he-man essays found their ways into respectable anthologies that included works by Nessmuk and fishing experts Charles F. Orvis and

Seth Green.

His lurid accounts of shooting a pack of slaving wolves, hauling a twenty-four-pound salmon out of Blue Mountain Lake, clobbering a three-hundred-pound buck with an oar while rowing in Eagle Lake and watching his English bulldog tree an entire family of panthers thrilled an eager public that wanted to revel vicariously in this new frontier. The subject of "The Big Buck of Blue Mountain," a story published in the late 1850s, was a near-mythical creature "so cunning as to baffle every hunter who tried to bring him down; so strong as to bear away more than one chance ball, which had touched, but failed to reach a vital part of him, and so fierce that none of our dogs could drive him to water, so foxy, too in his nature that he fed in my fields at night. . ." City folks ate it up with a spoon.

It was a dark and stormy night when Buntline was born, one March 20. The year was either 1819, 1821 or 1823; accounts, including his own, vary. His father, an attorney in Stamford, New York, hoped that his son would follow in his footsteps, but Buntline preferred hunting and fishing to studying. He left home at an early age to join the navy. Buntline wrote, "I had sailed around the world when I was eleven, was promoted to midshipman when I was thirteen." His years before the mast, roughly 1838 to 1842, provided him with great literary inspiration as well as with his nom de plume (a buntline is a rope used to haul up a square sail).

"Eating the Captain's Pig," his first published work, appeared in KNICKERBOCKER magazine, in 1838. By the time he was twenty-one, (or twenty-three or twenty-five), Buntline had enough backing and material to launch his own magazine, called, modestly enough, NED BUNTLINE'S OWN. At times, an issue would contain a half-dozen serials written under assorted pen names, all by one and the same.

Although Buntline's writing career was launched to dazzling success, his marital fortunes weren't quite so sweet (he was widowed, married and divorced, and remarried in short order), and his political career was just as tempestuous (he was the leader of the xenophobic United Sons of America). Buntline's magazine, published out of Paducah, Kentucky, was a mouthpiece for his secret military order as much as it was a vehicle for his fiction. The group, with Buntline as its leader, gained the national spotlight with the infamous Astor Place Riots, in 1852, in which twenty-three people were killed and twenty-six wounded. Buntline was convicted of leading the riot, fined \$250 and sentenced to a year in jail.

Buntline was on the rebound in 1856 when he first saw the Adirondacks. Some say what drove him out of the city was the crashing failure of radical politics, while others suggest it was affairs of a more domestic demeanor, that he was avoiding his ex-wives. The NORTH CREEK JOURNAL offered yet another explanation: "In '60, when he was known here, he was intermittently a hard drinker. He went, or was sent [by his publishers, Cauldwell, Southworth and Whitney] to his favorite haunt known as 'Eagle's Nest' on Eagle Lake, just west of Blue Mountain Lake, to get away from his cups and enjoy the wild life of the woods." And he did indeed enjoy the wildlife, and a wild life.

[Ms. Folwell then gives a lively account of Buntline's escapades of the next six years or so, omitted here due to space limitations.]

During his last season at Eagle's Nest, in 1862, Buntline spent his time half-heartedly farming, cutting and selling enough hay to pay off the property, and growing hops, turnips, potatoes, cucumbers and watermelons,

according to his diary. But the farmhouse was too empty for Buntline, and the call to war--the Civil War--was too insistent. A few months after Kate Myers had left with their baby, Buntline joined New York's First Regiment of Mounted Rifles. (Though Buntline attached the title "Colonel" to his name when the Civil War was over, Union army records show that E.Z.C. Judson was honorably discharged as a private.) In TOWNSHIP 34, Harold Hochschild wrote, "If Ned failed of distinction on the battlegrounds of the Civil War, he achieved it during the same period in the field of matrimony by living with two wives at the same time."

In 1867 Buntline sold his Adirondack holdings. He was restless, tired of the woodsman's role and in search of new material. He went west, fascinated by the wide open spaces and their poetic potential. Purely by chance, Buntline met William F. Cody, a carpenter, real-estate agent, occasional Indian scout and cowboy, in Nebraska. At the time, neither man had the slightest inkling about what they would eventually do for each other.

Cody cut a dashing figure, and it took Buntline only a few months to build a legend out of the sketchy details of the life of "Buffalo Bill." Stories about the frontiersman became wildly popular in serial and novel form, and it proved to be only a short leap from page fame to stage fame.

In December 1872, Buntline invited Buffalo Bill and Texas Jack (plainsman John Omohundro) to join him in Chicago as stars of a show called SCOUTS OF THE PRAIRIE. The two men arrived in Chicago on the next available train, only to discover that the impresario (Buntline) had failed to hire the requisite Indians and bad guys, and that the playwright (also Buntline) had not yet written the script for the show, which was to premiere in three days. But, displaying grace under pressure, and with the assistance of every hotel employee who could write, Buntline created the original western drama in just four hours.

It was a whole new art form, complete with buckaroos, painted warriors, dancing Indian princesses, rope tricks, blazing six-shooters and a token temperance lecture by "Cale Durg" (Buntline again). Audiences in Cincinnati, St. Louis, Rochester, Albany, Boston and beyond loved it, but in New York City the reviews were lukewarm at best. The NEW YORK HERALD wrote: "The representation was attended by torrents of what seemed thoroughly spontaneous applause;

. . . Hon. William F. Cody, otherwise 'Buffalo Bill,' occasionally called by the refined people of the eastern cities, 'Bison William,' is a good-looking fellow, tall and straight as an arrow, but ridiculous as an actor. Texas Jack is not quite so good-looking, not so tall, not so straight, and not so ridiculous."

Buntline cranked out more tumbleweed thrillers, under an annual contract for twenty thousand dollars with the publishers Street and Smith; Buffalo Bill and Texas Jack got royalties plus income from the shows. In 1873, though, the mustachioed cowpokes broke with their creator to choose another biographer. But this mattered little to Buntline, who had other heroes to mold in Wild Bill Hickock and Wyatt Earp.

[The final sentences are excerpted from the original closing paragraphs.]

(please see BUNTLINE, p. 15)

January 31st, and February 1st.

NED BUNTLINE'S
GREAT WESTERN DRAMA THE

SCOUTS OF THE PRAIRIE

INTRODUCING THE
Genuine Western Heroes

BUFFALO BILL
TEXAS JACK,
NED BUNTLINE,
TEN INDIAN WARRIORS,

THE GREAT HAWKLINE
M'LE MORLACCHI,
AND FULL DRAMATIC COMPANY

AND BUNTLINE'S REVOLUTIONARY DRAMA OF
SCOUTS OF THE PRAIRIE,

BUFFALO BILL, by the original Ned Buntline.
TEXAS JACK, by original Ned Buntline.
CALF DUNG, by original Ned Buntline.
M'LE MORLACCHI, by original Ned Buntline.
M'LE MORLACCHI, by original Ned Buntline.
M'LE MORLACCHI, by original Ned Buntline.

The Scouting Report

WELCOME! to. . .

..Holly L. Wyche (Elizabeth City, North Carolina)

CONGRATULATIONS! to. . .

..Stephen Omohundro of Albany, California for designing Satner, a new efficient object-oriented computer programming language. He supervised Chn-Cheow Lim in writing the compiler, Jeff Bilmes in writing the debugger, and Heinz Schmidt in writing the programming environment. It is freely available electronically worldwide on the internet. As of August 1991, over 400 sites had retrieved it, and a Japanese group had adapted it to three different brands of computers.

..W. Scott Goodman for having his article, "Health Insurance Rates Performing Surgery on Educators' Paychecks," published in the May 1991 VIRGINIA JOURNAL OF EDUCATION. Scott teaches Spanish at New Kent High School in Virginia.

CONDOLENCES to. . .

..the family of Elisabeth L. "Beth" Omohundro, 82, of Gordonsville, VA who died October 26, 1991. She was the wife of the late James Samuel Omohundro and is survived by a brother, Joseph S. Davis of Silver Spring, MD.

..the family of Katherine Tranquilla Omohundro, 89, of Gordonsville, VA who died September 24, 1991. She was the daughter of the late Oscar Robert Omohundro and Katie Williams Omohundro. She is survived by a niece, Bettie Blue Omohundro, and a nephew, Oscar Blue Omohundro, Jr., both of Gordonsville.

..the family of Ruby Paulett Omohundro, 90, formerly of Scottsville, VA who died November 29, 1991. She was the wife of the late George Tipton Omohundro, Jr. and is survived by a sister, Mrs. Lena McEwen of Richmond, VA.

THANK YOU! to. . .

..Everette Grizzard of Cary, NC for sending tourist information he received when his company held their 1991 convention in San Antonio. It's the tenth largest city in the U.S. and boasts over 300 days of sunshine a year!

..Angela Wyche of Virginia Beach, VA for sending a news brief about Portsmouth, VA's Buffalo Bill Wild West Days held in honor of the fact that, "the last time he gathered his Indian friends and

rode his great white horse out in front of an audience was right here in Portsmouth at Lincoln and Fourth Streets. That was November 11, 1916. After the local performance the American hero, sick and in debt, headed west to die at home a few weeks later."

..Lloyd Craighill of Rockbridge Baths, VA for sending a write-up that appeared in the January 1992 SHOOTING TIMES about the opening-day dedication of the Cody Firearms Museum housed at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, WY. On display are hundreds of firearms and several permanent exhibits including a colonial gunshop, a gallery tracing the history of various firearms manufacturers, and the Winchester collection which was donated by the Olin Corporation. It makes up 20 percent of the entire firearms collection and is the most unique collection of Winchester firearms anywhere. Buffalo Bill was frequently photographed with a lever-action Winchester in his hands, and his almost everyday use of the 1873 Winchester rifle played a role in its being known as "The Gun that Won the West." A photograph that accompanies the article is captioned, "Wild Bill Hickock, Texas Jack Omohundro, Buffalo Bill Cody."

..Edna Nees of Scottsville, VA for encouraging a student who rides her schoolbus to learn about Texas Jack. One day Edna noticed that Misty Belew, a fifth grader at Central Elementary, was carrying a book about Buffalo Bill. When asked about it Misty said she was writing a report for a school assignment. Edna delighted in telling Misty that one of Buffalo Bill's buddies was born and raised nearby! Here is an excerpt from Misty's final report: "Texas Jack was born at Pleasure Hill farm located in Fluvanna County, Virginia. TEXAS JACK'S real name was John Baker Omohundro. W.F. (Buffalo Bill Cody) and TEXAS JACK started the first WILD WEST show in America. Texas Jack died at the age of 33. There was an archaeological dig at Texas Jack's great grandfathers old home place. There is a Texas Jack Association that meets every other year in honor of him. There is a road sign put up to show where he use to live." Misty also wrote, "I would like to dedicate this report to Edna Nees, my bus driver. Who's husband is Texas Jack's great nephew."

THIS 'N THAT. . .

The familiar Confederate flag of the Civil War was actually not used until the later years of the conflict. The first design had looked too much like the U.S. flag, making it difficult for soldiers to identify opposing troops in the distance. Thus a battle flag was fashioned. Its 13 stars represented 11 states and two secession governments (in Kentucky and Missouri). Throughout the War, Lincoln refused to have the stars for the southern states removed from the U.S. flag.

Introducing . . .



Texas Jack's older brother,
ORVILLE CALHOUN OMOHUNDRO

O.C. was the first son born to John Burwell and Catherine S. Baker Omohundro, making his arrival October 9, 1844, two years after his sister Bettie. The family lived in the bustling community of Wilmington in Fluvanna County, Virginia, where John owned a thriving mercantile business. A year later, though, he decided to become a farmer, and so the family moved a few miles west to Pleasure Hill, a rural plantation situated on Cunningham Creek, just below Palmyra. It was here that Jack was born the following summer, and the two brothers spent many of their young days hunting and fishing along the bountiful creeks and streams of Fluvanna.

O.C. was attending military school when the Civil War erupted in 1861. At that time he was too young to serve. But the war dragged on and in 1863 he enlisted with Co. G, 5th Va. Cavalry, under the command of Gen. J.E.B. Stuart (Gen. Lee's "eyes and ears"). O.C. was soon promoted to second lieutenant and was in every battle in which his company was engaged, including the battle at Yellow Tavern (May 1864) where Gen. Stuart was fatally wounded. O.C. also fought at Cold Harbor (June 1864), a lopsided Confederate victory that saw nearly 7,000 Union soldiers felled in the first eight minutes of battle. Fortunately, O.C. received only a shell wound.

A few months later Gen. Sheridan began his ruthless march through the Shenandoah Valley, under orders from Gen. Grant to strip the land so entirely, "crows flying over it for the balance of the season will have to carry their provender." On September 19, 1864, the two armies clashed at Winchester. The Confederates were forced to withdraw, but O.C. refused to surrender. Even though badly wounded by a two-ounce ball through his right ankle, he managed to ride 138 miles to the home of his parents in Palmyra. He was still bed-ridden at Pleasure Hill when Gen. Lee surrendered at Appomattox the following April.

After the war, O.C. began to study law, but soon switched to medicine. In the winter of 1867 he moved to Rural Hill near Nashville, Tennessee. There he taught school, continued his medical studies,



John A. Omohundro 1861 Orville C. Omohundro

and fell in love with Margaret Ferza Logue. They were married May 13, 1868. In the next eight years they had three children: Orville Logue, Catherine Gertrude, and Orvillena Virginia.

O.C. was awarded his medical degree from the University of Tennessee in 1872, and afterwards joined his father-in-law's practice in Rural Hill. In 1886 he moved to Nashville and once again established a successful practice. Over the years, he was published in medical journals several times, and once presented a paper to the State Medical Society on the induction of abortion to save life.

Upon his retirement, O.C. and Margaret moved to Robin Hill, their country home. It was there that he died suddenly of a heart attack July 21, 1921. He was 76. Margaret survived him by twenty-four years, living to the age of 98.

Shortly after her father's death, Orvillena wrote, "He was wise with the wisdom which comes from deep reading, serious meditation and fervent study of God's word. . . He was esteemed and revered by all who were privileged to associate with him. . . one of those persons in whose company you were always at your best. . ."



O.C. and Margaret Omohundro with their children.

(CONFEDERATE.)	
O	5 Cas 12
O. C. Omohundro Lieut. Col. 5th Regt. Cav.	
Appears on a	
Field Return	
of absent officers of Lomax's (old) Cavalry Brigade, commanded by Col. W. H. Payne.	
Return date <i>Townsville Va</i> <i>Oct 21st</i> 1864	
Remarks <i>Wounded - Sept 18</i> <i>1864</i>	
Inspection Report J, No. 39; inclosure 2 of 9.	
<i>J. E. Murphy</i>	

[Biographical information was gathered from THE OMOHUNDRO GENEALOGICAL RECORD; war information came from THE CIVIL WAR: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY by Geoffrey C. Ward, c. 1990; photographs were furnished by John and Edna Nees; document was photocopied from war records in Washington, D.C. Similar documents exist for Private J.B. Omohundro. Jack was finally allowed to join his brother's outfit in February 1864, even though he was five months shy of being eighteen. He proved to be a skilled and cunning scout who reconnoitred behind enemy lines and delivered dispatches in the heat of battle. It is said that Gen. Stuart received his fatal wound at Yellow Tavern just minutes after Jack had handed him a message.]

KIDS' COMMENTS

Dear Kitty,

My Family went to the Historical Marker in Fluvanna County on a bus. The historical Marker says,

"TEXAS JACK" OMOHUNDRO
BIRTH PLACE

J.B. "Texas Jack" Omohundro was born at Pleasure Hill Farm about 1 mile west of here on July 28th, 1846. At age 17 he served as a scout under the command of General J.E.B. Stuart. Later he was renowned as a scout and heroic plainsman of the old west. Texas Jack with his friend W.F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody started the first "Wild West" shows in America. He died in Leadville, Colorado, June 28, 1880.

While we were there reporters and the news came. After that we went back to the Jefferson Hotel.

A couple days later we had a party with a cake that looked like the Historical Marker. Another party we had was a square dance.

We went to many churches & landmarks. We went to some cookouts, too.

By,
Blair Goodman

Parents: Scott and Nancy Goodman
New Kent, Virginia
Grandmother: Edna St. John
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Parents: Mary and Randy Golladay
Grandparents: Edna and John Nees
Scottsville, Virginia

The dig was fun. The dig took place at the Richard Omohundro place. I got to dig in the cellar of his house. I am Richard IV's great, great, great, great, great granddaughter. Some of the things found included a Silver Dime, Indian Head Penny, Pottery, Hinges and an old Padlock. They found 19th century nails and two shoes. Some of the students dug around in the Fireplace, the old ice house and the cellar. My brother Joshua and I enjoyed digging in the cellar with Lucienne Diver and Mattie Rosencrance. The dig will be reopened June 1-27-1992.

by Jessica Golladay
age 10 grade 5 Scottsville
Elementary school.

The dig was full. I still
a black snake. He went and
hid under a rock. I dug
up a piece of glass. There
was lots of people.

Joshua Golladay
Age 7

Parents: Mary and Randy Golladay
Grandparents: Edna and John Nees
Scottsville, Virginia

I went to Seaside (later to honor
Seaside) (Hon. B. Omlund). The trip
to Seaside was fun. I hope it was a little
hard to hear we still walked everywhere.
Sometimes we walked in towns and sometimes
we just walked here and there.

We stayed at the Delaware Hotel. We
ate breakfast at the hotel, lunch at Plaza High,
Helen's, and dinner at Elba. Last one night.

What's like about the trip? The night
that had to do with Seaside was the town and
seeing all the great buildings. One town we went
to was Seaside's parent. The range of Seaside came
and he looked like somebody out of and old
book and white movie. What I like the most about
the trip was white water rafting. There was a most fun
I wanted in a white. There was also an Olney
at the "Old Olney House". It was fun too.
This trip was fun and I hope we get
to go on another exciting placement summer.

Father: Malvern Wyche
Hatteras, North Carolina
Grandparents: Mal and Angela Wyche
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Brandon Wyche

JOSEPHINE

continued from p. 1

It is the story of a woman who danced with a gentle wolf.

Kucharzyk, who owns Hefco Wiring Co. of Lowell, first learned of Morlacchi in 1984, when a friend from Lowell who had moved to Colorado sent him a copy of a newsletter from the Texas Jack Association. John Burwell "Texas Jack" Omohundro Jr. was a western scout who rode in his early teens for the Confederacy with General J.E.B. Stuart, and later with the wild west show of William "Buffalo Bill" Cody. He was a dashing hero of the sensational "dime novels" of the time.

In his 1954 book on Texas Jack and Morlacchi, *BUCKSKIN AND SATIN*, Herschel C. Logan wrote that Texas Jack was a fixture on the plains and prairies. For a time, Texas Jack lived among Native Americans (he was part Powhatan Indian), leading them on buffalo hunts and learning their language. He was referred to by the Pawnees as their "white chief."

Kucharzyk noticed an article in the newsletter mentioning that Texas Jack and Morlacchi lived for a time in Lowell.

He was smitten.

After searching through Lowell's several Catholic cemeteries, he came across Morlacchi's tombstone recently. But he is still piecing together the puzzle of her life.

Morlacchi was born in Milan, Italy and attended La Scala at age 6. She made her dancing debut in 1856 in Genoa and gradually her reputation spread, leading to travel and shows at Her Majesty's Theatre in London and the Royal Theatre in Barcelona, Spain. In 1867, John DePol of the DePol Parisian Ballet persuaded her to travel to America. Her first show in New York was accompanied by a DePol publicity stunt--he insured her legs for \$100,000. But Morlacchi's performances earned rave reviews, a *NEW YORK TRIBUNE* scribe writing that she, "dances with all her soul as well as with all her body."

In early 1868, during a stint at Boston's Theatre Comique, the show ended with the can-can.

Years later, *BOSTON HERALD* writer Dock Square would recall, "Everyone was surprised, no one could understand the meaning of the queer name, but after the opening night all doubts were removed; no ladies applied for tickets after that; but the male sex crowded the theatre to the point of suffocation. Whether acquainted or not, everyone was asking, 'Have you seen the can-can?'" Someone even started a rumor that a firetruck was on call to spray cold water on the crowd.

She continued to be warmly received in Boston, but took an artistic left turn in late 1872, receiving top billing in Ned Buntline's western, *THE SCOUTS OF THE PRAIRIE*. The show opened in Chicago and also featured



TEXAS JACK AND HIS ITALIAN BEAUTY: Josephine Morlacchi, left, and Texas Jack Omohundro had Lowell connections.

Buffalo Bill and Texas Jack. Morlacchi, the popular ballerina, performed specialty dance numbers, her classical dance augmenting flat-out western drama. The show fared well. It also led to her romance with Texas Jack.

"From what we can gather, she had her part, but she also helped round the rough edges of the wild west riders," says Kucharzyk. "She was the epitome of culture, a very refined lady, with these gruff souls."

In 1873, after Jack returned from a hunting trip with Buffalo Bill and Morlacchi had performed with her own troupe, they were married in a private ceremony in Rochester, N.Y.

After their marriage, they bought Suffolk Hall in Lowell, a three-story building where Contakos Cafe (now a one-story structure) stands at 418 Suffolk St. Morlacchi, who would also live on Market Street and East Merrimack Street (in what's now a parking lot across from Lowell Memorial Auditorium), opened a dance hall in Suffolk Hall on the second floor and a third story served as a boarding house. The couple also bought a summer home in East Billerica. Morlacchi's sister, Angelina, lived with them and cared for the properties during road trips.

One trip took them to Leadville, Colo. in 1880, and Jack fell ill with a severe cold, which deteriorated into pneumonia. He died June 28 and was buried in Leadville with a full soldier's honors.

Morlacchi, heartbroken, returned to Lowell and lived with Angelina, but apparently never returned to the stage, writes Logan. Angelina died of cancer Aug. 18, 1885, and Josephine followed her to the grave nine months later.

Obituaries speak glowingly of her. This was no "dance-hall girl."

"Her private life was singularly pure and without blemish, and she had and deserved the respect of all who knew her," said the LOWELL DAILY NEWS of July 24, 1886.

"Whatever else dance halls and can-cans implied, she was a character above reproach," says Alexis. "The obituaries weren't a case of family members embellishing things. She was the last one of her family."

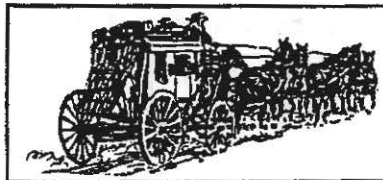
"And it's also interesting," says Kucharzyk, "that in those days, she kept her maiden name."

The pieces are still coming together for Kucharzyk and Alexis. When she died, Morlacchi may have been older than 39, which commonly was given as her age. There's little known of the years she spent in Lowell.

Now, Kucharzyk hopes the Texas Jack Association, which holds member "roundups" every two years, may find Lowell suitable as a future site.

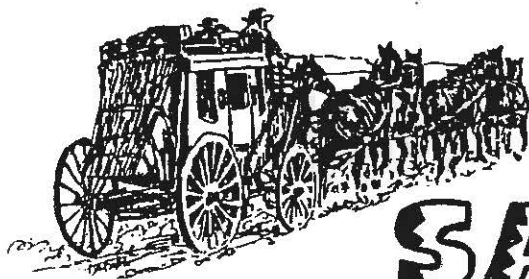
"This whole thing really grabs you once you start," he says. "We'd love to hear from anyone who knows anything about her. There's a lot left to learn."

[The above article was sent in by Edna Nees who has kept in touch with Henry since meeting him at the 1990 Round-Up in Leadville. She says Henry reports that he has additional information to bring to the Round-Up in San Antonio! Alert readers will remember that Peter Alexis was announced as a new member in the last SCOUT.]



M O V I N G ? If you are planning to move or have already moved, please send your new address to the SCOUT c/o Jack H. Omohundro, 425 North Ave. R, Crowley, LA 70526.

NIXON'S.
MONDAY, DECEMBER 16
NED BUNTLINE.
(Colonel E. Z. C. Judson)
With the real heroes, **BUFFALO BILL** and **TEXAS JACK**, in his now sensational Drama,
THE SCOUTS OF THE PRAIRIE.
MORLACCHI as Dove Eye.
Matinee Wednesday and Saturday.
Each lady visiting the matinee will be presented with portraits of Buffalo Bill, Texas Jack and Ned Buntline.



A VISIT TO ...

SAN ANTONIO

PART II: LA MANSIÓN DEL RIO HOTEL

The building that now houses La Mansión del Rio Hotel was begun in 1852, as St. Mary's Institute, a school started by four French brothers of the Society of Mary. At the time, San Antonio de Bexar was a dusty little town with about 3000 inhabitants. Its history could be traced back for about 130 years. The city's major claim was the part it played in the Texas revolution. The brothers had come to San Antonio to build a school. The result of their labor stood two stories high, and was remarkably well constructed for it still stands today as part of La Mansión, fronting on College Street.

St. Mary's had no trouble drawing students, but there was little money to be used for education on the American frontier. It wasn't until after the Civil War that the school began to flourish. Under the leadership of Brother Charles Francis, the original two story structure was enlarged to four stories, bringing into being the main portion of the building as it stands today. A remodeling investment of \$6000 had made St. Mary's the largest education institution in Texas. As years passed, small additions were made on the south end of the building in an attempt to accommodate the steadily growing student body. But, by 1894, expansion could no longer keep up with enrollment. Boarding students were moved to the newly acquired Woodlawn campus, the present site of St. Mary's University. The College Street building continued to house classes for local students.

In October 1927, the San Antonio Bar Association began using the building for the San Antonio Law School. At the time, it was the state's most outstanding law education facility. In May 1934, the name was changed to the St. Mary's University School of Law. Many of Texas' most distinguished lawyers received their degrees here.

In 1966, the law school was moved to a newly completed complex on the St. Mary's campus. The Society of Mary turned the time honored building over to La Mansión investors.

Minor renovation and internal reconstruction were necessary to create a floor plan suitable for a hotel. For example, the upstairs ballroom and boardroom area had at one time been a gymnasium for the brothers who taught and lived at the school. But everything has been left as close to the original plan as possible. Today, La Mansión stands as a monument to San Antonio's past. And a reminder for her future.

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[The above was reprinted from a promotional brochure prepared by La Mansión.]

In the next issue. . . PART III: SITES TO SEE

ROUND-UP in SAN ANTONIO!!



- Wednesday, July 8. . . * Afternoon: Registration at La Mansión del Rio Hotel
- Thursday, July 9. . . * Morning: Business meeting of TJA members
- * Afternoon: Guided walking tour of San Antonio
- * Evening: Dinner aboard a river barge on the San Antonio River
- Friday, July 10. . . Morning and afternoon are free
- * Evening: Farewell Banquet at La Mansión del Rio Hotel

* These events are covered by your registration fee.

ROUND-UP REGISTRATION
due by May 1, 1992

The registration fee is \$85.00 PER PERSON. Please make checks payable to the Texas Jack Association and mail to Jack H. Omohundro, 425 North Ave. K, Crowley, LA 70526. Your cancelled check will be your receipt. If you have questions, write or call Jack at (318)783-0396.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING _____ TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

NAMES (FOR NAME TAGS) _____

There are many options for Friday...You can lounge by the hotel pool!
 Or hop a trolley and explore the nearby cultural and market areas!
 Or drive out to Bandera County, the Cowboy Capitol of the world!
 Or sign up for an all day guided tour of the LBJ Ranch and nearby Fredericksburg! A minimum of 15 people is needed to book this excursion (at a cost of \$35-\$45 per person), so please indicate your interest: yes___ no___ maybe ___

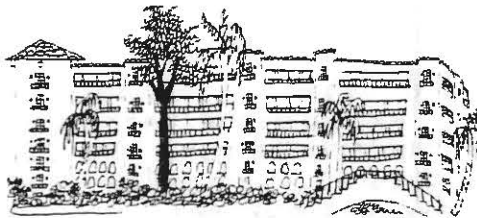
In an attempt to help the business meeting move along more quickly and smoothly, please take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire that follows. All members are asked to do this, even if you are unable to attend the Round-Up. Thank you!

1. Where do you suggest the 1994 convention be held and why? _____

2. Would you be willing to organize the next convention? _____
3. Would you be willing to serve as an officer of the Association for the 1993-1994 term? _____ Which office? _____
4. Would you be willing to edit the SCOUT for the 1993-1994 term? _____
5. List anything else you would like included on the agenda: _____

6. Any comments in general about the Association, the Round-Up or the SCOUT? _____

PLEASE NOTE: Your registration fee does not include lodgings. You are responsible for making your own hotel reservations. Information regarding this is on page 15.



Beautiful historic LA MANSIÓN DEL RIO HOTEL (1852): Built originally as a Roman Catholic Boys' School, and later the site of the St. Mary's University School of Law, it was renovated as a hotel for the opening of HemisFair in 1968. The hotel's River Walk bridge was built by the WPA in 1938-40.

Mail this registration form and your check to:

Jack H. Omohundro
 425 North Ave. K
 Crowley, LA 70526

1992 ROUND-UP HOTEL INFORMATION

Arrangements have been made to have the Texas Jack Association Round-Up headquarters at LA MANSIÓN DEL RIO HOTEL. Located on the banks of the San Antonio River, the hotel is only 15 minutes from the San Antonio International Airport, yet within walking distance of the Alamo and other attractions. La Mansión is of Spanish Colonial architecture with graceful archways and secluded courtyards. The lobby and restaurants are furnished with antiques from Spain and Mexico. All rooms and suites have either Courtyard or River Walk views, and the outdoor pool is in a lavish tropical setting. Qualified, bonded babysitting service is available through the hotel concierge.

La Mansión del Rio has offered our group a very special rate of \$75.00 (plus tax) per room (single or double). They are also making this rate available to us for the three days preceding the Round-Up and the three days immediately following. To obtain this special rate you must request it and identify yourself as a TJA member. ALL RESERVATIONS FOR OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS SHOULD BE MADE BY YOU DIRECTLY WITH LA MANSIÓN DEL RIO HOTEL. DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS MAY 1, 1992.

SPECIAL RESERVATION REQUEST
Texas Jack Association Round-Up
July 8-10, 1992

NAME _____ PHONE NO. (____) _____
MAILING ADDRESS _____
ARRIVAL DATE _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____ NUMBER OF ROOMS _____
Enclosed is one night's deposit of \$75 for each room reserved: \$ _____
Mail to: La Mansión del Rio Hotel, 112 College St., San Antonio, TX 78205
FAX to: (512)226-1365 Or call: 1-800-292-7300 (Texas)
1-800-531-7208 (U.S., Canada, and Mexico)

BUNTLINE
continued from p. 5

His last sporting essay was published in April 1886, and he died on July 16 of that year, reportedly of heart disease. Buntline's passing was noted in all the newspapers; his funeral was the biggest occasion Stamford had ever seen.

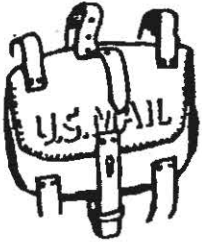
After his death, Buntline's novels mostly gathered dust, his adventures were forgotten, his political beliefs were discredited.

A decaying corner of Buntline's log cabin was recently moved from Eagle Lake, to be displayed on the grounds of the Adirondack Museum.

But other than these few scattered remnants, an occasional tall tale and the mournful howl of coyotes heard across a frozen lake, there's little left in the central Adirondacks that recalls that celebrated scalawag.

[Elizabeth Folwell, senior editor of ADIRONDACK LIFE, interviewed John T. Omohundro of Hannawa Falls, NY when researching this article. John helped organize the recent dig in Fluvanna, VA. Our thanks to him for arranging permission for this excerpt.]

FROM THE MAIL POUCH . . .



"It is my impression that the late Frank R. Sullivan of this city was the founder of the Texas Jack Association. At least he was instrumental in its founding. If so, a marker should be placed on his grave here. Of course, with the family's permission. If my suggestion has merit, it should be a matter of business before the association."

Carrol C. Hall Springfield, IL

"I am trying to update all of John Burwell Omohundro's children. I would like to have it by the time we meet in Texas. Anyone who hasn't answered the questionnaire and wants to be included in my update needs to send me their information as soon as possible."

Edna Nees Rt. 1, Box 250 Scottsville, VA 24590

"I'm a Wisconsin collector of the Old West items for many years and have enjoyed it every day with enthusiasm! About one year ago I joined the Texas Jack Association, by the suggestion of a Mr. Greg Martin of California, and I have looked forward to the newsletters with excitement! I'm writing in regards to what I believe is a previously unpublished studio photo of Texas Jack taken by Sarony, 680 Broadway, N.Y. in the year 1872. The size of the original photo is 16" by 13", with the frame being 33" by 28". The detail is sharp enough to show that he is wearing a gold ring on his finger. When you look at his eyes, you would think he is still with us! I believe a new revised (soft cover?) booklet should be put out to update the life and promote Texas Jack, to take up where Herschel C. Logan left off. P.S. This June '91 we visited the Tabor Opera House in Leadville, CO. Real spooky feeling there!"

G. W. Gallup Campbellsport, WI

"The picture [Omohundro Street, in a residential area] is of a street in Rockport, Texas. A friend who lives there sent it to me. I have written the mayor asking for more info about it and shall send along any that I get--if and when."

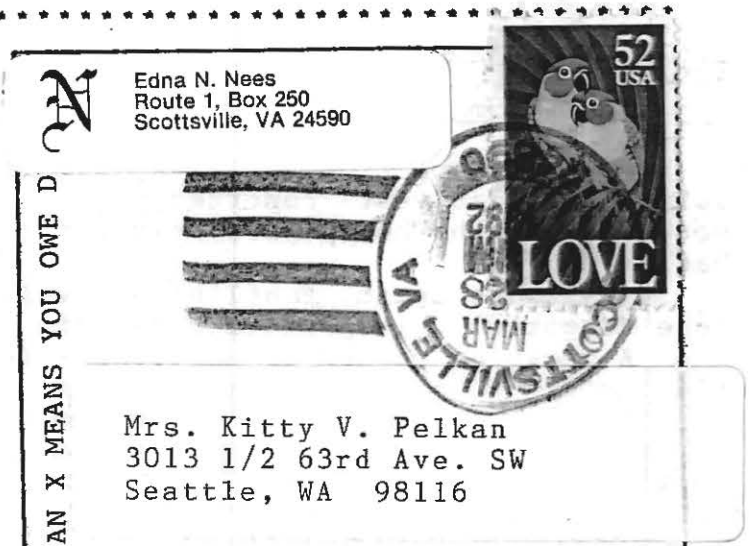
Jack H. Omohundro Crowley, LA



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!

TEXAS JACK ASSOCIATION, INC.
425 N. AVENUE K CROWLEY, LA. 70526



Mrs. Kitty V. Pelkan
3013 1/2 63rd Ave. SW
Seattle, WA 98116